

## Charles Warren Family

Researchers have traced this family line back to 1784 when land formerly owned by Indian tribes in Georgia were used to form Franklin County. Settlers mainly from Virginia and the Carolinas came to claim the newly-opened land. Among the settlers were Thomas Hackley and Hanna Warren and their family which grew to number eleven children. They located in the Wofford Settlement new known as Baldwin, Cornelua and Toccoa.

The Cherokees became unhappy about settlements on tribal lands and finally in 1798 an official survey of the disputed lands was conducted which upheld the Indians' position. The Warren family and other settlers of the Wofford community fought in the courts for their lands and finally were allowed to keep what they had homesteaded. But, by this time (1804) Thomas Warren and his neighbors had heard of better and cheaper land in Mississippi, Louisiana and elsewhere.

Reuben Warren (1781-1816), possibly a son of Thomas Hackley Warren, remained in the Wofford settlement where he was appointed Justice of the Peace from 1813 until about 1816. It is believed that Reuben was married twice. The first marriage produced two children: Nancy (1801- ?) and Lott Worth (1805-1882). Children, probably from a second marriage were: Charles (1811-1898) John Thomas (1814-1867) and William (1817 -?).

Charles Warren (1811-1898), a son of Rueben, was born in Franklin County, Georgia, and was only five years old when his father died. In 1830 he joined the Mud Creek Baptist Church in Habersham County near Cornelua. Later that same year he married Elizabeth Scalf. Elizabeth died in 1832 after the birth of their son Reuben. The next year, Charles Warren married Sidney Isabelle Scalf (13) years old), a sister of his first wife. Children of this marriage were: William (1835-?), Lott Granville (1838-1894), John (1840-?), Charles W., Jr. (1843-1905), Martin (1846-?), Nancy Caroline (1849-1905), Amanda J. (1852-?). Rebecca (1854-1890), Frances Marian (1856-1926) and Susanna (1860-1927).

Charles and his brother John Thomas Warren, volunteered in the State Militia in 1836 at La Fayette, Georgia. Later that same year Charles returned to Habersham County where he remained until sometime after 1850, when he removed to Dade County near Trenton. The Georgia Land lotteries apparently had some effect on this move.

By 1860 Charles and his brother, John Thomas, were in Jackson County, Alabama, on two adjoining farms in the Long Island community. Later John Thomas moved his family to Bridgeport.

The Civil War must have created friction between these brothers and their families. John Thomas and two of his sons, Lot and Reuben, joined the Union Army while Charles' son, Charles. Jr., joined the Confederate Army.

Charles, Sr., moved his family to the top of Sand Mountain to the Bryant community. In time, he owned a sizable farm, operated a grist mill and saw mill. His mill was powered by a small creek still listed on some maps as Warren Creek. By the 1870s there was a speculators' run on land in this area, because it was believed there was coal to be mined here. Charles Warren sold out to the Castle Rock Coal Company.

In 1875, Charles and Sidney Warren moved to DeKalb County with daughters Amanda, Nancy and Susanna, and sons Lot Granville, Charles Jr., Martin W. and Frances Marion. Charles purchased land along both sides of what became known as Warren Road (now Fort Payne's 49th Street, NW): beginning near old Lower Sulphur Springs Cemetery, continuing west across Big Wills Creek to US Highway 11.

It is believed that Charles Warren farmed in partnership with his sons until his death in 1898. He used a very simple method of dividing his land among his sons. He had earlier divided his land into three sections of equal value, which he numbered 1, 2 and 3. Slips of paper with corresponding numbers were placed in a hat and each brother made his draw. Lot Granville Warren received houses and land from Lower Sulphur Springs Cemetery to Big Wills Creek and to the north. Charles Jr., got the land across and to the south. The fourth brother, Martin, is believed to have died in a house fire around 1880.

Lot Granville Warren (1838-1984) married Sarah Frances Warren (1843-1864), a cousin, the daughter of John Thomas Warren. They had one child, John Weston Warren, born in 1864. After Sarah died, Lot and infant son John, lived with his parents for the next ten years. Lot married Susanne Layne in 1874. They were the parents of eleven children: Reuben C. (1874-1925), Sarah Frances (1875-1938), Rebecca (1876-1884?), Amanda (1878-1886), Nancy Susanna (1880-1969), Charles Irvin (1883-1900?), Martin W. (1885-?), Lottie Bell (1887-1926), Francis Marion (1889-1934), Sudah Jane (1889-1975) and Jesse Duff (1892-1969). Several members of this family are buried in the Lower Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

John Weston Warren (1864-1936) was the one child born to Lot Granville and Sarah Frances Warren. He was moved to DeKalb County in 1875, when his father, grandparents and uncles moved from Jackson County. As a young man, he farmed in partnership with his father on the land Lot Granville received in the draw. John Warren married Mary Josephine Bohannon (1873-1932) daughter of Robert and Polly Bohannon. John Weston and Mary Josephine Warren were parents of nine children: Amy (1890-1960), Lott (1895-1974), Charles Robert (1898-1984), John, Jr., (1900-1945), Francis Marion (1902-1905), Cleo (1904-1995), Travis, (1906-1962), Joseph W. (1910-1995) and Lelia Jane (1915-).

There are members of this family still living on the land originally purchased in 1875. A special thanks to Donald R. Warren of New Bern, N.C. for his information on this family and his sharing of family photographs.

I copied the following several years ago from The DeKalb Advertiser Vol. 11 No. 27 Thursday, May 8, 1997 addition. You may buy back copies by calling the paper and asking for the issue.