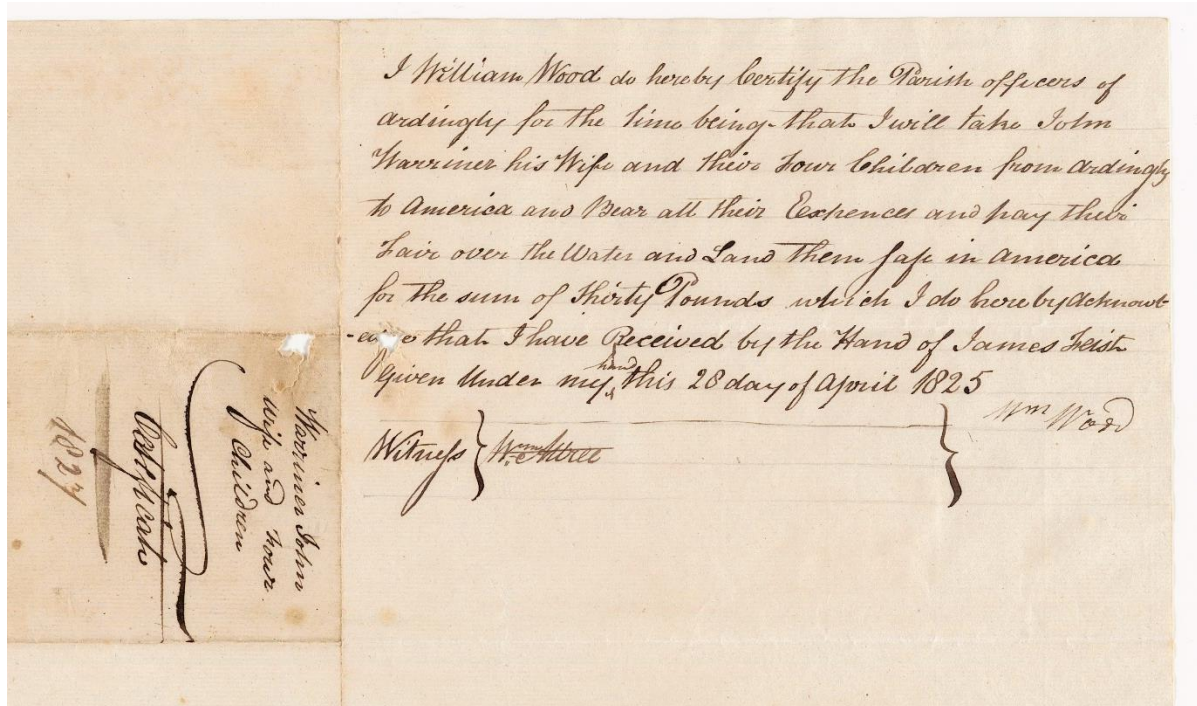


Transatlantic Ties – an Emigration Case Study

The Warrener family: : Emigrants from West Sussex in 1825

The patriarch of the family, John Warrener, was born on 6th April 1790 in Ardingly, possibly to Sarah Wariner [sic] of Ardingly, who was unmarried. John married Mary Wood on 6th April 1817 in Ardingly. Mary, aged 18, the daughter of William and Elizabeth Wood, had been baptised in Ardingly on 10th June 1798.

It seems likely that the Warreners were non-conformists, meaning that they did not follow the Church of England but rather another denomination. The entry for John and Mary's son John Jr appears in the register of baptisms for Ardingly Independent Chapel.



Above is a receipt from William Wood, one of the Ardingly parish officers, confirming that the parish would fund the Warreners' expenses and fare to emigrate to America. This is dated 28th April 1825. See WSRO Ref Par 231/37/1, [Receipt by William Wood for £30 for the expenses of the emigration of John Warriner, his wife and four children to America \(transatlantic-ties.org.uk\)](http://transatlantic-ties.org.uk).

