

**David W. Onan II**

October 5, 1996

Mark H. Dunkelman

Dear Mark,

Thank you very much for the wonderful packet of information. I am pleased that a memorial monument has been placed in Chancellorsville, but sorry I was not able to contribute or participate. If there are any left over expenses, I would like to contribute. Just let me know.

Your work in collecting this history is appreciated by all of us who value our ancestors and the part they played in important events. I don't have a stomach for the detail required in research; but I have tried. You have a gift.

I'm 63 and have been working at the family history for about 20 years. It has been collecting, cataloging and indexing. Someday I may write a story, but I believe my contribution may best be the identification of hundreds family photos, documents and memorabilia. Most of it begins with my grandfather, David Warren Onan.

You are welcome to anything I have about the Civil War Warren Onan; but very little survives. The obituary you sent from the Ellicottville *Post* of Wednesday May, 4, 1910 contains most of the family history written up to that time. My grandfather wrote a two page family history and got his father's name wrong. Nobody cared. There are no letters or memorabilia by Warren Onan.

What I can tell you may help give some of the reasons.

After Warren moved his family to Moorhead MN (the end of the railroad) in 1880, he participated in that frontier community life as a Judge, in real estate, and a small town merchant. He was a member of the G.A.R. and is listed in at least one encampment.

A daughter, Zora (Alzora), had married Charles Henry Sikes a veteran. See enclosure.

A son, Edward, married Ellen Morris in Wahpeton ND (the railroad pushed on) in 1883. Edward died in 1900, and Ellen took the children to Niagara Falls NY (Why? Nobody

knows). In 1907 the son David Warren moved to Minneapolis MN (Why? Nobody knows). Ellen died in Flint MI (Nobody knows why she spent the last 7 years of her life there). The rest of the family stayed in Niagara Falls and doesn't give a damn. I believe it is this discombobulation that partly explains the lack of information and memorabilia.

Warren died in his home on the corner in Zora's care. He outlived his wife and all children except Zora. He is buried in the Prairie Home Cemetery in Moorhead with the other members of his family. Ellen is also there. This is an old and reasonably well kept cemetery, now in the center of town.

The Clay County Historical Society in Moorhead MN had a bit of information, but I have not been back there in 10 years. They had some Sikes things but little else. Maybe they are a little better organized and cataloged now. Warren's youngest brother, Marcus's family descendants lived just south of Moorhead in Sabin. I got to know them a few years ago. They had a wonderful box of turn of the century photographs; with no names.

There is some more information on Zora Onan and Charles Sikes, but I would not expand on it now. If you think it would be of interest to anyone, I will supply.

You offered to tell me how to obtain pension files from the National Archives. I would like to know how to order copies.

Lastly, and I'm afraid this letter is too long, I want to discuss the obituary of Warren Onan in the Ellicottville *Post* of May 4, 1910. This is only 8 days after Warren died in Moorhead MN. How does the word travel so fast in 1910 and who wrote it? A similar text, see enclosed, was published in "Illustrated Album of Biographies of the Famous Red River Valley of the North and Park Regions" by Alden, Ogle & Co., Chicago 1889. (Minn. Hist. Soc. Call # F605.129 page 393). I also have a penned copy which does not agree in all respects and is not dated or signed. No need for you to comment; just FYI.

Well, it is indeed an honor to be part of the esteemed group of descendants of the "Fighting 154<sup>th</sup>". If I can be of any further assistance, please call on me. Thank you again for your work in memorializing these people for the rest of us to enjoy.

Sincerely,



encl.: Adj. Gen. Report on Sikes  
FGR 80, Warren Onan family  
Decendency chart  
BIOG0004

The following is such an important piece of historical information I have placed it in the biography. Unfortunately, the precedents of pronouns are not always clear, so I have put them in [ ]. The photocopy of the original is on file as BIOG0004.

by David W. Onan II October 6, 1992

excerpted from:

"Illustrated Album of Biographies of the Famous Red River Valley of the North and Park Regions" by Alden, Ogle, & Co., Chicago, 1889. Minnesota Historical Society call #F605.129 page 393.

