

Soldiers/Veterans at Warren Union Cemetery

What could be offensive about a nice gravestone with just two words "UNKNOWN SOLDIER" The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research had done a detailed study of Warren Union Cemetery in 1940 and indicated that there was a soldiers grave marked by a flag in the area where this stone had been placed. Those folks were very thorough. There is high probability that a soldier is buried there. Obviously a family donated a stone. It was a expensive beautiful black polished granite stone.



Two people did this secretly without just cause, without vote of Village Commission, Historical Society or a public hearing, They

do not own the markers, or the cemetery. They robbed Warren's unknown soldier memorial from a grave and they stole a memorial that listed Warren soldiers who are buried there. **This was the only memorial showing the names of these soldiers. Nothing was found wrong with these memorials in a later public meeting** And they stole the memorial to all veterans and to those who died on attacks on our country (Pearl Harbor affected many families) and 9-11 (including over 400 policemen and firemen among the 3000 killed) and they stole another that told what our flag stood for and yet another that honors those many children and pioneers buried there without markers. **These memorials were causing no harm. There is lots of room for them. They posed no threat. There is nothing disrespectful or wrong about these memorials.** The memorials were there to honor men who died and to educate visitors especially young people who no longer learn about history in school. We veterans saw friends die. We served our country with honor and integrity. We feel it is wrong to steal memorials showing soldiers honored service to future generations. They at least earned their name on a granite stone. Now visitors including young people will not be able to see who these soldiers were. Now many of our soldiers have no marker at all because the only one they had was stolen. This was not done by the historical society but by two persons, without a vote of the membership. Taking property that is not yours is called stealing and when it is worth several thousand dollars it is grand larceny. It has been over a year and they have not returned them. Stealing memorials that name our soldiers is worse than disgraceful. They are robbing our history left for our young people who no longer are taught history in school. No one should be allowed to steal memorials they don't own out of a cemetery they don't own. We veterans feel that they have disrespected our soldiers, our flag and those who died on attacks to our country. These memorials were donated without cost to the city possibility by out of town descendents of those buried there.

We veterans are asking that The Warren Village Commission simply acknowledge that these memorials are not a threat to anyone, harm no one, honor our Warren Soldiers many of which are buried in Warren Union Cemetery which has lots of room for them and does so without cost to the city. We also ask that the people who removed them without public notice or the vote of The Village Commission simply return them without cost to the city. This will also avoid costly and ugly legal battles supported by hundreds of veterans over the improper removal (grand larceny) and disrespecting of our soldiers. This simple and cost free action would make The Warren Village Commission heroes to thousands of Warren children, and veterans who look to

them to preserve our Warren Village Historical and American Heritage to future generations.

This also fulfills the missions of The Warren Historical Commission, the society and Village Commission to preserve our history and educate future generations. But if they choose to disrespect our soldiers and veterans and those who died defending our freedom and on attacks on our country let it be known that we (and there are hundreds of us) will mount a campaign against those few disrespectors. We veterans are not going to allow men and women who died to be disrespected and their history stolen from our local cemetery. Attention attorneys we are looking for attorneys who are willing to help us fight this cause.

The Warren Union Cemetery is located between the Red Run (River) and Chicago Road East of Ryan Road. Pioneer farmer Peter Gillette sold a parcel of land in 1845 to eighteen families for a burial ground. The Warren Union Cemetery Association was organized in 1852 to maintain the 2 1/4 acres. It is the second oldest cemetery in the city of Warren. It was expanded several times as families bought lots. This cemetery has 1-3000 graves and was considered for all practical purposes full after WWII. Recent studies indicate at least 500-900 graves date from 19 Century plus nearly 500 buried or sprinkled after 1900. However there are very many graves now without markers due to vandalism, erosion, being covered by soil or because there was no marker made. Also there are many children buried here without markers. **And there are an unknown number of soldiers/veterans there because the records have been lost.**

The St Clement Cemetery is located on Engleman West of Van Dyke. It is the biggest of our area's pioneer cemeteries the first known recorded burial was March 27, 1854. It is possible that there were a few before that date. Over 800 known burials date from the nineteenth century and over 1,500 burials prior to 1943. See links on this website for more info. There are many unmarked graves there also. And it at least has most (but not all) of its records. These two cemeteries hold most of the remains of the early pioneers of Warren. Later some residents were buried at Mt Olivet and in Royal Oak.

