

Bart Warren

Written by his Great Grandson, John Warren Jr., 2006

Dennis Warren, who was Bart Warren's father was the son of Thomas and Margaret Gallagher Warren he was born in Ireland in 1840 and came to America with his parents in 1842.

Dennis married **Mary Casey** and lived in Stockport, Columbia County where Bart was born in 1868 (there were several other children); afterward they moved to Stephentown where Bart went to school.

Dennis was a blacksmith in Stephentown in the 1870s, in Pittsfield, MA in the late 1880s, and in New Lebanon in the 1890s. Dennis probably taught his son Bart the blacksmithing trade.

Bart married **Nora (Hanorah) Higgins** in New Lebanon in 1894 – she was born in Ireland and her father, Daniel Higgins was also a blacksmith. The Higgins family came to America in 1874 and lived at Queechy Lake and later Pittsfield, MA where Bart and Nora probably met.

After their marriage Bart and Nora lived in Stephentown where they had several children. Their second eldest **Dennis** served in World War I, was a chauffeur / taxi driver, and was a bootlegger who died in a car wreck near Lake Champlain running from prohibition agents in 1926. The police reported that "Canadian ale was spread across the road" – he was in a group of cars bringing beer down from Canada to be served at local speakeasies (including the Albany Elks club).

Around 1902 or 1903 they moved to the present Sand Lake to the first house next to the creek across from the Town Tavern - his obituary noted that the present Town Tavern was his first blacksmith shop – he probably worked with his father before that.

West Sand Lake (the current barber shop on Route 150 was his shop – there was a wagon wrights' shop next door), and then finally at Bart's home across from the trolley station in Averill Park.

Within just a few years he leased a blacksmith shop in Ulinesville (now West Sand Lake in the building that is the current Mac's barbershop. Several photos of Bart and Dennis were taken about 1900 showing them posed in front of the Bart Warren Blacksmith Shop, a nearby hotel, and in front of a wagon shop next door.

In about 1910 they adopted their niece and nephew, Genevieve Luby (age four months) – she was raised by Bart and Nora and took the name Warren – and Vincent Luby (age 5).

In 1920, Bart was working as a Blacksmith for wages at the Faith Knitting Mills in Averill Park. Nora was working from home as a "washwoman." Their three eldest children were also wage workers at Faith Knitting Mills – many in Bart and Nora's family made a living in various occupations at the Faith Mills. There is a photos taken in the 1930s or 1940s of their son (my adoptive grandfather) Ed Warren on strike at the mill.

In about 1925 the Bart and Nora moved the family to Averill Park and took up residence in the former Clum's Hotel, a tavern across from the Troy & New England Railway's Trolley Station (later Tremont's Lumber) where they lived until their deaths. Near the end of his life (in 1930), Bart worked occasionally as a laborer for the Town Highway Department.

According to their son Joe Warren, Bart also worked as a blacksmith from a shop behind his house. Across the street stood the barn for the Averill Park Hotel; Bart took in work from people who would leave their horses for shoeing at the shop while they took the trolley in to Troy and then pick them up upon their return. Joe also said that Nora, with the help of her daughter Maggie, took in washing to earn extra money.

In addition to Genevieve Luby (and her new husband Wesley Diamond), around 1930 Bart and Nora also took in Dorothy, Bernard, and Nick Schnurr from the Roman Catholic *Providence Orphan Asylum* (also known as *Saint Joseph's Orphanage*) in Burlington, VT. Their parents had died when they were very young – they suffered terrible abuse in the orphanage.

Each summer beginning in the late 1920s after the death of Nora's brother John J. Higgins, she and Bart also took in Nora's niece's and nephew Susan Higgins, Anne Mae Higgins, Mary Higgins, and John E. Higgins. Susan and siblings spent many summers with her Aunt Nora Higgins Warren at the Warren home in Averill Park. Nora would go to Adams, MA and pick them up.

They also helped raise Mary Warren (their daughter Maggie's child), altogether they had eleven children of their own, and adopted five more. Four of their own children died very young.

Bart retired in October of 1935 and died March 1939.

Nora died in 1961.

They are buried with many of their children in St. Henry's Church Cemetery.

NOTE: If you have information about the Warren, Higgins, or Schnurr families, please contact John Warren at (518) 494-4251 or Linda Warren at (518) 674-2969.