

Some Descendants of Thomas Warden

By Thomas A. Warden

Thomas Warden, born on October 9, 1801, in Grayson County, Virginia, was the son of Robert and Nancy Walker Warden. Thomas Warden was orphaned as a teenager, and lived at the orphanage in Wytheville. John Black adopted Thomas about 1819. Thomas then married John Black's daughter Sarah Martha Black in Wythe County in 1820. Martha was born September 10, 1802, in Montgomery County.



Thomas Warden

Thomas and Martha may have lived near Christiansburg for about 22 years before moving to an unsettled part of Fayette County. Thomas purchased land from Sparriel Bailey. Their house was built just south of the present Ragland Road, less than a mile east of the crossroads at Skelton. Thomas acquired 1,000 acres of land on Whitestick Creek, extending east to the Quinnimont (now Stanaford) Road, South to the present Rural Acres Drive, West to the present Robert C. Byrd Drive, and North to Cranberry. He also acquired land at Sand Branch.

Thomas and Martha, along with four children, probably set out for their move to Fayette County in the summer of 1832. They made their way through the major mountain pass at Glen Lyn and the Kanawha "turnpike" route westward through Greenbrier County, descended to the New River north of present-day Hinton, and up to the plateau east of Beckley. Robert, their 14-year-old son, was left to maintain their land while the family returned to Montgomery County for their household belongings. An unusually cold winter delayed their return until early 1833, having endured frozen rivers and other hardships.

Thomas Warden was a farmer, raising crops and livestock. He had a dairy, ox teams, sheep, and traded cattle and horses. He collected tolls on the old Kanawha Turnpike and built roads for the County. He also operated an inn or tavern on the turnpike near Cranberry.



Sarah Martha Black Warden

Thomas died of "fever" on February 22, 1882, and is buried in the family cemetery behind the present-day Beckley Mall. Martha died on January 10, 1884, and is buried beside him.

Thomas and Martha had 13 children. They are:

- 1 Robert Warden was born November 22, 1820, in Wythe County, Virginia. He married Nancy Warden, a cousin, about 1840. Nancy was born in 1819 in Grayson County; her parents are presently unknown. Robert was a farmer and served as a Raleigh County official when it was formed from Fayette County in 1850. Robert and Nancy lived near the old Quinnimont Road, and later, at Grandview. Robert died March 22, 1893, and Nancy died March 26, 1886. Both are buried in the Robert Warden family cemetery located west of the Stanaford Road. Robert and Nancy's children are Wilson C., David J., Claiborne Alexander, William Chester "Ches," Virginia, Letitia, and Nancy Ann "Annie" Hurt.

-2 Nancy J. Warden, was born September 12, 1822, probably in Montgomery County, Virginia. She married William Decatur Carper on December 8, 1853, in Sweenysburg, Raleigh County. William D. Carper (1832-1924) is the son of Joseph Carper and Virginia Shumate of Grandview, Raleigh County. They were divorced before 1871. Nancy J. Warden lived with her parents after her divorce. She died of fever on March 26, 1886, and is probably buried in the Thomas Warden Cemetery. Nancy and W. D. Carper's children: John Henry Carper, Martha Jane "Mattie" Carper Woods, Margaret Ann Carper Quesenberry, Nancy Ellen Carper Simms, Mary Elizabeth "Mollie" Carper Moore, Emily A. Carper Carter, and Sarah E. "Sallie" Carper Warden (wife of Jeff Warden).

- 3 John Walker Warden was born on October 12, 1825, in Montgomery County, Virginia. He married Miriam Hurt on April 9, 1848, in Fayette County. Miriam (1829-1886), is daughter of John Hurt and Lawsey West of Floyd County, Virginia. John Warden died April 11, 1900, in Raleigh County of Bright's Disease, and is buried in the Alfred Warden Cemetery, east of the Stanaford Road. John and Miriam's children are: Sarah J. "Sallie" Smith (1849-1921), McDowell "Mac" Warden, William Alfred Warden, Mary Catherine Underwood/Arndt, Laura B. Warden, Sonora A. Radford, and John Walter Warden.