War of the Revolution and War of 1812

There are two men related to our city of Warren involved in these wars. Neither of which is actually buried here. But at least deserve mention. First it is not only the men but the men's family that should be recognized as they did not live in a vacuum.

Abel and Sarah Warren Pioneers (Thanks to Brandon and Challis Warren)

Abel Warren was a pioneer Christian circuit preacher and war hero who became particularly beloved to the early pioneers and was held in very high esteem so much so that the area near the future village of Warren was called Abe's circuit or Warren's circuit. The area was later named Aba Township and on March 26, 1839 it was renamed Warren Township.

"I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith." Thus reads the stone of the pioneer Christian preacher and war hero who married more of Warren's pioneers and spoke at more of their burials than any other person. He was Rev Abel Warren born August 3, 1789 and died Sept 5, 1862. His great grandfather came across on the Mayflower. His Grandfather Gideon Warren was a Lieutenant in the French and Indian Wars, joining in 1748. "He was one of Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys" in Vermont. He became a Colonel of the 5th Vermont Regiment in the Revolutionary War. He was wounded in the battle of Ticonderoga.

Abel Warren enlisted and served his country as a soldier in 1812 holding the rank of Sergeant. He was seriously wounded and taken prisoner at the battle of Queens town Heights. Having near death experiences in the war and as a British prisoner made him aware of the value of life. He became a Christian in 1817 and joined the Methodist church. In 1824 he and his wife Sarah became some of the

first pioneers in Macomb County settling just north of Warren. He became a deacon and later an elder in the church and was the first man to preach in Macomb County, and “no doubt preached at more funerals and married more couples than any other man in the county of Macomb, as when well he was always ready at a moment’s call for either, frequently leaving the hayfield and going ten or fifteen miles to attend a funeral”, on foot as horses in those days were very scarce. “As a pioneer local preacher, he was abundant in labors, traveling on foot at times twenty-four miles on the Sabbath and preaching three times, and that after a hard week’s work on the farm, and preaching as regularly as any stationed, preacher, and spending most of the winters in special revival work, in Macomb, St Clair and Oakland Counties, in which hundreds were converted, thus helping to lay the basis on which rests the magnificent, moral and social superstructure of this beautiful region of country.” “He was genial and sympathetic, could weep with those that wept, or rejoice and smile with the cheerful and happy, and thus was a welcome guest, either at the wedding festival, and the sick-bed or funeral obsequies. He had nine children, four sons and five daughters.” Two of his sons entered the ministry a third has an important position in the church. Abel Warren had settled in Macomb County even before Warren Township was settled. The area was all wilderness and abounded in wildlife. While pausing in the woods for a moment of prayer and some local wolves started howling so he held prayer meeting with them. “One Sabbath evening, while passing through the woods over an Indian trail, he saw just ahead of him a huge bear. The animal seemed inclined to dispute the right of way; without apparent fear, the traveler picked up a stick, saying, ‘If you be good, I will, but otherwise we will try titles.’ The bear stepped aside and the Elder pushed forward on his journey.” From the History of Macomb County. Leeson 1882 p 739.

“The first or second sermon ever delivered in Lapeer County was preached by 'old Father Abel Warren,' as he was familiarly called. Mr. Warren belonged to the M. E. Church and was the pioneer preacher of a large track of wilderness, embracing this and several adjoining counties. He must have been a man of many sterling qualities of brain and heart, judging from the success of his heroic labors and the affectionate remembrance in which he is still held by the surviving pioneers.” History of Lapeer County p 33.

