

UNKNOWN
SOLDIER

Unknown Soldier

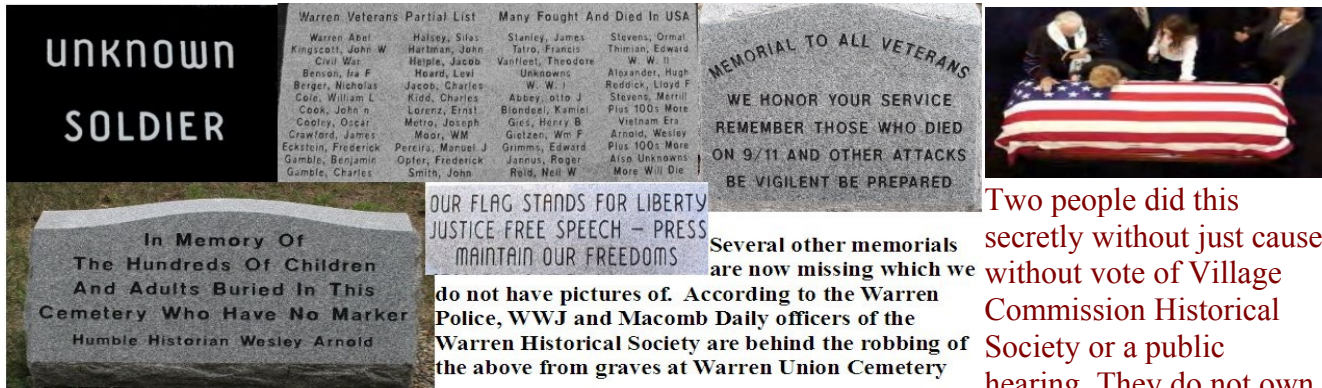
The Unknown Soldier of Warren Union Cemetery

Back in 1938 The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research did a detailed walk thru of Warren Union Cemetery. They noted that a flag indicating a soldiers grave was located in strip 20 and in the fifth plot. This is now located to the North of the Davy plot and to the West of the Heartsig plot of strip 21. As a historian I have been told that there was an unknown soldier at Warren Union Cemetery.

The soldier buried there was not an unknown soldier at the time of burial. He certainly is now because no one alive knows. In fact even the record of the entire family was destroyed in a flood that wiped out the records held in the church basement. Because they were too poor or did not believe in placing memorials the names have been lost.

We should honor our soldiers because: First we soldiers had the guts to stand up and defend our freedoms for ourselves and our children and you. If we had not come forth and risked our lives you would be speaking German now and not enjoying the freedoms we now have. Have those gutless cowards who don't think soldiers should be honored ever saw one of your friends killed by an enemy, or had to pick up his body parts and put them into a body bag, or accompany his casket home and be there with his family, or been shot at, or suffered the pain, suffering and horror and hell of war? Then how lucky you are and it is because of us soldiers who fought for you.

I was at a parade when the American Flag went by and everyone remained seated except for a crippled veteran in a wheel chair and myself an old veteran. We both stood and saluted our flag of freedom.



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 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. We are willing to do fund raising to pay you. We are looking for banks or organizations who are willing to accept donations directly to them for this cause. None of us is to accept funds rather they are to go directly to the

banks. History will note whether these disrespectors of those who died for our freedom shall be known as the Warren "Hysterical" grave robbing society, or shall be known as Historical Heroes who preserved our American Heritage, educated future generations and respected our soldiers.

The Soldier:

By Charles M. Province

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the clergy, who has given us freedom of religion.

If you can read this message thank a teacher, If you are reading it in English of your own free will THANK A SOLDIER!

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves under the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

To all the brave men and women who have dedicated or given their lives to protecting this country and it's freedoms.

We gave our all

Many veterans in poverty have died or committed suicide

I don't care what you think about me

BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR FREEDOM'S NOT FREE

We paid, many with our lives

UNLESS YOU LEARN FROM HISTORY

YOU MAY SOON HAVE TO PAY DEARLY

Thank you Soldier
By Chris Woolnough

**Have you stopped to thank a veteran today?
For the price of freedom they had to pay?
Did you gaze into those distant eyes?
Did you see the ghosts he can't deny?
Did you think a soldier's heart was made of steel?
Because he was trained to kill, he couldn't feel?
Did you see the guilt written on his face,
For the loss of life he can't replace?
Did you know he mourns the lives he couldn't save,
And walks with comrades in their grave?
Did you remember the boy with innocence lost?
Do you really know war's ultimate cost?
Have you felt the blast of artillery fire?
Do you have the courage it would require?
Have you stood in trenches consumed with fear?
Felt the enemies breath so very near?
Have you walked with God on a battleground?
Seen your brothers dead or dying all around?
Have you stopped to thank a vet today,
Or did you just turn and walk away?
From the pain he'll carry for the rest of his life,
Did you consider his family, his children, his wife?
That watch him suffer in silence each and every day,
As he's haunted by memories that don't go away?
Did you care that the soldier is still pulling guard?
That his heart, mind, and soul will forever be scarred?
Do you know how he suffers from ptsd?
Or that our precious freedom is never free?
Do you care that he still hears the blood curdling screams?
Or that he returns to the war each night in his dreams?
Have you felt the sorrow of a combat vet?
Or would you rather just forget?
That war has pierced his hardened heart,
And torn this soldier all apart?
Would you rather our heroes just fade away?
Or will you stop to thank a vet today?**