- 4 Mary Ann "Annie" Warden was born on September 24, 1827, in Montgomery County, Virginia. She married John Stover, Jr., of Clear Fork, Fayette County, on March 6, 1848. John Stover (1826-1900) is son of John Stover, Sr. and Nancy Harper. Annie died August 10, 1910, and is buried in the Stover Cemetery at John's Creek (Spruce Mountain). Annie and John Stover's children: Henry, Anderson, Martha J. Watts, Oliver, Elizabeth Riffe, Joseph Sanford, Alethia "Letha" Smith, Mary Alice Shumate, John Thomas, Olivia Jane Curtis, Augustus, and Leonidas Hamilton "Lee".

- 5 Martha Jane "Mattie" Warden was born on December 21, 1829, probably in Montgomery County, Virginia. She married John "Frank" Greer on July 21, 1851, in Raleigh County, Virginia. Mattie and Frank lived on Stanaford Road. Mattie died on February 12, 1921, and is buried in the Fox/Harrah Cemetery off Stanaford Road. Mattie and Frank's children are Julia Ann Evans, Mary C. "Mollie" Tincher, John Franklin, Emily Susan "Emma" Harrah, James Matthew, and Joseph G.

-6 Hughes Jefferson "Hughes" Warden was born on December 15, 1832, in Montgomery County, Virginia. He married Susanna Williams on April 4, 1852, in Raleigh County, Virginia. Susanna (1838-1904) is daughter of John Williams and Susan Stover. Hughes' served with the 16th Virginia Cavalry in 1862-1864, and was either killed in action at Gettysburg or Appomattox Court House, or deserted and fled west. Hughes and Susanna's children are: Alexander, Martha A. "Mattie" Quesenberry, Letitia Bailey, John Thomas, Mary Jane "Mollie" Ball, Charles Anderson, and Hughes Jefferson "Jeff".

-7 Sarah Frances Warden was born on November 27, 1834, the first of Thomas and Martha's children to be born in Fayette County, Virginia. She married Ira Hurt on March 24, 1853, in Raleigh County, Virginia. Ira (1834-1915) is son of John and Lawsey West Hurt. Sarah Frances and Ira lived on Stonewall Road in Piney View. They are both buried in the Ira Hurt Cemetery at the end of Stonewall. Sarah Frances died of pneumonia on June 17, 1927. They had 12 children: Arlisha Smith, Emily Jane "Emma" Hunt, Elizabeth Marie "Lizzie" Teel, Thomas Jefferson, Julia Ann "Annie" Coleman, William Alfred "Bub", Stuart Laing, Sarah Amanda, Millard Fillmore, Ira "Deet," and Martha Daisy.

- 8 Elizabeth Maria Warden was born on November 30, 1836, in Fayette County, Virginia. She married Claiborne Alexander Curtis on December 29, 1853, in Raleigh County, Virginia. Claiborne (1834-1909) is son of Claiborne Curtis and Martha Kirk. Elizabeth died on September 24, 1918, near Mabscott, Raleigh County, West Virginia. She is buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery, south of Beckley. Elizabeth and Claiborne had 10 children: Milton C., Salome Thompson, Martha Ann Phipps, Everett Elias "Ev", Ewell C., Mary Etta "Mollie" Clay, Luther "Perk", Laura Jane Snuffer, James Claiborne, and Macie Maude Sanner.

-9 David Jordan "Jerd" Warden was born on November 30, 1838, in Fayette County, Virginia. He was married first on October 28, 1858, to Delilah Hurt (1838-1886), daughter of John and Lawsey Hurt, and on May 15, 1866, was married the second time to Jane Williams (1841-1902), widow of James Furrow, and daughter of John Williams and Susan Stover. Jerd died on September 14, 1904, and is buried near Jane at the Church of Christ Cemetery at Prosperity. Delilah is buried at the Alfred Warden Cemetery. Jerd and Delilah had William Otis "Oat" Warden. Jerd and Jane had 8 children: Roxie Ann Cottle, Henry Lewis, Sarah E. "Susan" Harvey, Willie Jenmyre, George Walton, Martha I. Callaway, Emmazetta Thurman, and Franklin P.

- 10 Emily Warden was born on February 20, 1840, in Fayette County, Virginia. She married Eli Williams, son of John and Susan Stover Williams, on January 11, 1858. Emily died July 31, 1901, and Eli died in 1916. Both are buried in the Church of Christ Cemetery at Prosperity. Emily and Eli's children: Amos, Linus, Thomas, Julia Bailey, William, John H., Minnie, Burke, Ada, Virgie Maynor Stover, and Effie Stover.

