



The intersection of 4th and Sherman Ave. looking west toward the lake, 1890s. Idaho Merchantile on the left. CDA-8-5

Major Charles D. Warner Adventurer, Pioneer and Gentleman

by Scott M. Thompson

Editors note: This is an excerpt from a much longer article.

Charles D. and Annie Warner were important to Coeur d'Alene's early history. Charles and James Harte had one of the first stores in Coeur d'Alene, Annie served as postmaster and Charles was an incorporator for the City serving as the first Chairman of the City.

Charles D. Warner's adventures as Nez Perce Indian agent, miner, and co-incorporator of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, began well after he joined the Union side in our Civil War, enlisting on July 30, 1862. Prior to his enlistment, Warner worked as a "machinist," assisting

in his father's foundry until the elder Warner's death in 1868. That year Charles purchased the foundry from his father's remaining partner.

Warner entered the Civil War as a Private, netting a monthly paycheck of \$21.00, but he was soon promoted to Quartermaster Sergeant in September of 1862. He was positioned behind the lines not only to protect supplies, but also to protect his skills. Qualified Quartermaster Sergeants were more difficult to replace than front line soldiers.

Early in 1864, however, before joining Sherman's famous (or infamous) march to the sea, Warner returned



Annie Warner in front of the post office near 2nd and Sherman, 1896. CDA-2-11

to the Cambridge, New York area on "recruiting leave." On March 1, 1864 Charles married Annie E. Green in the Cambridge Presbyterian Church.

Honorably discharged from service in June of 1865, Warner returned to Annie in New York. There he went back to work at the Cambridge Foundry, Machine Shop, and Saw Mill for several years before moving to Idaho.

In 1879 Warner was appointed to the Lapwai Indian agency post in Idaho, upon former agent John B. Monteith's resignation. The appointment was approved by Republican president Rutherford B. Hayes and was due to Warner's allegiances and social connections as much as to his abilities.

For his efforts, Warner's annual salary for 1881 (his last year holding this office) was \$1,600, the top of the scale for Indian agents. In addition, it was common practice in the 1800s to bestow the title of "Major" upon anyone who had charge of an Indian reservation.

Warner's term of office in Nez Perce territory came to a close in June of 1882. Warner decided to stay in the Pacific Northwest, and eventually tried his hand at

mining along the Columbia River.

1884 saw the discovery of silver in valleys just east of Coeur d'Alene. Even the military post of Fort Lapwai was fading, with plans to move the garrison north to Fort Coeur d'Alene, later renamed Fort Sherman. The 1880s were sad years for Lewiston and, if the Warners had any desire to move from Miles, Washington, familiar Lewiston was a bad bet economically. On the other hand, fortune began to smile on the little town of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

There should be no illusions of Coeur d'Alene being a tall building'd city in 1880s. City streets were dirt, and in dry weather the scent of dust and manure lofted behind carriages and freight wagons. On rainy days only the manure remained sticky and smelled worse. Businesses were housed in tents hastily set up on wooden platforms, but there was money to be made. The influx of soldiers, some of whom Warner may have been acquainted with from his time in Lapwai, nearly doubled the garrison of Fort Coeur d'Alene. Plans for at

least six rail lines to and from the city were proposed in 1886 with the Northern Pacific on the forefront, publishing a promotional brochure entitled "In the Gold Fields of the Coeur d'Alenes."

Miners and merchants flocked to the area, buying and selling dried beans, snowshoes, shovels, nails, and whatever other equipment was deemed necessary to extract metals from the nearby mines. A growing lumber industry and evolving silver mines in the valleys to the east lured more customers and merchants to the area. Businesses formerly booming in Lapwai moved to new centers of commerce and money, Coeur d'Alene being a major one. The Warners could hardly overlook this opportunity. They hauled their belongings from Miles to Coeur d'Alene, and Warner was settled into the retail business with James Harte (sometimes erroneously spelled Hart or even Haight in local business directories) by 1887. A promotional article described the new business: "On the right, at the old steamboat landing, stands the store of C. D. Warner & Co., and James H. Hart (sic), where everything imaginable in the line of general merchandise can be found, from a fine tooth comb to a ship's anchor." Fishing tackle, choice cigars, and fine wines

and liquors were additional advertised specialties.

