

## Gravestones of Warren Union Cemetery Warren Michigan

See the book **Warren Union Cemetery Warren Township Macomb County Michigan** By Historian Professor **Wesley Edward Arnold MA** which has the most information about this cemetery. See also:

Pioneer Cemeteries of Warren Township

Ongoing Research work on Who is buried in Warren Union Cemetery

Also see Warren Union Cemetery Warren Michigan **Index** under separate cover.

Plants in Warren Union Cemetery Warren Michigan with Tom Turmel

**We Support The American Way of Life which promotes:  
Life, Liberty, Justice and the pursuit of Happiness for all  
With rule of law under our U.S. Constitution.**

**With each person supporting themselves, family and  
their community to best of their ability,  
through individual Responsibility and Integrity.**

**Promotes: use of scientific knowledge, research and  
discussion for solving problems rather than violence.**

**Promotes: Love, Kindness, consideration for all with  
the expectation and code of conduct that  
No one should bring harm to another by their actions  
or inaction**

**and Actions should be based on Factual Truth,  
not hearsay or uneducated opinion from obsolete past?**

**Does it pass the test of Truth based on all of the facts?**

**Is it how you would want to be treated?**

**Humans should be Humane.**

Where they censor speech, information and books they will take away freedom

Where they take away freedom

They will take away men!

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE, MANY DIED FOR YOURS

Be vigilant and be prepared to fight for your freedom soon

History teaches that if those who are against our way of life as stated above are not deported, they may eventually hurt you. Just look Boston massacre, Times Square bomber, and 9-11, etc.

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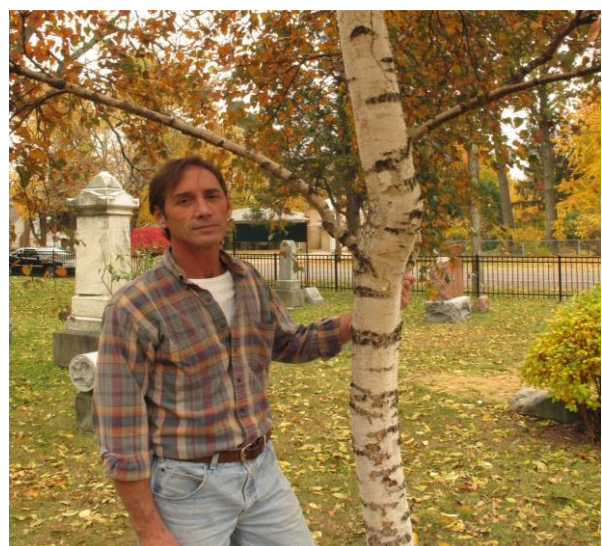
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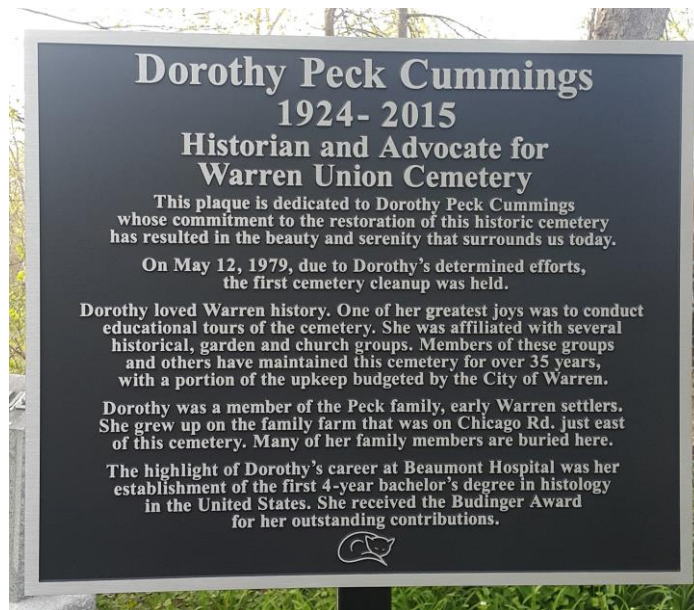
However these records are free for all to use for research or educational use.

This is page 3101 of around 16,000 pages of Warren Township area History. Also this is the beginning of a picture collection of all of the stones in Warren Union Cemetery past and present. I plan to re-photograph many stones with side lighting to allow better reading of the inscriptions. But I need someone to help by holding the shades.

