

## When Warren's Father Died



Warren's family would have been familiar with the Johnson or Pollbridge burial ground just over one-half mile from their home. Here several of their friends and neighbors were laid to rest, including Seth and Asenath Chapel, parents of Samuel Blakesley Chapel, the husband of Amanda. There are old gravestones which are so weathered the names are gone. Also, there are stones known to be missing. One wonders still about the location of our Reynolds family burial locations in the Avon area since none have been found.

### Asa's Death and Betsy's Plight

Asa's premature death at age 48, left six children at home under the age of 16. Warren Ford was eleven. It was a very difficult time for Betsy. Asa's father, Jeremiah had died in 1827; four years later the family lost their oldest child Eliza; one year later in December 1832, Betsy's father died at Springwater, twenty miles south of Avon; her mother also died there in January 1835; her mother-in-law, Elizabeth may also have died since she was known to be very infirm and unable to travel in the fall of 1833; and now her husband, Asa was gone. The family was now more vulnerable than it had been for generations.

When Asa died in the spring of 1835, three of his children had married and started their own families. Besides Eliza whom we have discussed earlier, the second daughter

and fourth child, Amanda, had married one of the Chapel boys at age 19, on 6 March 1831. Her marriage to Samuel Blakesley Chapel had produced a granddaughter, Sarah Maria Chapel.

Asa and Betsy's second son, Asa married Sarah Lurvey on February 22, 1835 and began teaching school in Monroe County, New York.<sup>1</sup> In the fall of that year, oldest son Levi H. married Irena C. Kennyson on September 1st in Avon. Asa and Sarah's first child, Mary Eliza arrived on 24 March 1836 and Levi and Irena's first child, Sarah Louise was born three months later in Avon on 19 June 1836. Also of note was the marriage on 3 June 1836 of seventeen year old Caroline to Joseph N. Merrill. Few facts remain of this union or to the parentage of Joseph N. Merrill. Hand written records of Asa's daughter, Jennie Lydia tell us that Caroline died 12 February 1837, just 8 months into her marriage, location unknown.

By great-grandson Robert N. Reynolds

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1 Michigan Biographical Sketches, Volume II, No. 977.4.