The location of the store changed several times, and included an 1887 address at the southeast corner of Sherman Avenue and First Street, and later that year at Lakeside between 3rd and 4th streets. This latter building was known in later years as Wigget's Marketplace, though the current entrance on Fourth Street is not thought to be the original, which faced north towards Lakeside.

Possibly due to some of his transplanted Fort Lapwai colleagues, and certainly due to his Civil War experience as Quartermaster Sergeant, Warner scored another economic goal—he was granted the post trade for Fort Sherman. It was the year 1887 that Warner and Harte opened their store, and that William P. Carlin was assigned duty at the fort, and that a popular movement to change the post's name from Fort Coeur d'Alene to Fort Sherman was honored. If Warner's appointment followed historic protocol, his license to trade with the soldiers was granted by Post Commander Carlin. Like Warner, Carlin was a veteran of the Civil War in the Union Army. Like Warner, he was assigned to the First Brigade, First Division, but of the 14th Army Corp. And like Warner he accompanied Sherman on his march to the sea through Georgia. Whether or not Warner and Carlin were acquainted with each other prior to their Coeur d'Alene days,

they did have some common history that may have favored Warner's acquisition of the post trade over others. Fort Coeur d'Alene was originally mapped out to include a trading post and, indeed, this on-base post likely satisfied troops' immediate needs such as replacement uniform buttons, shoe polish, combs, mustache wax, and tobacco products. Large orders such as food, guns, and horses went out on bid or were requisitioned directly from the Army. But for nearly every nonmilitary good a garrisoned soldier might need, Warner's off-base store was the place to get it. Even uniforms (non-regulation, of course, but nevertheless military style) could be ordered. The post trade gave Warner and Harte an advantage over other merchants by providing the two with a large ready-made customer base.

Along with running his store, Warner served as chairman of a committee with civic leaders V. W. Sander, Isaac S. Daly, John Brown and Douglas Ballard to draw up papers for city incorporation. The application for the Coeur d'Alene city charter was submitted to Kootenai County, August 3, 1887. Warner was the first mayor in 1887 although the position was called Chairman of the City Trustees.

A deeper step into the world of politics involved Warner's run for Kootenai County Treasurer in November of 1888. Election results reveal the level of



Coeur d'Alene at the base of Tubbs Hill, 1889. Northern Pacific Railroad dock with steamboat Kootenai on the left and the Amelia Wheaton on the right. CDA-10-12

support Warner enjoyed from Kootenai County voters: C. D. Warner netted 401 votes, John Russell received 209, and Thomas Hunter of Westwood Precinct got only 1. Knowing that Idaho women did not gain the right to vote until 1896, it is not hard to imagine whose one vote went for Mr. Hunter! Warner's annual salary as Treasurer was \$10,000 for duties such as receiving payment for teacher's certificates, collecting property taxes (delinquent and otherwise), managing road tolls, pay-out for sheriff's services, and accounting for road maintenance. A reason for Warner's resignation from this office less than a year later is a mystery. Appointee Frank O. Hill filled the position.

Warner retreated from public service for nearly 14 years but in the early 1900s again took on a government responsibility, Receiver of the U. S. Land Office. Warner earned his \$3,000 annual salary by recording homestead claims, sales of public lands, and reporting quarterly to the General Land Office (now renamed the Bureau of Land Management).

The spiritual side of life was not to be neglected by the Warners. A Sabbath school was organized in the spring of 1887 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Territory, by Mrs. C. D. Warner. Mrs. Warner was immediately appointed superintendent of the Sunday school, a position which she held until 1894. Warner was elected to his church's board of trustees, a term that ran from 1889-1891. He, V. W. Sanders, and E. A. Noble were incorporators of the church on May 11, 1889. Still standing at 521 E Lakeside, the original building, with its stained glass windows provided by the Ladies Aid Society of which Annie was the first president, has gone through renovations and additions to serve a growing congregation.

Mrs. George L. Deffenbaugh, several years Annie's junior, took over from her the president's position of the Ladies Aid Society in 1895. The Deffenbaughs were prominent Presbyterian missionaries and evangelists throughout western Washington and Northern Idaho. Warner's and Deffenbaugh's paths crossed several times, from the agency years in Lapwai through the maturation of the Coeur d'Alene church. How much each man supported or influenced the other is yet to be learned.