Wesley Arnold has done more research on this cemetery than anyone else and the my books have most of the research and they are all available free at <http://dogoodforall.today>

Tom Turmel is the expert on the plants and has been the one main person who has brought this cemetery from grass to a place of beauty and maintained it for many years. He has planted and maintained hundreds of plants and started many trees. Tom is our best example of volunteers who have given their time.





A second example is Dorothy Cummings who grew up just down the road from here on the Peck Farm. She was busy with her own life when the local Methodist church who took care of the West half of this cemetery was so careless and negligent in taking care of the records that they managed to lose the records. To add shame on to this negligence they then abandoned the cemetery and the legacy of their many members buried here.

They then started sending anyone who wanted to know anything regarding this cemetery to Dorothy Cummings. She was not the official records keeper. Who ever the official records keepers were they were totally negligent in their duties. As a result most of the knowledge of burials and locations has been lost. She was also not in the loop of who was being buried and where. Of course much of this was done before she returned to the Warren Area. In the opinion of this humble historian she deserves this plaque where she told me her ashes would be scatted.

**See the Fall Color at Warren Union Cemetery in this history.**



On June 21 1845 Peter Gillette sold part of his land to 18 grantees for the purpose of a burying ground. See detailed history in the book Warren Union Cemetery Warren Michigan. It was the primary burying ground for non Catholic families in the Warren Township area since that time. There were no local funeral homes in our area until around world War Two. The body remained in the home until burial which was usually the same or next day. Because there was no refrigeration or separate storage fluids and odors would sometimes leak from the corpse even after only a few hours. People did not like to spend the night with a corpse in the house even a loved one. The body was usually transported to the closest cemetery and this was it. To make a trip to Detroit to cemeteries there particularly in bad weather was undesirable. That the first church in the area was built in the cemetery was no coincidence. By the way it was built in this cemetery. The next closest cemetery was St Clement at Ten Mile and Van Dyke but that was reserved for Catholic families. Warren Union Cemetery took everyone even paupers and strangers. What few records that may have been kept have been lost thru the years. It has been indicated to me by old timers that this cemetery is full.

That is backed up by the fact that prominent families such as Peck who actually sold land to this cemetery had to buy plots elsewhere. Very few of these early families marked their plots with engraved stones. Consider that in these old days they had very large families and often lost several babies to early death. Stillborns and day old babies virtually do not get engraved stone markers then or now. Almost every family had some stillborns or day old baby deaths that were not talked about, nor registered. These babies were often buried on top of previous family burials. So lets say that the first twenty families filled up their lots. That is 10-15 persons per each of those big 10\*30 blocks. That means 200-300 unmarked burials of just the first lot buyers. We know that many more lots were sold so much so that more land had to be purchased in 1854, 1863, 1877, 1884, 1885, and 1904. On May 24, 1884 the trustees of St Paul United Church of Christ purchased the east portion of the cemetery from the First Methodist Church. It appears that the name Union Cemetery comes from the union of these two church burial grounds as it was referred to as the Union Cemetery as early as 1854. There are many references to burials at the ME cemetery but many of those graves were not marked by engraved stones. This is true of non village residents, day old babies, paupers and even famous village residents such as the Beebe family.

This cemetery was the main burial ground in this area where residents, non residents who died here, day old babies and paupers were buried often without any engraved marker. Remember it was not fenced and overgrown with weeds and shrubs and no one really supervised this wild area. Anyone could go there and do a quick baby burial at the back behind the shrubs and weeds and not be questioned. Chicago road was a rural dirt road and this was outside of the village. During epidemics families dug their own graves and often several babies and young children in a family died. Some were



put in common graves and no one wanted to be around the contaminated person. When compared with St Clement (which was limited to Catholics) where good records were kept, there were 1.5-2 child burials for each adult burial. Considering that there are about 1000 recorded adult burials here that means that there would also be an additional 1,500-2,000 children buried here but only 150 markers remain of those. Of course most children and babies were not given an engraved marker at all. Researchers have pointed out that, as is true with many old cemeteries, there are many more burials than stones indicate and there are often more children buried in old cemeteries than adults.