“Rev Abel Warren, of precious memory, was the first minister to find his way to this town, and probably preached the first sermon in town. For several years did this noble veteran of the cross visit the people of the town from his home some twenty miles away in the town of Washington. It is safe to say that no minister since that time has had the love and esteem of this people more than did this faithful and devoted man. In the year 1855 he was preacher in charge on the circuit, which was nearly the last of his ministerial labors. He has long since passed to his reward, and his memory is precious with those who knew him.” History of Lapeer County p 101.

Historian George Fuller in his book Historic Michigan states that Rev Abel Warren settled in Shelby in the summer of 1824 and lived there for thirty nine years. “Being a local preacher, he made his own appointments, and was at liberty to respond to any call he might receive, where the people desired his services, and such was the demand for them that there was hardly a settlement in eastern Michigan where he was not called at times to preach, either on the Sabbath, or at the funeral of some departed friend. I doubt that if there has ever been another minister in Michigan so universally respected and beloved by all classes, and people of all creeds, as was Abel Warren, during the thirty-nine years of his life work in Michigan.” He was the first man licensed to preach in the State of Michigan. History of Macomb County Leeson 1882.

Rev Abel Warren was a circuit rider who traveled around Macomb County preaching the story of Jesus, marrying many pioneers, speaking at many pioneer funerals and helping to start several churches. He became known as Elder Warren. His warm personality made him many friends. He ministered to the spiritual needs of Warren’s early settlers. (from Leeson's History of Macomb County-1882) It is believed he was instrumental in the formation of the first Methodist church of Warren in

which his son was one of the earliest temporary pastors. (Went on to pastor other churches) This was the first church of any denomination formed in Warren. The circuit riding or walking pastor met with pioneers in their lonely cabins and not only brought guidance in manners and morals but also often news. Sometimes he may have brought books. Of course he performed marriages, spoke at funerals and baptized believers. It is no wonder he was held in very high esteem by the early pioneers.

A hero of Bunker Hill **Joseph Warren** who never set foot in our area and was not even known to our pioneers who lived here. Joseph Warren had died 64 years earlier. Joseph Warren was born in Roxbury, Mass. 11 June, 1741; died in Charlestown, Mass., 17 June, 1775 in the battle of The Battle of Bunker Hill in the United States Revolutionary War for Independence. On 18 April, observing the movements of the British troops, Dr. Warren dispatched William Dawes, and Paul Revere to sound the alarm to the American people. He was chosen as president Provincial congress, and thus became chief executive officer of Massachusetts under this provisional government. On 14 June he was chosen second major-general of the Massachusetts forces. On the 16th he presided over the Provincial congress. The next day upon hearing that the British troops had landed at Charlestown, he rode over to Bunker Hill. As he was rallying the militia, he was struck in the head by a musket-ball and instantly killed.

The following soldiers were honored on a granite stone donated anonymously. It listed men who died for our country. **The soldiers listed below have had their memorials ripped out of the cemetery by grave robbers described above. See macombhistory.us and the Macomb Daily July 15, 2011.**

Most but not all are buried at Warren Union Cemetery. Three died in France and are buried there and some have no marker at all so are honored here in their home town where they came from. It is right that since they were Warren area boys who were killed fighting for our freedom they should be honored here in their home town. The stone that had their names was stolen.

John W Kingscott is buried in Warren Union Cemetery. He was an early Warren township official and was listed in the official 1850 US Census as a US soldier. In those days the life of a US soldier was often one of suffering and sacrifice. Needs a stone. Otherwise he will be forgotten. The stone that had their names was stolen.

Much of the following research was done and Transcribed by Robert and Cheryl Allen. They have done a lot of other historical work and we owe them a dept of gratitude. Thank You

Benson Ira F. Priv A 22 MI Inf. 8/21/1862 6/1/1864 1 9 10 Sterling Warren buried in Warren Union Cemetery There were also other Benson brothers in the Civil War.

Berger Nicholas Born Nov 6, 1840 (Ger) Enlisted in Company G 52d Pennsylvania Infantry July 9, 1863. Mustered July 9, 1863. Mustered out Sept 1, 1863. Location not stated. There was a 52 Pennsylvania unit that served for a 3 year period. There was also a militia unit designated the 52 Penn Infantry which was organized on July 9, 1863 and was mustered out as a unit on Sept 1, 1863. It was the militia unit in which this veteran served.