Beyond her church obligations, Annie accepted the position of Kootenai county postmistress, a position she held from November 2, 1893 to 1898. Postmaster (postmistress in Annie's case) was one of the first U. S. Government agencies employing women in a management position since the war for independence. In Annie's case, the post office was located in Warner's store, not in a separate building.

As with the business, the Warners' residence changed several times. When they first arrived in Coeur d'Alene, the couple rented their living quarters. A familiar address is listed as their first, Lakeside between

Third and Fourth streets, just west of the store. As of this writing, only a parking lot exists where the rental residence once stood. Annie made the purchase arrangements for their first house located on First Street, later Charles contracted in 1890 for a new home to be built (no address for this structure was in the records). Their next move was out of town- a two-year stay in the budding community of Spirit Lake further north. The Warners moved back to Coeur d'Alene in 1912. Their address this time was 116 Coeur d'Alene Avenue, and in 1914, 610 Sherman.

Not one to idle away spare hours, Warner managed to gain appointment as U. S. Government Weather Observer, a post lasting through the 19 teens. Observers were to keep daily notes on temperature high and lows, precipitation, wind velocity and direction. Though an appointed position gained by submitting an application to be screened for acceptance or rejection, Warner and his observer brethren functioned more as volunteers, that is, without compensation.

Aging Major Warner began to shift his energy from his business responsibilities to other interests. By 1912, no listing for Warner or Harte appears in local business directories. Those other interests included organizing a Grand Army of the Republic post in Coeur d'Alene, and increased activity in the Masonic Lodge. "Major



Major Charles D. Warner, about 1918. Peo-1-637

Warner is widely known in Masonic circles, belonging to the blue lodge, chapter, commandery and also to the Mystic Shrine at Spokane and to the Eastern Star. He is a past eminent commander of Commandery No. 12, K. T., of Coeur d'Alene. Warner also became known locally as a master woodworker, specializing in coping saw-cut silhouettes, which ended up ornamenting such things as clock facades and free standing curio or book case sides.

Neighborhood lore provided by descendants of Elizabeth Mann (who lived across the street from the elderly Warners) does not tell of any lingering illnesses suffered by either of the Warners. Yet posted in the Coeur d'Alene Press, on January 26 of 1920 was the notice, "Warner Laid To Rest" notifying readers of the January 24th death of Anna (Annie) E. Warner. Born Anna E. Green, on January 17, 1842 to Robert E. Green (who likely died prior to 1850) and Margaret (Woods) Green, she was laid to rest in Forest Cemetery, Coeur d'Alene. Details are sketchy regarding participants in the rites. It is possible Annie's brother James W. Green or a colleague of his from the University of Kansas served as pallbearer. Her tombstone, likely placed after the death of her husband, is mis-embossed "Annie A Green" born "1843." Just over two months later another obituary appeared in the paper of Charles D. Warner who passed away on March 27, 1920. The cause of death listed as "senile decay."

Yesterday the last sad rites were performed over the body of Major C. D. Warner, and while no bonds of kinship were severed by his death, all who knew him feel the loss.

'He was a grand old man; always with a kind word or act for everyone,' was the eulogy of Sergeant Roper voiced the sentiment of all his neighbors.

Kind hands were ever ready to minister to his every want; because his life had been filled with deeds of kindness.

The man who so lives that he is mourned by his neighbors has not lived in vain, because it is a neighbor who knows our failings as well as our virtues, and we can all profitably pattern after Major Warner in our acts, so that when we, too, shall come to the end of life's journey our neighbors will mourn us.

No greater tribute can be paid to any man than that he commanded the respect and love of his neighbors.