Consider that the original 18 plus Gillett and other old families who had lots 10 feet by 30 did not for the most part place stones. And 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 and that the cemetery with its 1000-3000 graves was considered full by 1945. Also ways and aisles with no graves have also been deducted from this. But remember the cemetery was unfenced until 1986 and there were many day old baby, stillborns paupers and stranger burials in the back that were not marked. So how many persons are buried there? No one knows for sure but based on what evidence we have we should consider that this cemetery is virtually full. In many old cemeteries such as this there are many more unmarked graves than there are stones for graves.

I am an old man and I spent a lot of time at Warren Union Cemetery doing research and trying to figure things out. Many people came there to visit. I would help them find their loved ones or family. I would tell them about the unknown soldiers, and the veterans without a marker and about the hundreds of children buried there without a marker who probably died terrible deaths. And since I am a college professor and also give out scholarships I give everyone my little card with my website on it. So when she donated this stone she probably decided to quote me as the historian. Believe me I don't need to advertise as I am not selling anything. We should honor our pioneers and children. I can not take credit for that stone. One of the many people I talked to probably donated that memorial to our pioneers and children buried here in unmarked graves. Over the early years hundreds of babies, stillborns, children and pioneers died and were buried here. Many of those children suffered terrible deaths from diphtheria, summer complaint, inflammation, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, cholera, etc. She quoted the historian on the stone. I personally feel that putting my name on that stone takes away from recognizing the purpose of the stone which is to honor those without markers. If this stone is ever recovered I will gladly have my name removed from it. Many of us want the stone back, The children and pioneers at least deserve a memorial. They stole it from these pioneers and children.

# UNKNOWN SOLDIER

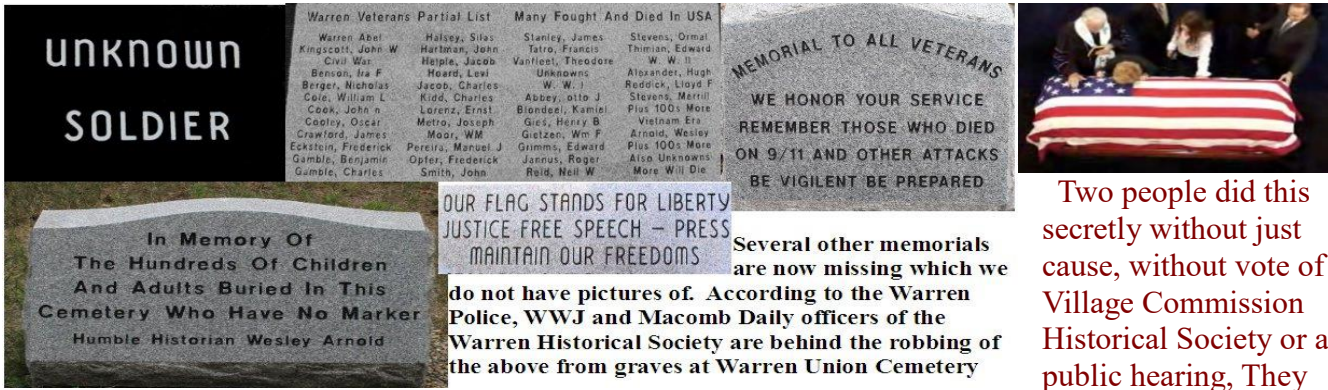
As a historian I heard from some old timers that there were many soldiers buried at Warren Union Cemetery without markers. We knew where the ones with grave stones were but had no idea about the others until it was discovered that the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research had made several surveys of Warren Union Cemetery in 1938 and 1940. (published in their magazine in 1941) They were very thorough and accurate and even sent out teams to double check the work. They noted a soldier's grave marked by an American flag in the area where the above marker was. These people did very accurate work. They stated that there was a soldiers grave there. Since that time the records were destroyed in a flood of the church basement and now we don't even know the family's name. We also know that there were several Warren- Sterling Area Civil War Soldiers who could have been buried at Warren Union Cemetery but were not given an engraved marker. So far research of existing records and stones indicates that they are not buried elsewhere. I also found pieces of stone in that area but some one has also removed them. Therefore it is probable that we may have one or more Civil War Era Soldiers buried at Warren Union Cemetery which now have no marker.

In the several years that I was doing research I mentioned this to several visitors. A marker was donated and placed at the location I had shown to some visitors. I remember an older woman who teared up and was upset because soldiers did not have a marker. I do not ask women visitors for their name addresses and phone numbers.