Cole William L Burn March 1840 (NY) Enlisted in 23 Independent Battery, New York Light Artillery,

Nov 23, 1861 at Niagara County NY for 3 years at age 22. Mustered Nov 25, 1861. Re-enlisted Jan 1, 1864. Mustered out July 14, 1865 at Fort Porter, Buffalo, NY. According to special veteran census of 1890, this veteran suffered from diarrhea as a result of service in war. In addition this veteran's soldiers home record indicated that he suffered from some level of deafness also. This veteran died in the Soldiers Home, Grand Rapids, MI. D 1927.

Cook John N Born Aug 14, 1823 (Ger) Enlisted in company G 14th MI Infantry, March 26, 1864 at Sterling, for 3 years, age 40. Mustered March 26, 1864. Wounded in action at Jonesboro, Georgia, Sept 1, 1864. Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps. Discharged on Surgeon's certificate of disability at Indianapolis, Indiana, June 16, 1865 from Company F 17th regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps. Widow Margaret filed request 9/8/1892. Record lists this veteran's surname as Cook or Koch. The pensioner's roll of 1883 lists a wound on the left hand. He also suffered deafness. D Aug 20, 1892.

Cooley, Oscar Privt G 20 IL Inf. 1/1/1862 2/16/1863 1 1 16 from Warren Research is in progress. He might be buried here.

Crawford James M Born Nov 30, 1824 (NY). Enlisted in company I 8th MI Cavalry April 10, 1863 at Sterling MI, for 3 years, at age 38. Mustered April 23, 1863, Transferred to Company F July 20, 1865. Mustered out at Nashville Tenn Sept 22, 1865. According to special veteran census 1890 he suffered from rheumatism and heart disease as result of the war. D Jan 31, 1912.

Eckstein Frederick Born July 3, 1810 (Saxony) Enlisted in Battery H 1st MI Light Artillery Oct 21, 1861 at Detroit for 3 years at age 44. Mustered Dec 24, 1861. Discharged for disability at New Madrid, MO Aug 1862. Widow Mary filed request 1/28/1891. Record of service lists his surname as Extine. The pension of record is under surname of Eckstein. Pension record also indicates service in Co A 2nd Veteran Reserve Corps. D Nov 12, 1890.

Gamble Benjamin C Born Jan 15, 1843 (Eng) Enlisted in Company H 2nd MI Cavalry Sept 15, 1861 at Warren for 3 years at age 19. Mustered Oct 2, 1861. Discharged for disability (gun shot wound in right leg) at Detroit MI Jan 15, 1864. Widow Isabella filed request 2/23/1900. Guardian Isabella Trudell filed request 10/5/1903. D Feb 6, 1900.

Gamble, Charles U.S. Sol. from Warren-Sterling. He might be buried here. Research is in progress

Halsey, Silas was a Civil War soldier and was an early businessman in Warren Township. The Macomb County Military Index shows Halsey, Silas E from Civil War Army source MRGAR. It appears that this Silas may be buried in Warren Union Cemetery and a another one is buried elsewhere.

Has family is buried in Warren Union Cemetery including his wife so it is highly probable that he is also buried here.

Hartman, John from Warren Lost a thumb

Heiple, Jacob Privt H 2 MI Cav. 9/1/1861 10/1/1862 1 1 0 Sterling Warren is Buried at Warren Union Cemetery

Hoard Levi Born June 24, 1807 (NY). Enlisted in Company L, 8th MI Cavalry, as wagoner, Feb 28, 1863 at Chesterfield for 3 years at age 44. Mustered April 23, 1863. Discharged on surgeon's certificate for disability at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, Aug 4, 1864. This veteran probably shaded the truth when enlisting. From birth date, as indicated by his cemetery headstone, he would have actually been about 52 or so when enlisting. In addition the 1860 federal census lists him as being born about 1808 and lists his age as 52. D Jan 20, 1888. Is buried in Warren Union Cemetery.