" Col. Warren Onan, a highly esteemed citizen of Moorhead, Minnesota, who now lives a retired life, is a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, born July 20, 1818. His parents were James and Mary (Collins) Onan , natives of Ireland and Wilmington, Delaware, respectively. The father [James] was a boot and shoe manufacturer the first fifty years of his life, when he turned his attention to farming in Cattaraugus county, New York, where he died in 1858. The mother [Mary] died in 1868. They [James and Mary] had a family of eight children, four of whom are now living - Charles, John, Marcus H. and our subject, Warren; who was the eldest of the children. James, the father, served for three years in the British navy, having been pressed into such service while on his way to America. He [James] left home when he was twenty-one years old, purposing to seek a new home for his father's [Alexander] family. James father was Alexander, and after his son [James] was pressed into the English army [??] he [Alexander] came with his [Alexander] family, to America. He [Alexander] settled at Dryden, Tompkins county, New York, where he bought a large tract of land and engaged in extensive farming; he [Alexander] gave to each of his children a large farm. His [Alexander] children were -- Samuel, Alexander, Charles, John, James, Elizabeth, Mary and Sarah. James finally deserted the army at Rio Janeiro, going back into the mountains from where his ship lay anchored, and after hiding for three months took a ship for America, stopped at Key West, Florida, about a year, then joined his father [Alexander] in Tompkins county, New York, where he [James] remained a short time, then went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he married, when as before stated, he engaged in boot and shoe manufacturing; he also lived some time at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, then moved to Tompkins county, New York.

Our subject, Warren Onan, was reared to farm life and attended school until he was twenty-one years of age and then began farming for himself in the county in which his father lived. He continued seven years upon the place he bought when eighteen years old. He then sold out and went into the limber business on the Alleghany river, which calling he followed until 1860. He then helped raise a company of 104 men, who were taken to Washington, District of Columbia, and made one of the ten companies which constituted the One Hundred and Fifty-fourth New York Infantry Volunteers. After going to Washington, District of Columbia, he designed returning home, but found it was expected of him to remain and help 'fight it out on that line.' He consequently accepted the office of second-lieutenant. His

regiment was taken into the Eleventh Army Corps, and after arriving at the city of Washington our subject was detailed as a brigade quartermaster for the Second Division of said corps. He held this place a year, and was promoted to chief of ambulance and quartermaster of the Second Division, Eleventh Army Corp. After one year in this position, in September 1864, at Atlanta, Georgia, he was detailed as quartermaster and commissary of the Twentieth Corps Hospital, which gave him the rank of colonel, which he held until the close of the rebellion. He was wounded in Georgia and had a severe attack of typhoid fever. He saw many hard-fought fields, participating in the historic battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wauhatchie, Chattanooga, Ringgold, Dalton, Kenesaw Mountain, and the battles fought en route to Atlanta, Georgia. He accompanied Sherman on his famous 'march to the sea', and his -- Second Division -- received the surrender at Savannah. After the war ended he came to Allegany, New York, and engaged in the oil business some three years, and was associate judge of Cattaraugus county, New York, for four years, and justice of the peace twelve years, coroner six years, besides many offices of a local nature. While he lived in Allegany, New York, he served as postmaster two years under President Pierce, and eight years under president Grant. It may be said that his home was in Allegany, New York, from 1846 until 1879.

In 1879, during the month of June, he came to Minnesota as agent for the New York Mills [Minnesota] Land Company, settling at Moorhead, transacting business in Otter Tail county. He has been city justice of Moorhead for four years. After coming to Moorhead he took a soldiers homestead in Ransom county, Dakota. This he improved and still owns. He has done a general land business for the Northern Pacific Railway Company, and has identified himself with Moorhead in buying and selling property. He built on the corner of Sixth and Garoway streets, and owns two hundred acres of land in Otter Tail county, Minnesota.

He was married in 1842 to Miss Margaret Austin, a native of Scotland, and a daughter of Adam Austin.

Mr. and Mrs. Onan are the parents of five children -- Elizebeth, died when aged eighteen years; Elzora, now Mrs. Charles H. Sikes, of Dakota, who has one child -- Maud; Vina M., died at the age of twenty-five; Clara C., wife of Charles W. McKay, died at Fergus Falls in 1888, leaving a family of three children -- Grace, Blanche and Georgia; and Edward M., now married to Miss Ella Morris, who has three children -- Samuel, Warren and Morris.

Our subject is a strong believer in republican principles, belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, and also is a member of the Odd-Fellows Order at Tartville, New York. He is a thorough temperance advocate, also."

