

A life sketch of

Benjamin Cobb Homer

1777 – 1852

Benjamin Cobb Homer was born on June 24, 1777. He was the son of Captain Thomas Homer and Elizabeth Sears Homer of Massachusetts.

Benjamin began going to sea when he was a mere boy, but was obliged to quit on account of his health. He then went to the western part of the State of New York, to take up farming. There he met and married Anna Warner of Erie, New York. Her great-grandmother was a princess of the Cherokee Indian nation,* so Anna Warner had one-eighth Indian blood, a fact of which father Homer was very proud. They were married in 1805, and settled on a piece of timber land in Onondaga County, New York. On this land they built their home in the wilderness and began to rear a family.

They worked hard to clear the land and used the logs to build a house of several rooms and out-buildings for their livestock and chickens. The buildings were chinked and daubed with mud and covered with a heavy coating of brush and dirt to keep out the summer heat and the winter cold. This provided protection from the wild animals and the Indians. They had plenty of good substantial food, as the woods were full of game, and they soon began to raise vegetables and corn. They kept the ordinary domestic farm animals to supply the family needs, including sufficient sheep to provide wool for Anna to spin and weave into homespun for clothing and bedding.

This home in Onondaga County is where eight of their nine children were born. 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. These children were naturally very proud of their parents, their characters, and the life they lived. They were taught to work hard along side of their parents and contributed substantially to the Homer farm and home life.

Benjamin Cobb Homer was a God-fearing Christian man, although he was never at any time a member of any church. As far back as he knew anything about his forefathers, they had

all been Free Masons, and so he followed in their footsteps, and became a Free Mason in full fellowship, and continued so all during his life.

Benjamin studied the doctoring of animals and their ills, and became the only veterinary in that part of the country and he took care of all that type of work for everyone for miles around. His personality and interests were such that he was always on friendly terms with the Indians, which held them in good stead as there were many Indian troubles in that part of the country at the time.

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. This was in Crawford County. 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. He then turned his attention to the thing he had always wanted to do—the rearing and caring for good horses. He soon had some very fine stock which he advertised by exhibiting at the various county fairs. By a careful selection of his stock, honest dealing, and strict attention to these pursuits, he built up a thriving business and a good reputation as an authority on all questions pertaining to horses. After his death, his son, William W. Homer, took over and for many years carried on this business.

An interesting story is told of the family as follows:

After Benjamin Cobb Homer's death, his son Benjamin went back to Pennsylvania to look after his estate. He found that he had inherited his father's favorite mare "Bett." As she was very old and not able to make the trip to Iowa, he was obliged to leave her in Pennsylvania with his brother. Fifty years later while his son William H. Homer was living in Oxford, Idaho, he and a man named Natt Ireland sent to Kentucky for a thoroughbred stallion. When the horse

arrived and they were looking over his pedigree, they found that one of his ancestries had been this mare "Bett," bred and owned by Benjamin C. Homer of Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Cobb Homer passed away January 30, 1853 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 Benjamin Cobb Homer was written by Rachel Maretta Homer Crockett, author of Homer Family History – 1942.

Names, places, and dates have been 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/benjamin-cobb-homer.html>