

# Warren Union Cemetery Fall Color



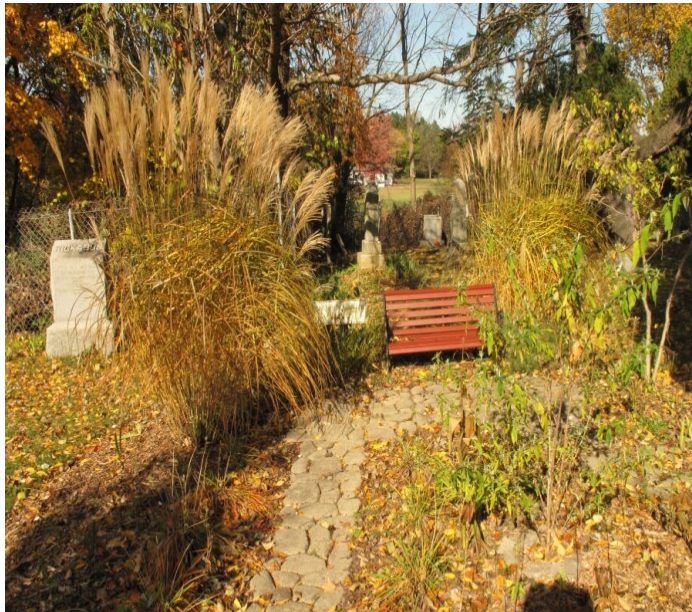


Photography by Wesley E Arnold humble historian

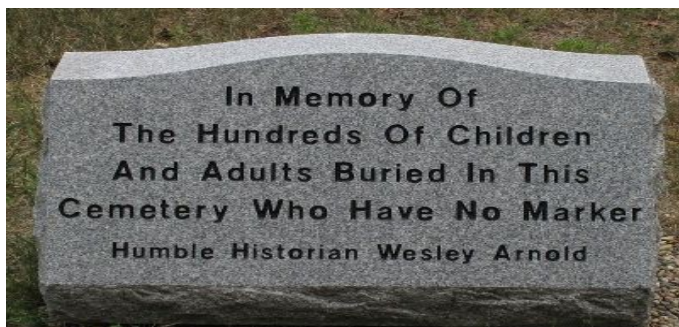








The single volunteer who has labored for many years and who is almost single handedly responsible for transforming this cemetery from weeds to a place of beauty is Tom Turmel. We owe him a dept of gratitude. Someone donated a plaque for this garden honoring him. However the nice granite plaque could not be placed there because of fear that it would be stolen by the hysterical social clique who have already stolen, without just cause, 5 expensive granite memorials (and perhaps more) they do not own from this cemetery that they do not own.



There are many unmarked graves in these old cemeteries. A Beautiful expensive granite Memorial honoring the many children and pioneers buried there without markers was also stolen by these grave robbers. It appears that Warren Union Cemetery is a pioneer cemetery **with hundreds of children without markers**. Many **many stillborn**, and child deaths **were not even recorded** and not marked with an engraved stone. A sister cemetery in Center Line shows 1 ½ -2 child burials to each adult. That means 1,500-2000 children in unmarked graves.

The county death records which show 50% of the registered deaths in Warren were those of children prior to WWI only represent a small percentage perhaps only a quarter of actual child deaths. In a research study of the 150 stones indicating a child only a dozen were actually registered with the county. **Also most families did not want a stone to remind them of a baby death.** There was a **stigma** about stillborn and day old baby deaths. So families mostly just buried the child quickly and privately.

Remember the body did not go to a funeral home. **The family home was the funeral home.** Most people did not want a marker to remember the sickly and often **unnamed baby** or to blame the mother who was already guilt and grief stricken. There were no local stone cutters and families did not have money for a child stone. In many cases the baby had no name. A look at county death records verifies this. **Even today stillborns graves are virtually not marked.**

The sister cemetery in Center line had good records and shows that for a thousand adult deaths there would be 1,500-2,000 child burials because the **burial rate was 1.5-2 for each adult** before WWI.

Just looking at the remaining grave stones shows there are around 1000 persons buried at Warren Union Cemetery. That **would mean possibly 1,500-2,000 children without markers.** It appears that only about 10 percent of baby and child deaths were actually registered before WWI.