- 11 Thurse Warden was born March 6, 1842, and died young. She is probably buried in an unmarked grave, or one with a plain field stone, at the Thomas Warden Cemetery.

-12 Miriam A. "Myram" Warden was born on August 17, 1846, in Fayette County, Virginia. She married Amos Bailey on November 29, 1866, in Raleigh County, West Virginia. Amos Bailey is son of Sparriel and Mary Jane TyreeBailey. Their children are George Washington, Henry Elbert, and Josephine P. "Josie" Tyree. Myram died on March 8, 1933, and is interred at the old mausoleum at Sunset Memorial Park. Amos died in 1917 and is buried at his farm at Sand Branch.

-13 William T. "Will" Warden was born on May 29, 1848, in Fayette County, Virginia. As the youngest son of Thomas and Martha, he lived on Ragland Road at the old home place until the 1890's. He married Elizabeth Marie "Bettie" Cobler on October 17, 1869 in Raleigh County. Bettie, born about 1848 in Horse Pasture District, Henry County, Virginia, is daughter of John and Sarah Bouldin Cobler. Bettie died April 10, 1892, in Raleigh County, and is buried in the Thomas Warden Cemetery. Will and Bettie had eight children: Thomas Arden "Ard" (1870-1930), James Austin "Jim" (1872-1944), Anna Laura "Annie" Guy (1874-1973), Sarah Martha "Mattie" (1879-1930), William Anderson (1881-1950), Daisy Ferguson (1886-1982), Eva Mae Hodson (1887-1927), and an unnamed child who died shortly after birth. After Bettie's death, Will married Ingabo Catherine "Cassie" Brown on February 2, 1894, in Raleigh County. Will died on June 10, 1921, in Raleigh County, and is buried in the Thomas Warden Cemetery.

Among Thomas and Martha Warden's 100 grandchildren, David J. Warden (1848-1916) married Malissa A. Williams of North Carolina in 1872; Claiborne Alexander (1851-1927) married Octavia Griffith of Patrick County, Virginia; William Chester (1855-1906) married Nellie Marie Rogers and Estelle Carper; and Nancy Ann (1865-1950) married Stuart Hurt.

John Henry Carper (1854-1929) married Lockie Ellen Hurt; Mattie Carper (1856-1947) married Bishop Woods; Maggie Carper (1857-1910) married James Franklin Quesenberry; Mollie Carper (1860-1950) married Alfred Monroe Moore; and Sallie Carper (1867-1957) married Hughes Jefferson "Jeff" Warden.

Sallie Warden married Francis P. "Frank" Smith; Mac Warden (1851-1923) married Elizabeth Rachel Ball; Alfred married Vena Susan Williams; Mary Catherine married 1) Rufus F. Underwood, 2) Englebert Arndt, and 3) Irvin Lewis Riggs; Sonora "Nora" Warden married Lewis Madison Radford; and John Walter "Johnny" married Anna Eliza Snyder.

Anderson Stover (1850-1884) married Victoria Ann Holt; Martha J. Stover married Alexander Watts III; Oliver Stover married Virginia Catherine Shumate; Joseph Sanford Stover married 1) Demarisa Bailey and 2) Geneva Celestia Henderson; Aletha Stover married Eli Smith; Mary Alice Stover married William Parkinson Shumate; John Thomas Stover married Henrietta Griffith; and Olivia Jane Stover married Everett Curtis.

Sources:

Federal Population Censuses of 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920; internet contacts with numerous Warden descendants and collateral families; Beckley USA (3

Vols.); and the Raleigh County and Fayette County web pages. Many other sources also contributed to this account, and are available from the author.

Footnotes:

1. Raleigh County Register of Deaths, Book 1; William T. Warden Family Bible, pages transcribed by author in 1965; Botetourt County Virginia, Marriage Bonds, Fincastle, Virginia, (1990); and Mary B. Kegley, "The Lost Children of Wythe County, 1770-1878", p. 121.
2. Raleigh County Land Records, Beckley Court House, 1996; Beckley Post Herald, 25 August 1950; Family lore as told by Virgil A. Warden, grandson of William T. Warden, 1990.
3. Fayette County Court Records, 1838, Minute Book, Fayetteville, West Virginia (transcribed August 1998); Thomas Warden Family Cemetery, Skelton; Register of Deaths, Book 1, op. cit..