[illustra]

151066004

**DAVID W. ONAN II**  
**112 EDGEWOOD COURT**  
**WAYZATA, MN 55391**

5 OCT 1996

## DESCENDANCY CHART

5 Oct 1996

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- 1-- Warren ONAN Colonel-269 (1818-1910)  
 sp-Margaret AUSTIN-270 (1818-1904)  
 2-- Elizabeth C ONAN-271 (1844-1862)  
 2-- Alzora G. (Zora, Zorie) ONAN-272 (1848-1927)  
 sp-Charles Henry SIKES-276 (1846-1934)  
 3-- Maud A SIKES-278 (1878-1948)  
 sp-Edward GRIFFETH DR-279 (1882-1930)  
 2-- Adilia ONAN-273 (1850)  
 2-- Clara C ONAN-274 (1851-1888)  
 sp-Charles W MC KAY-277  
 2-- Edward Mills ONAN-119 (1855-1900)  
 sp-Ellen L. MORRIS-120 (1858-1950)  
 3-- Samuel Edward ONAN-121 (1884-1940)  
 sp-Helen-126  
 4-- Paul Leroy ONAN-127 (1912)  
 sp-UNKNOWN-129  
 5-- Shirley ONAN-130  
 5-- Dorothy ONAN-131  
 5-- Paul Leroy ONAN II-132 (1938)  
 sp-Lucy GODDEN-133  
 6-- Kelly Lynne ONAN-670 (1964)  
 6-- Paul Leroy ONAN III-671 (1969)  
 5-- Virginia ONAN-663  
 5-- Vivian ONAN-665  
 5-- Carol ONAN-666  
 5-- Ronald ONAN-667  
 5-- Gary ONAN-668  
 5-- Donna ONAN-669  
 4-- Elvira ONAN-128  
 sp-PAGE-135  
 5-- Barbara PAGE-136  
 3-- Warren (Dave) (D.W.) ONAN-42 (1886-1958)  
 sp-Amalie Charlotte (Emily) ROMAN-43 (1884-1968)  
 4-- Charles Warren (C.W., Bud) ONAN-10 (1908-1982)  
 sp-Elizabeth LEARMONTH (Betty) HOIBY-11 (1908-1988)  
 5-- David Warren ONAN II-5 (1933)  
 sp-Janemarie Barbara HANAN-6 (1933)  
 6-- David Warren ONAN III-1 (1956)  
 sp-Katherine Elizabeth STENSON-2 (1959)  
 7-- David Warren ONAN IV-3 (1985)  
 7-- Charles Warren ONAN II-4 (1987)  
 6-- Karen Jane ONAN-7 (1959)  
 sp-Mark Anthony BULEN-8 (1954)  
 7-- Emily Linnea BULEN-9 (1988)  
 5-- Sally Elizabeth ONAN-12 (1939-1992)  
 sp-David HEALEY-15 (1937)  
 6-- Sarah HEALEY-16 (1970)  
 6-- Charlotte HEALEY-17 (1974)  
 5-- Mary Ellen ONAN-13 (1944)  
 sp-Dick WILLIAMS-18  
 sp-Fred SMITH-19 (1941)  
 6-- Jessica Ellen SMITH-20 (1975)  
 6-- Joanna Marie SMITH-21 (1979)  
 sp-Bill HATTON-673  
 5-- Margaret HEBERT ONAN-14 (1944)  
 sp-Donald Eugene NELSON-22 (1942)
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DESCENDANCY CHART

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6-- Wade Davis NELSON-23 (1964)  
 sp-Rebecca Ann GUINN-353 (1965)  
 6-- Cody Dixon NELSON-24 (1970)  
 sp-Adlore Henry DENNING-632 (1933)  
 4-- Geraldine Eleanor (Sis) ONAN-44 (1910-1987)  
 sp-Hub GREEN-46  
 5-- Barbara SMITH-47 (1933)  
 sp-Troy MILLER-574  
 6-- Steven MILLER-575  
 6-- Geri MILLER-576  
 sp-L LOMBELL-577  
 7-- Alan LOMBELL-578  
 5-- Bruce SMITH-48  
 sp-Kathy KABRUD-570  
 6-- Courtney SMITH-571  
 sp-Susan JESSEN-572  
 6-- Laura SMITH-573  
 sp-SHERMAN S SMITH-49  
 4-- Robert David ONAN-45 (1916-1978)  
 sp-Lois CAMPBELL-50 (1913)  
 5-- Judy ONAN-51 (1940)  
 sp-Alvaro BARAGLI-53  
 6-- Lucretia BARAGLI-54  
 5-- Carol ONAN-52 (1943)  
 sp-Michael FROST-55  
 6-- unknown FROST-56  
 6-- unknown FROST-57  
 6-- unknown FROST-58  
 3-- Robert Morris ONAN-122 (1888)  
 sp-Helen KRACHT-137 (1880-1961)  
 4-- Robert Charles ONAN-138 (1912)  
 sp-Katherine (Tommy) LUCAS-146  
 5-- Colin Lucas ONAN-147 (1933)  
 sp-Catherine LE CLAIR-150 (1929)  
 6-- Roby John ONAN-151 (1959)  
 6-- Kevin Christopher ONAN-152 (1961)  
 6-- Kim ONAN-153 (1965)  
 5-- Robert Charles ONAN Jr-148 (1938)  
 sp-Sara ALLEN-154  
 6-- Keri Katherine ONAN-155 (1965)  
 6-- Elizabeth Jennifer ONAN-156 (1967)  
 6-- Thomas Lloyd ONAN-157 (1967)  
 sp-Gail R BRENDEN-158 (1946)  
 6-- Christopher Carl ONAN-160 (1974)  
 6-- Brent Andrew ONAN-159 (1978)  
 sp-Lottie SALZMANN-149  
 4-- ONAN-139 (1912)  
 4-- Ellen Louise ONAN-140 (1914-1987)  
 sp-John MAHONY-141  
 5-- Jack MAHONY Jr-142  
 5-- Marilyn MAHONY-143  
 5-- Susan MAHONY-144  
 5-- Gail MAHONY-145  
 3-- Paul Leroy ONAN-123 (1890)  
 3-- Clara Margrett ONAN-124 (1892-1892)  
 3-- Cathleen Elizabeth ONAN-125 (1892-1892)