Of those neighbors, the family of Elizabeth Mann cared for the aging Warners, keeping up on household chores, grocery shopping, transporting them to church. In the end, the Manns were granted care of Warner's effects: his carvings, the handwritten legends and speeches of former Nez Perce headmen, as well as the Cash Book containing drawings of the 1877 war, and Warner's leather-bound Civil War-era photograph

album. These items passed from Elizabeth Mann to her daughter, Margaret Ott. From her they were divided between her grandniece, Helen Rock and niece, Mary Beck. Mrs. Beck was the person responsible for recognizing the historical significance of Major Warner's items and insisting they be preserved, saving them at the last minute as she found a well-meaning but unknowing family member stuffing the papers into a bag bound for the trash. It is due to Mrs. Beck's high regard for Warner, and her recognition of Warner's effects as intrinsically important that much of his legacy was retained. The regard held for Major Charles D. Warner lasted throughout these generations. Not only were Warner's effects preserved, but so was the respect he earned from his dedication to moral standards and friends, including those refugee Nez Perce who were allowed, against government policy, to return to familiar ground from exile in Canada, rejoining friends and kin after a bitter conflict. "Grandma kept Major Warner's things - including the Cash Book - in a chest by the back door. On rainy days she'd get out his Indian drawings and we'd all look them over," related Mrs. Helen Rock, great granddaughter of Elizabeth Mann. "We always heard about what nice people the Warners were. We never knew Major Warner, of course, but we always idolized him. The family always spoke very highly of him so we kids, we just followed along with the same opinion. He was an adventurer, a pioneer, a gentleman."

Visit the Museum and Discover the Rich History of the Coeur d'Alene Region.

The 2016 feature exhibit: *Ties to the Past: Railroad History of the Coeur d'Alene Region*

The Mullan Road commemorating Idaho's first constructed road over the 4th of July Pass.

The Scandinavians Settled Here looks at the Nordic influences in the region.

Schitsu'umsh, The People Who Were Discovered Here is a glimpse into the life of the Coeur d'Alene Indians.

When the Mountains Roared features the 1910 Fire. Steamboats, Farragut, McEuen Park and more.

Historic Walking Tours 11 am and 1:30 pm

The Museum Store is well stocked and members receive 10% off, free admission and free parking.

Hours: Tues. - Sat. 11 to 5. 115 NW Blvd.

From the Board President

I am honored to serve as President of your Board of Trustees. What a great group of people to work with. Thank you, Larry Strobel, Don Pischner and Pattie Strub for your time on this Board and welcome to Julie Gibbs, John Swallow, Jay Broderick and John McTear.

Much has happened in the last six months and I am thrilled to announce that after years of searching we finally found, and purchased, a new storage facility located on First Street in Coeur d'Alene. This is a major stepping-stone for the museum. Now we can vacate the BLM property off Northwest Boulevard. That makes the BLM and the City of Coeur d'Alene happy. And that's a good thing.

Our goal is to complete this move by early fall. It's a two-part task. As a wood-frame, steel sided building over 50 years old it needs some work. It is sound but needs insulation, improved garage and pass-through doors and security.

The next is the move itself. And those of you who visited our present storage during last fall's open house know how much we have to move. Even planning how to most efficiently fill the building is a task.

As we move through this we call to you, our wonderful members. If you can provide materials, expertise and/or labor we'd love to know. Please call Dorothy at the museum to discuss how you can help. Thank you for your consideration.

Here's a short update on the future of the museum proper. Multiple properties have been considered and the three sites with most potential are our current location, the substation where the Human Rights Education Institute is now

and the athletic building at 2nd and Coeur d'Alene. Each has its pros and cons. Over the last year I've favored each depending on what our most current information and situation was at the time. A City Park location is desirable but each one entails an existing structure. Our building committee is working hard on the process and I will keep you updated.

Thank you for your continued support. Please stop in for a visit this summer.

Dave Walker, President of the Board

Good Time to Donate

As a homeowner you know that sometimes it seems everything hits at once. That is how we feel. We paid \$150,000 from the building fund out of cash reserves for the storage building. We will have the expenses for the improvements and the Chapel roof. Earlier this year we set out on an investment program to provide income for our operating costs which has left us cash short for upcoming expenses. So, if you were planning a donation this year, now would be a good time.

Can You Help?

We are compiling a list of people that we can call on for the storage building project and move. The dates are not set so if we call and you are available - great.

Please let us know if you can provide any of the following:

- Truck with trailer to haul artifacts
- Trailer or truck with a lift gate
- Forklift and/or pallet jack
- Compressor and staple gun
- Help hanging insulation batts
- Handyman skills



The new storage building.

Manual labor - light and heavy

Help with the yard/landscaping

Please call Dorothy at 664-3448 or email dd@museumni.org to discuss.