Two men stole the marker in July of 2011. Why? Did they need a stone for their cottage? They did this without a public hearing, without vote of the Village Commission, Warren Historical Commission and without vote of the Warren Historical Society. This was a private marker owned by a family which did not belong to them. They stole this on the sly.

The caretaker for the cemetery called the police and made a police report indicating that memorials had been stolen. Since then We have discovered even more memorials have been stolen even an epitaph off of a grave. These elderly donors have not sued them probably because they live out of town and don't even know these memorials have been stolen. Or perhaps it was donated out of an estate or perhaps the elderly donor is dead. Come on who steals an epitaph off of a grave? I don't even have a picture of it so don't know what was on it now it is gone.

The above memorial and all of the memorials that were stolen were causing no harm. They were not a threat. They appeared to be granite memorials that some families paid at least several hundred dollars each for. There certainly is lots of room for these memorials in this cemetery. These memorials especially the soldiers memorial named Warren area soldiers some of which who have no marker anywhere else. These memorials honor our soldiers, pioneers and their children. Us veterans feel that these soldiers served their country, put their lives at risk, several died and have no marker anywhere else and at the very least deserve to have their name in granite in they home town. We veterans intend to sue these two persons for desecrating graves and stealing property that doesn't belong to them. Now our young people can't even see the names of the men who died.



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.



# Disagreement leads to removal of tombstones

**By Gordon Wilczynski**  
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Warren police were baffled earlier Thursday why someone would take five tombstones from the Warren Union Cemetery on Chicago Road.

Now they know. The missing stones result from a disagreement between a caregiver and the Warren Historical Society, police said.

But Detective Lt. Dan Beck was quick to point out that as soon as the missing stones were listed on The Macomb Daily's Internet page a woman who said she is a member of the historical society said

she had the tombstones removed because cemetery caretaker Wesley Arnold had no authority to put them there.

"These people seem real nice, but we really don't know at this time who is right and if



Macomb Daily staff photo by David Posavetz  
**Cemetery caretaker Wesley Arnold looks at the spot where some of the tombstones were previously set.**

anyone violated the law," Beck said. "The big thing is we know where the tombstones are now located."

The tombstones have little value to anyone other than families of Union soldiers who fought during the Civil War, according to Beck. He said police just started investigating the incident so they have very few details. Beck said the caretaker

filed a complaint with police on Wednesday claiming someone who had no permission had taken five tombstones from the cemetery. Arnold, also a member of the Warren Historical Commission, said the cemetery was owned by a Methodist church that abandoned it in the 1960s. The cemetery is now private and operated by St. Paul United Church of

Christ and the historical society.

He said the people who work at the church are volunteers and don't get paid. Arnold provided Warren police with a description of the tombstones. Beck said the tombstones were taken sometime between 10 a.m. Tuesday and 9 p.m. Wednesday.

He valued the grave markers at \$4,000 and he believes names of the deceased

could be removed and the tombstones resold.

"The cemetery has documented where every tombstone was located and a description of the inscription on each of them," Beck said. "The inscription on one tombstone reads, 'Memorial to all veterans. We honor your service. Remember those who died on 9-11 and other attacks.'"

Another inscription said, "In memory of the hundreds of children and adults buried in this cemetery who have no marker." Another said, "Warren veterans partial list" and has the names of 30 deceased soldiers.

One stone said: "Our flag stands for liberty, justice, free speech, press, maintain our freedoms. Stop the suffering and dying. Create ample for all."

Arnold said 1,000 people have been buried in the cemetery since 1845. He said most are veterans from the Civil War era.

He also said many of the deceased buried in the cemetery are children. He said that around 1900 more than

50 percent of the deaths in the area were of children.

"The children had diseases such as scarlet fever, small pox, diphtheria and others," Arnold said. "Many of the kids died from spoiled milk and spoiled food because of the lack of refrigeration."

## The Macomb Daily

100 Macomb Daily Drive  
Mount Clemens MI 48043  
Phone: 586-469-4510  
Fax: 586-469-2892  
macombdaily.com

## Contact us

Main number: 586-469-4510  
Delivery/Customer Service: 1-888-464-6860  
Toll Free: 1-877-3READUS  
Email Address: service@macombdaily.com

Senior Publisher,  
JRC Newspapers in Michigan:  
Kevin Haezebrock  
Executive Editor:  
Richard Kelley  
rick.kelley@macombdaily.com  
Circulation Director:  
Mike Muszall  
mike.muszall@macombdaily.com

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