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## DESCENDANCY CHART

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2-- Lovina M (Vina) ONAN-275 (1857-1885)

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HUSBAND Warren ONAN Colonel-269

BORN: 21 Jul 1818 PLACE: Lancaster,,PA  
 CHR.: 13 Jul 1831 PLACE: Fst. Presby. Ch.,Ludlowville,Tompkins Co.,NY  
 DIED: 26 Apr 1910 PLACE: Moorhead,Clay Co,MN  
 BUR.: PLACE: Prairie Home Cem,Moorhead,MN  
 MARR: 1842 PLACE: Burton,Cattaraugus Co,NY  
 FATHER: James ONAN-316  
 MOTHER: Mary COLLINS-317

PARENTS' MRIN: 101

WIFE Margaret AUSTIN-270

BORN: 15 Jun 1818 PLACE: ,,,Scotland  
 CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 28 Dec 1904 PLACE: Moorhead,Clay Co,MN  
 BUR.: PLACE: Prairie Home Cem,Moorhead,MN  
 FATHER: Adam AUSTIN-566  
 MOTHER: Elizabeth-567

PARENTS' MRIN: 174

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Elizabeth C ONAN-271

— BORN: Abt 1844 PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 10 Feb 1862 PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

2. NAME: Alzora G. (Zora, Zorie) ONAN-272

— BORN: 11 May 1848 PLACE: ,,NY  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 18 Sep 1927 PLACE: Minneapolis,,MN  
 BUR.: PLACE: Lakewood Cem,Minneapolis,MN  
 SPOUSE: Charles Henry SIKES-276  
 MARR: 16 Jan 1876 PLACE: Allegany,Cattaraugus Co,NY

MRIN: 81

3. NAME: Adilia ONAN-273

— BORN: Abt 1850 PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: PLACE:  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

4. NAME: Clara C ONAN-274

— BORN: Abt 1851 PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 4 Feb 1888 PLACE: Fergus Falls,,MN  
 BUR.: PLACE:  
 SPOUSE: Charles W MC KAY-277  
 MARR: 19 Feb 1869 PLACE:

MRIN: 82

Relationship to:

Husband \_\_\_\_\_

Wife \_\_\_\_\_

Date prepared: 5 Oct 1996

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 WAYZATA, MN 55391



FAMILY GROUP RECORD-80

5 Oct 1996

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HUSBAND Warren ONAN Colonel-269  
 WIFE Margaret AUSTIN-270

Yr of Birth 1818  
 Yr of Birth 1818

CHILDREN (continued)

5. NAME: Edward Mills ONAN-119  
 BORN: 6 Jun 1855 PLACE: Allegany,Cattaraugus Co,NY  
 M CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 5 Oct 1900 PLACE: Moorhead,Clay Co,MN  
 BUR.: PLACE: Prairie Home Cem,Moorhead,MN  
 SPOUSE: Ellen L. MORRIS-120 MRIN: 36  
 MARR: 14 Jun 1883 PLACE: Wahpeton,ND

6. NAME: Lovina M (Vina) ONAN-275  
 BORN: 6 May 1857 PLACE:  
 F CHR.: PLACE:  
 DIED: 19 Feb 1885 PLACE: Moorhead,Clay Co,MN  
 BUR.: PLACE: Prairie Home Cem,Moorhead,MN  
 SPOUSE:  
 MARR: PLACE:

SHERWOOD, GEORGE.—Age, 18 years. Enlisted, July 26, 1864, at Ellery; mustered in as private, Co. G, July 26, 1864, to serve three years; deserted, December 12, 1864, from Harper's Ferry, Va.