The **mortality rate for children was very high approx 200** per 1000 per annum and many died of conditions we easily treat today.

In those pioneer days **large families were the norm** and many families **had several baby deaths. Diseases like Scarlet fever often killed several children in the same family.**

One can barely walk around in that cemetery without walking on children's graves as **they were buried on top of adult family burials and in the back of the cemetery.** **Also there are many adult unmarked graves because the early pioneers did not have the money and had no stone mason.**

Just consider even the first families between 18 to 100 families who purchased lots here have very few markers because they felt no need to and had no one to make them let alone the money to pay for them. The Lots were 10x30 providing 20-40 potential burials as babies were allowed above an adult. Shrouds and narrow coffins were common. So there are a few hundred unmarked graves right there.

**Consider that the cemetery which has 2,600 graves within the current fenced area,** (after subtracting ground for aisles and ways) was filled up before WWII as witnessed by families who had to buy plots in other cemeteries farther away. Also many still borns, pauper burials and even some non residents were buried there without markers especially in the back which was unfenced. (and since has been eroded) **Many famous village residents like the Beebes were buried there without markers.** Some people with acute psychic senses have told me that they can feel that there are many children there. **There was often much suffering and crying involved in a child's dying.** And there is other evidence also.

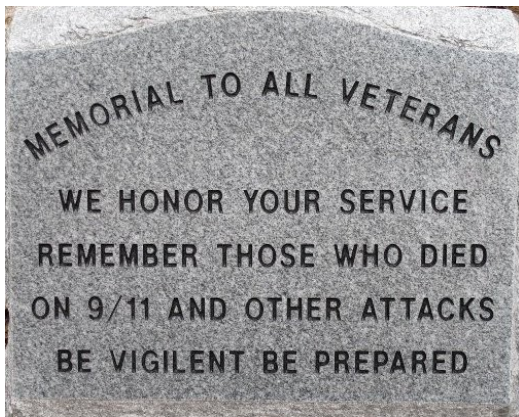
**But the above research is verifiable.** That means at the least hundreds of unmarked graves. **Many of us feel these children and pioneers at least deserve to be acknowledged and honored with a small memorial.**

While I was doing research there over many months, I mentioned this to many visitors.



## UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Warren's expensive granite Unknown soldier memorial was robbed from a grave along with four other memorials. by two grave robbers. Sad but true



Also they stole another Memorial which also honored all veterans and those who died in other attacks like Pearl Harbor which affected many Warren families and 9-11 (including over 400 policemen and firemen among the 3000 killed). This was to remind our children that this country has been attacked more than once and that they should honor those who served and be vigilant and prepared. Our young people are not even taught history in school anymore. Half of our high school graduates can't even tell you who we fought in World War Two or why or what Pearl Harbor is. There was lots of room for these memorials in this cemetery and they were causing no harm. Stealing them will deprive future generations of young people this knowledge.

Warren Veterans Partial List		Many Fought And Died In USA	
Warren Abel	Halsey, Silas	Stanley, James	Stevens, Ormal
Kingscott, John W	Hartman, John	Tatro, Francis	Thimian, Edward
Civil War	Helple, Jacob	Vanfleet, Theodore	W. W. II
Benson, Ira F	Hoard, Levi	Unknowns	Alexander, Hugh
Berger, Nicholas	Jacob, Charles	W. W. I	Reddick, Lloyd F
Cole, William L	Kidd, Charles	Abbey, Otto J	Stevens, Merrill
Cook, John n	Lorenz, Ernst	Blondeel, Kamiel	Plus 100s More
Cooley, Oscar	Metro, Joseph	Gies, Henry B	Vietnam Era
Crawford, James	Moor, WM	Gietzen, Wm F	Arnold, Wesley
Eckstein, Frederick	Pereira, Manuel J	Grimms, Edward	Plus 100s More
Gamble, Benjamin	Opfer, Frederick	Jannus, Roger	Also Unknowns
Gamble, Charles	Smith, John	Reid, Neil W	More Will Die

These also stole this Memorial listing Warren boys who died and most of which were buried at Warren Union Cemetery. They did this without just cause.