The building is metal with wood framing and no insulation. Since we do not have the resources to control the heat and humidity in the building the next best thing is to control temperature fluctuations with insulation, crack sealing and good doors. Help us preserve our historic artifacts.

Thank YOU!

We thank all of you who have made donations and who have renewed your membership. We had a very good response from the renewal envelopes we sent out. Check the mailing label to see when your dues expire. Please include your email.

Cash Donations

- Jim & Sandra Faucher
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Chapel Roof

Eric Steiner with S.Q.R. will replace the Chapel roof this summer at a cost of \$33,600. We received a matching grant for \$7,500 from the Idaho Heritage Trust and so far donations are about \$500. Please contribute to the Chapel Preservation Fund for the roof.

Chapel Fund

Denny & Kathy Arneson
Marion Keating
Bill & Pat Goetter
Bob & Sandy McDonald

Donations

Tornado Creek Publications, Tony & Suzanne Bamonte: nine books for resale in our Museum Store "Seven Frontier Women and the Founding of Spokane Falls".

Geoff Howard: book "Building Museums: A Handbook for Small and Midsized Organizations"

Memorials

- For Claude Richard Barnes from Emmett Barnes, Carter & Marcia Barnes
- Gerry House from Patricia House

Remember your loved ones and friends with a memorial donation. Memorial donations help build the Museum's endowment.

Please give us the address of the family member you would like us to notify.

Artifact Donations Since May

Rita Shaefer: Lockling Family history from Spirit Lake.

Richard Shern: 1903 Kootenai Co. Teachers Institute program.

Dorothy Dahlgren: 1970s photos of the Coeur d'Amour wedding chapel, Hagadone building and the State Motel.

Gerald Cochran: Photos of a launch and Pointer's machine shop near Sanders Beach, about 1910.

John Reeder: 1890 dictionary used at the McGuire School.

Royce Berkey: Token "In games we trust, CdA, Id".

Gloria Jean Grable: Miniature banjo owned by Knute Froisness. Used at local dances on west side of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Janice White: 1947 Cd'A High School program.

Clyde McCaw: 1958 photos of Roxy Theatre managers, Guy and Mary Shelhamer, and projectionist, Clyde McCaw. Booking listings for Wilma and Roxy theatres and contract.

Jim Shepperd: Photo of 1110 Sherman Ave. and maps.

Field Trips Enjoyed

The field trip program was a great success. Donations provided admission and bus transportation for 634 fourth graders from Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene and Lakeland districts. Many students returned with parents or grandparents to show them the "cool stuff". The cost was \$1,420 and we have enough carry over for this fall and next spring. An additional 128 students also visited the museum.

Railroad Book

Railroads Through the Coeur d'Alenes by John Wood will be available late summer. Reserve your copy now for the prepublication price of \$39.95 (regularly \$49.95) plus

\$5 shipping or pick it up at the Museum.

The Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association's annual convention is Sept. 14 to 17 at the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot Museum in Wallace. For registration information, contact Shauna Hillman at 208-752-0111 or email: npdepot@gmail.com

2016 Lecture Series

Coeur d'Alene Public Library and the Museum is hosting "Historical Characters of The Inland Northwest" by Robert Singletary. The programs are held on the fourth Thursday of each month with the last lecture on Nov. 17.

Civilian Conservation Corp Lecture

Ivar Nelson & Patricia Hart will present "The CCC in Idaho: Building Our State While Supporting People in Hard Times", at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library Sept. 8, 2016, at 7:00 PM. The CCC in Idaho during the 10 years from 1933 to 1942 changed not only the lives of the "Boys" but the vitality of Idaho's economy and society.

Nelson and Hart will show how the legacy of the CCC reflects not only the history of the Great Depression, but sheds light on the very contemporary issues of fighting wild fires, use of federal land, and national service.

Sponsored by the Idaho Humanities Council the lecture is part of a project to bring CCC images online through the University of Idaho Library's Digital Collections. www.lib.uidaho.edu/digital/. The Museum of North Idaho loaned over 500 CCC photographs for the project. Visit the Museum and see our exhibit on the CCC.

Museum Volunteers Needed
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Museum of North Idaho

Our mission is to collect, preserve and interpret the history of the Coeur d'Alene Region to foster appreciation of the area's heritage.

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