SHIRLEY, SAMUEL C.—Age, 24 years. Enlisted, September 17, 1864, at Salamanaca; mustered in as private, Co. M, September 17, 1864, to serve one year; mustered out with detachment, June 1, 1865, at Winchester, Va.

SHOEMAKER, ADRIANUS.—Age, 36 years. Enlisted, December 29, 1862, at New York; mustered in as private, Co. M, Fourth Cavalry, February 13, 1863, to serve three years; transferred to Co. C, June, 1863; to Co. M. in 1864; to Co. B, Ninth Cavalry, February 27, 1865; transferred, April 27, 1865, to Sixty-ninth Company, Second Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps; also borne as Shoemaker, Adrian.

SHOUGO, GEORGE.—Age, 22 years. Enlisted, January 1, 1864, at Villanova; mustered in as private, "unassigned," January 1, 1864, to serve three years; discharged as rejected recruit, April 29, 1864, at Elmira, N. Y.

SHUDEN, CHRISTIAN, see Schouter, Christian.

SHULZ, HENRY.—Age, 30 years. Enlisted, September 13, 1864, at Poughkeepsie; mustered in as private, Co. K, Fourth Cavalry, September 13, 1864, to serve one year; transferred to Co. L, Ninth Cavalry, February 27, 1865; reported as having deserted from Remount Camp, in April, vide detachment muster-out roll; no further information on register.

SIEVENPIFER, CHARLES.—Age, 21 years. Enlisted, August 12, 1862, at Buffalo; mustered in as private, Co. L, August 12, 1862, to serve three years; appointed corporal, July 1, 1863; transferred to Co. M, November 1, 1864; reduced to ranks, November 30, 1864; mustered out, June 1, 1865, at Winchester, Va.; also borne as Sievenpifer, Charles W.

SIEVENPIEFER, JOSEPH.—Age, — years. Enlisted, August 12, 1862, at Buffalo; mustered in as private, Co. L, September 15, 1862, to serve three years; no further record.

SIKES, CHARLES H.—Age, 18 years. Enlisted, September 6, 1864, at Mansfield; mustered in as private, Co. K, September 6, 1864, to serve one year; wounded, November 11, 1864, at Middletown, Va.; mustered out, June 1, 1865, at Winchester, Va.

SIMMONDS, JARED.—Age, 26 years. Enlisted, September 20, 1861, at Mayville; mustered in as private, Co. I, October 10, 1861, to serve three years; discharged, April 9, 1862, for disability at Washington, D. C., as Simmons, Jared.

SIMMONS, AMBROSE.—Age, 32 years. Enlisted, October 1, 1861, at Jamestown; mustered in as private, Co. C, October 8, 1861, to serve three years; re-enlisted, January 1, 1864; mustered out with company, July 17, 1865, at Cloud's Mills, Va.

SIMMONS, ARCHABLE.—Age, 18 years. Enlisted, November 4, 1861, at Russell; mustered in as private, Co. L, November 4, 1861, to serve three years; died of disease, February 3, 1862, at Washington, D. C.

SIMMONS, HIRAM.—Age, 34 years. Enlisted, September 21, 1861, at Mayville; mustered in as corporal, Co. I, October 10, 1861, to serve three years; discharged for disability, May 28, 1862, at Alexandria, Va.; also borne as Hiram Simmonds.

SIMMONS, WARREN A.—Age, 20 years. Enlisted, October 5, 1861, at Warsaw; mustered in as private, Co. H, October 14, 1861, to serve three years; mustered out, April 9, 1862, by order Secretary of War, at Washington, D. C.

SIMPSON, GEORGE W.—Age, 45 years. Enlisted, November 26, 1861, at Brooklyn; mustered in as saddler, Co. I, November 26, 1861, to serve three years; mustered out, April 7, 1862, by order of Secretary of War, at Washington, D. C., as George R. Simpson.

SISCO, CASTLE.—Age, 23 years. Enlisted, October 1, 1861, at Jamestown; mustered in as private, Co. C, October 15, 1861, to serve three years; re-enlisted, January 1, 1864; mustered out with company, July 17, 1865, at Cloud's Mills, Va.

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