Now these 30 soldiers are missing their marker which these two people who acted on their own without vote of the membership or a public hearing (to show good cause to remove them) have stolen out of our cemetery.

Now visitors including young people will not be able to see who these Warren soldiers were who in many cases died for our freedoms. This was the only stone that listed these men who gave their lives. This was based on research by several historians. Also note this is not a list of buried soldiers, rather a partial list of young Warren area boys (many in their teens) who risked their lives or gave their lives for our freedom. Most are buried in this cemetery. Some have no marker anywhere else.

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.*

*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. Don't these Warren boys deserve at least to have their names on a granite marker in Warren their home town. It is the right thing to do. We believe that the men who put their lives on the line for us should be honored not be forgotten. Our old veterans are dying off at a rapid rate. All soldiers gave some and many gave all. What a disrespectful action to these men who gave their lives was taken by just two people.*

And the grave robbers also stole a stone that honored the flag that these men died for and what it stood for it said Our flag stands for Liberty, Justice Free Speech - Press, Maintain our Freedoms...

**These memorials were causing no harm. They posed no threat.**

**There is nothing disrespectful or wrong with them. These**

**memorials were donated without cost to the city. It is wrong to steal these memorials from the cemetery and is wrong to sell them. Nothing was found wrong with the memorials.**

They do not have the right to steal property which is not theirs. Just discovered a follow the money clue. Another possible motivation why this group did this is because they want to sell their book but this historian has published several books of history on this web site free to everyone. Perhaps they wanted to get his name, which was quoted on the stone, out of the cemetery. Lastly jealousy was also a cause for their action as the memorials they stole exposed their lack of research and said and did things that they should have done. And what really griped them was that families had donated these expensive granite memorials without cost to the city and even did so anonymously. This meant that the hysterical clique could not take the credit.

For nearly 170 years the tradition has been that families could place a marker in this cemetery without fear of grave robbers ripping it out. There has never been a problem with a marker that was offensive. People are not going to spend thousands of dollars on a stone that two dozen people a year may look at. Why all of a sudden have these vigilantes appointed themselves grave gods. Some of us think it is a power thing but we don't know why. Most of the families of the dead buried here are from out of town. Suppose a family from out of town wanted to place a marker on their family grave. What if this family had stopped at the Methodist church down the road who used to oversee this cemetery when it was active and inquire if it is OK to put a marker on their relative's grave. They may have been told go ahead as we no longer have anything to

do with this.

These memorials were donated without cost to the city possibility by out of town descendents of those buried there. To us veterans who served our country in time of war the stealing/removal of the names of soldiers who died and served is a most disrespectful action. And they have also stolen the remembrance and history of these soldiers by stealing the only marker that named our warren boys who died which was placed there also so that future generations could at least see their names.

Now families can no longer place a memorial at Warren Union Cemetery in the City of Warren for fear of them being ripped out and disposed of. This robber gang has now dictated unnecessary rules that effectively allow them to rip out memorials without notice. A family can no longer leave a rose on a grave or gravestone as that is now against their rules. Containers are now required for all flowers. What a mess that will be. This is going to mean sharp fragments of plastic, glass and metal will be spread by mowers and endanger children and feet. They now require 42 inch foundations for all markers even little flat head stones. They fail to realize that this may actually cause contractors to dig into remains of bodies as many were not buried deeply in the old days due to rain, mud, frost and weakness of the digger. Remember that in the old days everything was done by hand. Also many children are buried on top of adult burials. They failed to consider this is an old cemetery not a new one. Even in new cemeteries the top of the vault may be less than four feet deep.

Many of us veterans are upset because these Warren boys who served or died for our country **many of which have no marker at all have had the only marker that named them stolen by this social clique** without just cause. According to the Warren police, WWJ and the Macomb Daily officers of the historical society were behind this. But it was not the Historical society rather just **Two people who 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.** We think they did this because they could not take credit for the memorials, and as a power thing and because they were jealous that others took action they should have done.

Now it has been discovered that there are even more stones missing. They have stolen an epitaph from a family grave and other memorials. Are the people of Warren going to allow them to rob graves? Come on no one steals other peoples' memorials they don't own from cemeteries they don't own.

**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.