Jacob, Charles Privt H 41 IL Inf. From Warren. Is buried in Warren Union Cemetery

Kidd Charles Privt H 8 OH Inf. 1861 1861 3 Warren Warren suffered Deafness. Research in progress. Other Kidd family members are buried at Warren Union Cemetery. It is possible he may be buried here also. He has not shown up at any other local cemetery.

Lorenz Ernst Born June 27, 1832 (Ger). Enlisted in Company H, 2nd MI Cavalry, as Corporal, Sept 3, 1861 at Erin, for 3 years at age 28. Mustered Oct 2, 1861. Promoted Sergeant March 1, 1862. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Nashville, Tenn Oct 22, 1864. Record of service list him as Lorenze, Ernest. D March 22. 1912. 9/20/1862 9/20/1865 Is buried in Warren Union Cemetery.

Metro Joseph Priv K 8 MI Inf. 2/1863 5/1863 Warren Some family is buried at Warren Union Cemetery so it is not without possibility he is buried here also.

Moor William Privt G 16 MI Inf. 3/28/1865 7/8/1865 3 0 20 From Warren-Roseville. Research in progress.

Opfer Frederick Priv A 1 MI Art. 5/31/1861 5/31/1864 3 0 0 from Warren-Fraser. His granddaughter gave me his papers to photograph. He had a farm at 13 Mile Road near Hayes. She is not sure if he is buried here.

Pereira Manuel J Born Jan 20, 1843. (OH). Enlisted in Company L 8th MI Cavalry as Corporal Feb 28, 1863, at Lenox for 3 years at age 19. Mustered April 23, 1863. Transferred to Invalid Corps Jan 15, 1864. discharged at Indianapolis Indiana Aug 1865 from Company G 17th Regiment Veteran Reserve Corps. According to veteran census 1890, this veteran suffered from having right ear injured. D May 2, 1919. He is buried in Warren Union Cemetery.

Smith, John Privt I 3 MI Inf. 4/4/1865 4/4/1866 1 from Warren. Might be buried in Warren Union Cemetery as there are other relatives here. More research needs to be done. But he has not showed up at any other local cemetery. We need to find Smith family members.

Stanley James M. Priv A 22 MI Inf. 4/5/1865 8/25/1865 3 20 from Sterling- Warren. Suffered Chronic Diarrhea. There are Stanley family members buried at Warren Union Cemetery. He might be buried there also.

Tatro Francis Born about 1843 (MI). Enlisted in company H 2nd MI Cavalry, Sept 3, 1861 at Warren for 3 years age 18. Mustered Oct 2, 1861. Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps April 10, 1864. Widow Loretta filed request 12/3/1883. According to pensioners roll of 1883 he was wounded in left hand as a result of the war. D Oct 19, 1883. 10/11/1864 3 1 8 Warren Not only is he buried here but he has more than one stone.

Van Fleet Theodore F. Is not buried at Warren Union Cemetery. Born June 23, 1842 (Pruss). Enlisted in company A, 22d MI Infantry Aug 11, 1862 at Pontiac for 3 years at age 20. Mustered Aug 14, 1862. Taken prisoner at Chickamauga, Georgia Sept 20, 1863. Died while a prisoner of war Sept 18, 1864. Pension request filed by father 9/17/1879. D 1864 Researchers state Considering where this veteran died, the headstone for this veteran may be a memorial headstone.

There are probably others but the records have been lost. As in most old pioneer cemeteries records were not properly kept and indeed there are usually more persons buried than there are surviving readable markers.

Gies Henry B about 1819 (Ger) Detroit MI enlisted in company H, 5th Mi Cavalry, Aug 11, 1862, at Detroit, for 3 years, age 35. Mustered Aug 30, 1862. Honorably discharged at Detroit July 3, 1865. Pension request filed by vet 7/2/1885. Died indigent. D Dec 5, 1895 Does not have a stone anywhere.

