

A life sketch of
Anna Warner Homer

1780 – 1864

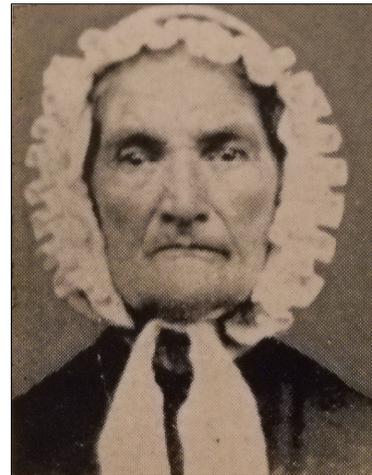
Anna Warner was born in November 23, 1780 at Erie, New York. She was the daughter of William and Hannah Wilbur Warner born originally from Massachusetts. Anna married Benjamin Cobb Homer in 1805 at Erie, New York.

Anna Warner, whose great-grandmother was an Indian princess of the Cherokee nation,* possessed some characteristics which suggested that ancestry. She had black eyes and hair as black as midnight. She was physically strong and energetic and capable of doing the strenuous work that fell to the lot of the

pioneer mother of her time. She evidently came from very hardy stock; her own grandmother lived to be 113 years of age.

Nine children were born to the Homer's. In rearing this family, Anna's duties were so numerous that they required her to be active from early morning to late at night every day. They included the shearing of the sheep; the washing and carding of the wool; the spinning of the yarn and weaving it into cloth, or knitting it into stockings and mittens for the use of the family. She was almost always occupied with part of this task while she sat with the family around the huge fireplace, which was in one end of the living room. This fireplace was the center of the family life. It must always be kept plentifully supplied with logs from the woods near by. All of the cooking was done over it, and it was the only source of light and heat.

Anna was learned far beyond the average woman of her time, and as the family sat around the fireplace in the winter evenings while she knit and sewed, she taught her family to read and write. She had few books except the family Bible, and this they learned to recite almost from cover to cover. She sang to them, and they sang together, songs and ballads, as well as



gospel hymns. She told them many stories of early American history and of folk lore and Indian legends.

One of her self-imposed duties was that of maternity nurse for the scattered neighborhood. Any time of day or night, or any season of the year, she always responded to any call where she was needed. Sometimes she went through narrow trails, through the woods in the storms or blizzards to attend to someone who needed her assistance.

She had a deeply religious nature, and was a very devout Methodist. Her husband, Benjamin C., called them the "ranting, roaring Methodists," as they took their religion seriously, and while preaching and praying, made a lot of noise.

Once every summer she took a vacation and left her family home and cares to her old uncle, Caleb Warner, who made his home with them. He was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, and was past doing hard work so during his later years, he lived with the Homers and helped Anna with her many chores, especially in tending the children. So during her religious vacation each summer, for a week or two, he took care of the household while she went to the camp meeting or revival that was held somewhere in the vicinity of their home in the woods.

Eight children were born in Onondaga County. They were: Joshua, William Warner, Elizabeth, Aseneth Allen, Russell King, Delania, Julia Caroline, and Esther. Benjamin Thomas, their youngest son, was born in Ridgeway County, New York.

Joshua, their eldest boy, left home when he was 20 years old, and they never saw or heard of him afterward. Much speculation as to where he had gone was indulged in, and for years every effort was made to locate him, but his disappearance is a mystery that has never been solved.

Soon after Joshua left, the family decided to move to Pennsylvania as they thought there was a better climate there, and it was a more thickly inhabited part of the country. Once again, they located on a piece of timber land and began clearing timber, building a new home and planting crops. They developed a fine home and farm in Crawford County, Pennsylvania. Benjamin was getting along in years and his health would not permit him to do the hard labor he had previously been able to do. His sons were well grown and able to take over the more difficult phases of the work.

Anna Warner Homer passed away July 12, 1864 and was buried in the Conneautville Cemetery, Conneautville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

**CONCERNING ANNA WARNER'S INDIAN ANCESTRY: Present research (May 1976) has not proven any of Anna Warner's great-grandmothers to be either Indians or of Indian descent. The family is proud of the Indian tradition, but the records do not substantiate the tradition at this time.*

This Life Sketch of Anna Warner Homer was written by Rachel Mareta Homer Crockett, author of Homer Family History – 1942.

Names, places, and dates may have been added and verified with family genealogy information and records in possession of K. Oswald, and family history records in possession of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

<http://www.childrentofathers.com/anna-warner.html>