

The Century of Rapid Development (1813-1913)

The first century of Warren Township saw rapid settlement and widespread farm agriculture. Nearly all stands of primeval timber were cut down for settlement construction, timber sales and firewood. Among other early settlers who followed close on the wake of those already mentioned we should mention the following families: Barton, Brunt, Mapes, Mason, Pitcher, and Sutton. Family farms were the major form of livelihood. Tax records from this period reveal a steady growth curve up until the time of the Civil War.

Year	Adult Male Inhabitants	Property Value
1804	14	NA
1814	46	\$11,148
1824	129	76,156
1834	224	81,979
1844	304	91,594
1854	395	146,550
1868	377	209,464

Census records also reveal interest facts concerning Warren Township population developments. It was one of the few townships in the county that had a population decrease after the Civil War. It is doubtful that our population has ever been as high as it was in 1850. First, superior farmland was available elsewhere, and then the entire country experienced a population shift away from rural areas.

Year	Caucasian	African-American	Total
1850	1571	2	1573
1860	1555	8	1563
1870	1417	4	1421

The Coburn Settlement continued to thrive. Ruth Coburn, daughter of Ebenezer Coburn first married a Dewing, and then married Joseph Armstrong. The Armstrongs arrived in the settlement in 1817/1818 and settled on the main road through the township, the Montrose Turnpike, near the home of Alexander Dewing. This community spread along the turnpike toward what became the settlement of Warrenham. Along this turnpike, Andrew Dewing built his home, shortly before his marriage to Elizabeth Fahnstock, of Harrisburg, on 1 April 1820. She died in July of the following year and Andrew married Nancy Dobson, of Susquehanna county, as his second wife. They had four children, and the home is still occupied and appears much as it did a century ago. See below.



The early Warren Center community was located north of Bowen's Hollow, along the Coburn Hill Road. By the 1850's, there was a considerable settlement there, including a post office and several stores. Space in this report does not allow for a detailed discussion of all the noteworthy landmarks in the township, but we are preparing a more detailed study, which we hope to publish at some date. Many of the commercial structures of the original Warren Center community are still standing, but have all been converted into private residences since the center of the community shifted to an area originally called Bowen's Hollow, and called Warren Center, since around 1900. "The Center" as it is often called, has always been the most populous area of the township.

There were three other population centers that develop prior to 1900, Cadis in the north-west, West Warren in the west, and South Warren in the south-west. Both Warrenham and West Warren were considered business centers by the late 1870's. The old maps from a century or more ago list a number of shops and stores in each of the five communities, but there now is only one general store in Warren Center, besides a number of specialty businesses run from family homes.