Most of the WWI soldiers listed on this memorial are buried here and have stones in Warren Union Cemetery but a few died in France and are buried there or somewhere else and have no marker in the USA. These Warren men gave their lives for our freedom and deserve at least to be mentioned on a nice granite marker in their home town. It is the right thing to do. Our old veterans are dying off at a rapid rate. These men should be honored. The stone with the names of 30 soldiers that was ripped out by vigilantes was the only stone that named all of these men whose records are lost or who have no marker. The only Vietnam soldier listed on the memorial is old and in poor health and has left orders to sprinkle his remains in Warren Union Cemetery. His name was included on this stone to show visitors including young people that Warren men have proudly served the cause of our freedom for over a hundred sixty years. For verification see Record of Macomb County Soldiers and Sailors in Service in the Great War, also see Honor Roll of Macomb County Men Who Lost Their Lives In Service During WWI

Abey, Otto J is buried at Warren Union Cemetery. US Army WWI born Aug 4, 1890 died Aug 13, 1976. Also listed in Macomb County records.

Blondeel, Kamiel Son of Charles and Elodie Blondeel, of Warren, was born in Belgium, April 21 1898. He entered the service at Camp Custer November 2, 1917. Killed in action in France, October 17, 1918, while serving with Company H, Seventh U.S. Infantry. Buried in Plot G, Row 25, Grave 18, Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France.

Gietzen, William Ferdinand Son of Nicholas Gietzen of Warren, was born February 23, 1896. Served with the 128th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division. Died August 29, 1918. Buried in Plot D, Row 40, Grave 18, Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Fere-en-Tardenois, France.

Grimms, Edward W born Sept 16, 1890 Died Jan 25, 1919. Died in Service. This stone is in Warren Union Cemetery This soldier may have been forgotten in the rolls but is remembered here. It appears he is buried here as his family put up a marker.

Jannus, Roger W. Was born December 25, 1886, and enlisted in the service April 1917. He was transferred to the air service, and was killed at Issoudun, France, September 4, 1918.

Reid, Neil Warrenner 1899-1918, He was the first Macomb County soldier to be killed in France in World War I. Son of James Melvin and Mary Warrenner Reid, was born at Warren June 15, 1899. He enlisted with the 31st Regiment Michigan National Guard September 21, 1917. He was transferred to Company G, 126th Michigan Infantry, 32nd Division, and was made Corporal. He was killed in action in France August 2, 1918. His marker is here and he has family here.

Stevens, Ormal Dewey Son of Ormal B. Stevens and Sarah Stevens of Warren, was born December 3, 1898. He enlisted with the U.S. Marines in January, 1918. Was trained at Parris Island, S.C., where he became sergeant. He was sent to France in May, 1918, and died from wounds received in the battle of the Marne, July 19, 1918. He is buried in Warren Union Cemetery.

Thimian, Edward W.

Son of John and Anna Thimian, was born August 18, 1892, at Warren. Entered the service at Camp Custer July 13, 1918 and died there October 13, 1918. He is buried in Warren Union Cemetery. There is more about him and how he died. But it is confidential and I dare not print it here. Contact the historian Wesley Arnold.

WWII soldiers listed here all have documentation through military records. Also see Macomb County Military Index.

Details on the following were left off because of privacy

WWII soldiers buried at Warren Union Cemetery are

Hugh Alexander

Lloyd F Reddick

Peter C Mistopolous

Merrill Stevens

Vietnam Era No stone for the following at Warren Union Cemetery: Wesley Arnold has informed us that his stone is at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Detroit and that he has left in his will that his ashes are to be sprinkled at Warren Union Cemetery because he does not want his grand children to risk being mugged or killed at Forest lawn. There have been several incidents of people being attacked and robbed there.

Because of the non existence of records or stones there may be other soldiers buried at Warren Union Cemetery

We should honor our soldiers and veterans not allow their stolen memorials to be trashed. Many of us veterans fought and many died. Many put their lives at risk to secure our freedom. Those who disrespect our soldiers do not deserve to be in this free country. Freedom is not free. Many died and were injured securing it. It has to be maintained by every generation. There are those both outside and inside our country who are working against individual freedom. The above memorials help educate young people and future generations. They do not belong in the trash.