

Why Warren Union Cemetery may have hundreds of more burials than

stones now show. Consider that most of the original 19 families who had lots 10 feet by 30 **did not place stones. Most had big families and they usually filled up their lots** and had to buy additional lots here and elsewhere to accommodate the deaths from many diseases we now have cures for. Also consider that many stillborns and newborns were **buried on top of regular already used lots and were rarely marked.** Even now many families have baby graves without markers. Consider that **the older graves were most often not marked by stones at all** and that **the older part of the cemetery had to be expanded several times. And it was considered full by 1945** and many families had to buy lots elsewhere. Consider that **there are 2000-3000 graves** even after subtracting aisles and drives. Consider that the “back” of the cemetery where many babies & paupers were buried extended much further than the now fenced in area and was destroyed by the 1950s Red Run project and by erosion since. The fence was erected in 1986. Families who suffered stillborn or baby deaths did not usually want a big funeral or a stone as there was a stigma about this. The family home served as the funeral home and most families just buried the remains in the cemetery quickly and privately and did not want a marker to remind them of a stillborn or **sickly often unnamed baby** which would prolong the sorrow of the guilt ridden grief stricken mother. Many were put in shallow graves in the back. **The sister cemetery St Clement with good records shows between 1.5 and 2 children buried for each adult** Some years the count was over 2 children buried per adult. **County Death records for Warren indicate 50% of the recorded deaths were children prior to WWI. But this is perhaps only 1/12 because only a very small percentage baby deaths were even recorded. The infant mortality rate back then was very high approximately 200 per 1000 per annum.** Many other old cemeteries have hundreds of now unmarked graves many of which are children. Figure of the 1000 burials in Warren Union Cemetery only 150 show children. **Consider that the true rate is 1.5 and 2 children buried per adult then there would be 1,500-2000 children buried there.** Also consider that the percentage **actually registered was often a small percentage of the actual child deaths.** Considering the actual burial rate per the sister cemetery which is much higher, and also considering the mortality rate there are at least hundreds of additional unmarked burials at Warren Union Cemetery. **Researchers have done the math of all of the above and say that there is high probability that hundreds of children and many adults are buried in Warren Union Cemetery without markers.** Many of these babies and children died terrible deaths. Whooping cough, scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever, inflammation of bowels, summer complaint with severe pain. Young boys and girls wore dresses and sometimes these caught fire from the constant cooking fires and the child died a terrible death from burns. Many feel these children without even a marker should at least be honored. A beautiful memorial was donated in memory of the children and pioneers now without markers. But it was robbed off of a grave by uncaring grave robbers. According to the Warren Police, WWJ, and Macomb Daily officers of the Warren Historical Society are behind the stealing of several memorials because they could not take credit for them. They did not even consider research findings or hold a public hearing. Many of us feel we should honor our Veterans but these grave robbers also robbed an “**Unknown Soldier**” memorial from a grave even though there is documentation that a soldier was buried there. **Another marker they stole had the names of Warren men who are buried in this cemetery, many of which had no marker in the cemetery listing their name.** Now these men many of which died for our freedoms have no marker anywhere even listing their name. They **also stole a Memorial to all veterans and to those who died in attacks to our country including 9-11.** And at a meeting that followed they did not find anything wrong with the memorials. Those expensive memorials were not their property. And they don't own the cemetery. They have no right to steal memorials that do not belong to them. **They also stole a marker stating what these men felt our flag stood for, It said “Our flag stands for Liberty, Justice, free speech, Press, Maintain our Freedoms...”** A police report was filed. Those memorials were donated to honor our soldiers and to educate our young people who no longer learn history in school. Now these soldiers will be forgotten as this was the only memorial naming them. Many have no other marker anywhere. Us veterans had the courage to stand up and defend our freedom and way of life. Many gave everything they had including their lives often after great personal pain and suffering. These Warren boys who gave their lives at least deserve to have their name on a granite memorial in their home town. Those memorials were no threat to anyone, were hurting nothing and there is lots of room for them there. They were donated without cost. We veterans feel they should be replaced.