Prior to emigrating, John and Mary had five children, three sons and two daughters:

Richard (b.1817 in Ardingly d.1817 in Ardingly) Died in infancy.

Mary (b.1819 in Ardingly d.1888 in Troy) Married Benjamin Harmon, a farmer, in Michigan and had three children. She lived in Troy, Michigan.

John (b.1821 in Ardingly d.1896 Warren, Macomb) Lived and worked in Macomb, Michigan, as a farmer. Married Sarah who died around 1860, possibly in childbirth, leaving him with three children. He then remarried Lydia in 1862 and had a further three children. He is buried in Warren Union Cemetery.

Henry Frederic (b.1823 in Ardingly d.1914 in Troy) Married Mary Ann King and they had three children. He lived in Troy and worked as a farmer. Buried in Troy Union Cemetery.

Elizabeth (b.1825 possibly onboard ship d.1826 Royal Oak) Died in infancy.

The Warreners emigrated to the United States sometime after 25th April 1825, the date of the William Wood receipt. They settled in Royal Oak, Michigan, and began working the land as farmers. At the time, Royal Oak was a very small settlement, inhabited mostly by farmers and their families and would most likely have been a close-knit community. A public house had only been established in 1822, just three years before the Warreners arrived, and it wasn't until 1836 that work on the railroad begun.ⁱ The Royal Oak railroad signalled the start of an industry in logging and milling, making use of the large swathes of land.ⁱⁱ From this point, Royal Oak began to expand and develop.

It should be noted that the Warrener surname was sometimes shortened to Warner by members of the family and that is how it appears in some of the records.

Mary and John had a further seven children:

Jane (b.1827 in Michigan d.1915 in Royal Oak): married Tracy Gibbs, a farmer, had three children and probably lived her whole life in Royal Oak.

William (b.1828, birthplace unknown, d.1853 aged 24 in Royal Oak, Michigan): little has been found regarding William's short life.

Francis (b.1829 in Michigan d.1907 in Troy, Michigan) also known as Frank Warner: married Sarah [O'Brian?] from Ireland and had no children; he lived and worked in Royal Oak and Troy as a farmer; finally, he was drafted into the US Civil War in 1863, serving on the Union side with the 4th Regiment, Michigan Cavalry as a Teamster, then a Private.

Reuben (b.1832 in Royal Oak d.1906 in Flint): married Lydia Rowley from New York and had one daughter called Abigail; served in the US Civil War, on the Union side, in the 22nd Regiment, Michigan Infantry as a Private.

Eliza Ann (b.1834 d.?): little has been found regarding Eliza's life.

Simmons (b.1836 in Michigan d.1836 aged 5 days old)

Sara/h (b.1837 in Michigan d.1928 in Oregon): married Henry Blair, a farmer, in 1857 in Oakland County; lived in Troy with their three children and died in 1928 aged 91 in Josephine, Oregon, whilst living with her son.

John Warrener died on 7th January 1839 aged 48 and was buried in the Royal Oak Cemetery. Mary Warrener died on 14th February 1856 aged 58 and was also buried in the Royal Oak Cemetery.

Sources:

Details of baptism, marriages and burials, and details of the family gleaned from passenger lists, census returns, and US civil war records, were found on www.Ancestry.co.uk, www.FindMyPast.co.uk, and through the West Sussex parish register transcripts held by West Sussex Record Office (WSRO).

Details of the funding of the Warrener's emigration was found in document [Par 231/37/1](#) held by West Sussex Record Office.

Extra details on the lives of John Warrener senior and Reuben Warrener were found on www.FindAGrave.com:

- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/19071043/john-warrener>
- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46130200/reuben-warrener>

Valuable information on the Royal Oak settlement was found at:

<http://michiganhistory.leadr.msu.edu/royal-oak-early-settlers-and-growth/> and:

<https://www.romi.gov/501/History>

ⁱ <http://michiganhistory.leadr.msu.edu/royal-oak-early-settlers-and-growth/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.romi.gov/501/History>