

Establishment of "Coburn Settlement" in 1804

By 1804, there were fourteen taxable inhabitants of Warren Township, living in what was called "Coburn Settlement". This year stands out as the first time a European community was established here. Among them were William Arnold, J. Bowen, Henry Billings, Ebenezer Coburn, Jr., Amos Coburn, Jonathan Coburn, Moses Coburn, Jr., Amos Coburn, Payson Corbin, Thomas Gibson, Ebenezer Lee and Boswell Lee. The first school was started here in 1807, and was taught by R. Lee. Amos Coburn built the first framed house and had the first "house-warming." This may be the same frame house that was later owned by H. Coburn, and was only just torn down this spring. Only one structure from this period of settlement is still standing, the former home of C. Darling, which is pictured below. It is also a frame structure.



All of the other structures have been reduced to foundations. We are in the process of making a photographic archive of all first settlement foundations, first in the Coburn Settlement and eventually for the whole township.

In 1813, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania established Warren Township as a distinct township. Previously, this area had been governed as a unit known as Mt. Zion, together with what at the same time became Orwell, Windham and Pike Townships. By 1815, the number of taxable citizens in the newly formed Warren Township had risen to 45 people. The first adult death from disease was Theda Corbin. There was an epidemic fever in 1814, which threatened to sweep off the entire settlement, since it was very difficult to obtain medical attention. Andrew Coburn practiced medicine a little, but generally the inhabitants had to get well as they got sick. Then there was no unusual sickness, at least no epidemic, until the winter of 1824-25. It was then that Amos Coburn and his wife died of a fever. Following are pictures of three memorials from this Coburn Cemetery, the markers for Mary Coburn, Margaret Coburn and Moses Coburn, who had fought in the American Revolution.



The name "Warren" was either derived from some location to the east or was given in honor of Major-General Joseph Warren, who was slain at the Battle of Bunker Hill. As he was endeavoring to rally the militia, Gen. Warren was struck in the head by a musket-ball that instantly killed him when it went through his head. He graduated from Harvard in 1759 and married Elizabeth Horton in 1764. He studied medicine with Dr. James Lloyd and practiced in Boston. As a Freemason, he joined St. Andrews Lodge, a newly organized group, which included many political agitators. A radical leader in activities leading to the Revolution, he delivered addresses commemorating the Boston Massacre in 1772 and 1775, and drafted the Suffolk Resolves. Elected to the Provincial Congress in 1774, he served as president pro tem and was chairman of the Provincial Committee of Safety. He was commissioned second major-general in 1775, but served as a volunteer in the battle at Bunker where he died. General Warren was a physician, born in Roxbury, Mass., 11 June, 1741; died in Charlestown, Mass., 17 June, 1775. He was descended from Peter Warren, whose name appears on the town records of Boston in 1659, where he was identified as a "mariner." Peter's second son, Joseph, built a house in 1720 in what is now Warren Street, Roxbury, Mass. and died there in 1729.

There is a Warren, Connecticut, located in Litchfield County, also named for that same Revolutionary War hero from Massachusetts. There are several family names common to both locations from the early 19th Century. In 1786, the town of Warren, Connecticut had been incorporated from a settlement that originally was settled in 1737. The town in Connecticut consists of a high plateau, bordered on the south by Lake Waramaug. The tiny village of Warren has an interesting Congregational Church, with pilastered pediment, a good tower, and fine interior woodwork. It was built in 1818, during the pastorate of Rev. Peter Starr, who served for 57 years. The church sent 16 young men into the ministry, including Charles G. Finney (1792-1875) the famous evangelist, associated with the early history of Oberlin College; and Julian M. Sturtevant (1805-1886) a member of the Illinois Band that went out from Yale, and founder of Illinois College. About 1 1/2 miles north of the village, a road turns west, 1/2 mile to a brick school house, built around 1793, one of the oldest in New England in continuous use. Another Warren was chartered in Vermont in 1780. There is also a Warren, Bristol County, Massachusetts and a Warren on the shore of Rhode Island, which may relate to the Rhode Island Purchase. Many of the early settlers,

such as Alfred Allyn and James Bowen, came from Providence, Rhode Island. The Corbins and the Coburns both came from Pomfret, Vermont.

Additional information on General Warren from:

<http://www.josephwarren.com/>

<http://www.masshist.org/bh/joswarrenbio.html>

<http://warrentavern.com/warren.htm>

Additional information about Warren, CT from:

<http://www.skyweb.net/~channy/CTGuideWar.html>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctlitch2/towns/warren/>