

## "Henry Warner, Randolph Twp. Pioneer"

Written by Roger Rhoads

Henry Warner (1754-1815) was my 5x great grandfather. He was born in Frederick Co., Maryland to Nicholas and Anna Maria Warner. Nicolas was the immigrant having arrived probably from Wurttemberg, Germany about 1754. About 1774 Henry married Susanna Bostetter (1752-1820), daughter of Andrew Bostetter and Elizabeth Long.

By 1775, Henry was in old Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, east of Altoona, and during the Revolutionary War he was in the Pennsylvania militia. Ten children were born to Henry and Susanna, the first six being married in Bedford Co., Pennsylvania:

Jacob (1775-1835) married Rosanna Lingenfelter

John (1777-1859) married Catherine Nicodemus

Elizabeth (1779-1815) married William Snider

Henry, Jr. (1781-1860) married Elizabeth Nicodemus, Catherine's sister

Andrew (1784-1823) married Catherine Brumbaugh

David (1787-1862) married Esther Brumbaugh, Catherine's sister

Susannah (1791-1825) married Samuel Folkerth

Daniel (1792-1826) married Sarah Eller

Samuel (1795 – bef. 1810)

Catherine (1797-1865) married John Mast

Henry amassed several farms in the Bedford and Huntingdon Co., PA areas, but apparently wanted his children and their families to live more closely together. Therefore, in 1811 when he was 57 years old, he sold all of his land and together with his nine surviving children and their families took the road west to the Ohio River where they boarded flatboats for Cincinnati and then came over land by wagon to Randolph Twp.

Prior to the trip he had one of his sons go ahead to buy land. Divided among the various families it comprised a strip almost three miles long extending west from what is now St. Rt. 48 (old Covington Pike) and lying on the north side of Sweet Potato Ridge Road. It became known as the "Warner Settlement."

After settling in, it was time to help start a new church. The Warner's were founders of present-day Salem Church of the Brethren in 1817, at the corner of Diamond Mill and Phillipsburg-Union Roads. One son became an elder while another was a deacon of that church.

Henry back in Bedford Co., PA was Brethren and probably attended Clovercreek Brethren Church east of Martinsburg that dates from before 1790. Certainly, his children were of that faith, and they married families that were Brethren as well. Two of the children moved on from there. John moved to Kosciusko Co., Indiana, after his wife's death. Henry, Jr. in his later years moved to near Bradford, Ohio.

Henry died in 1815, and along with some of his children and their spouses, he is buried in the Old Warner Cemetery (aka Herr Cemetery) on Sweet Potato Ridge Road about one mile west of St. Rt. 48. This little burial site was ravaged by time and vandalism, and Henry's tombstone has been lost. Local members of the Warner family refurbished the remaining stones and placed a granite memorial to Henry and his family.

Back in old Bedford Co., PA, George Rhodes, another 5x great grandfather of mine, lived a few miles away from Henry. In 1810, three of his sons moved to Montgomery Co., Ohio and two of them homesteaded 160 acres a bit north of Farmersville. In 1814, George and his wife decided to come to Ohio with a daughter's family. They got as far as Pittsburgh where George got sick and died. His widow filed a petition for his estate's administration from near Wolf Creek Pike and Diamond Mill Road, south of Brookville.

The sons helped found Slifers Church in 1816 on the corner of Clayton and Chicken Bristle Roads. It was a union church composed of Evangelical Lutheran and German Reformed congregations.

Later one of the sons, Jacob, moved a bit further north, and in 1825 homesteaded 80 acres on Little Richmond Road, a bit east of Brookville-Johnsville Road. His son, Jacob, became an elder at the Providence Lutheran Church.

Now, moving forward almost a hundred years, in 1907 Earl Rhoads (1886-1969), 3x great grandson of George Rhodes, married Alma Warner (1888-1920), 3x great granddaughter of Henry Warner. He was Lutheran and lived on Providence Road south of Brookville. She was Brethren and lived near Phillipsburg.

I have always wondered how my grandparents from such similar geographical but totally different religious backgrounds ever got together. They lived only ten miles apart but many more than that from a Christian theology point of view. One of the great mysteries of my family's history.

***Editor's Note:*** Roger Rhoads, who contributed the above article, lives in Mentor, Ohio. Last year he made an especially important donation to the historical society – an original postcard dated 1899 that had been sent out by then postmaster Welby Waymire, announcing the name change from Harrisburg and Iamtown Post Office to Englewood, Ohio.