Background

By 2003 I had been working for Warners Solicitors for 26 years and I was asked to write the history of the firm for publication on their 250th anniversary in 2005.

I wrote not only about the structure of the firm and how it progressed but about the partners and their families. When it came to the Warner family, the current partner bearing that name, Charles John Warner, gave me the family history papers on loan. They arrived all jumbled into an old orange crate, which was falling to pieces. As I delved into the contents I began to put together a remarkable family history. The letters written by Gerald Harman Warner from Smyrna were in the box waiting to be discovered. To have such first hand information from the British Navy point of view will hopefully be of interest to your members. I attach all the chapters referring to the Warner family which together with the photo below will provide extra information together with a naval history for Gerald Harman Warner.

The book was finally published with an award of a sponsorship from the Allen Grove Local History Fund. A copy has been lodged in the British Library and the Kent Archaeological Society. To have my book on the shelves with such august company is indeed be a privilege.

I still have copies of the book available (£12.95) – shameless plug.
Just email me at jennifgaye@virginmedia.com.

For more information about HMS Iron Duke –
see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Iron_Duke_(1912).

For more information about HMS Tartar –
see https://uboat.net/allies/warships/ship/4229.html.

Visit of HM King George VI to Leydene on 30 October 1942 - Gerald Harman Warner – second from left front row

Warner, *Gerald Harman*

15.01.1893 - 08.04.1979 Tonbridge, Kent the son of: **Charles Edward Warner** (1865-1937), and **Ethel Constantina Catherine Cornfoot**. First marriage to **Vere Chamberlain**. Second marriage to **Catharine Beatrice Sharp**.

Lieutenant	15.03.1916
Lieutenant-Commander	15.03.1924
Commander	30.06.1929
Captain	31.12.1936 (retired 02.01.1946)

DSC	17.07.1919	HMS Dublin	
Commandant	15.09.1916	Battle of Jutland	

15.01.1906			Entered RN
18.11.1918	-	(01.1919)	Flag Lieutenant to Sir Charles Madden [HMS Revenge (battleship)]
(1919)	-		HMS Dublin (destroyer)
15.05.1922	-	(01.)1925	Flag Lieutenant / Lieutenant-Commander to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean & Assistant Fleet (S) Officer [HMS Iron Duke (battleship), later HMS Queen Elizabeth (battleship)]
23.06.1925	-	(07.1927)	Staff, RN College, Dartmouth [HMS Britannia]
03.01.1928	-	(06.1928)	Executive Officer, HMS Colombo (cruiser) (America and West Indies)
(08.1929)			No appointment listed
05.12.1929	-	(10.1930)	Maintenance Commander, Chatham [HMS Pembroke] (and for Physical and Recreational Training duties)
13.01.1931	-	(01.)1932	Staff course, RN Staff College, Greenwich [HMS President]
03.04.1932	-	(01.1934)	Executive Officer, HMS Hawkins (cruiser) (East Indies)
(07.1935)	-		No appointment listed
13.09.1935	-	(02.1936)	Commanding Officer, HMS St Vincent (boys' training establishment, Forton)
(02.1937)	-	(07.1937)	No appointment listed
18.01.1938	-	(10.1938)	Imperial defence course, Imperial Defence College
23.01.1939	-	(02.)1939	Tactical investigation, Tactical School, Portsmouth [HMS Victory]
27.02.1939	-	20.01.1940	Commanding Officer, HMS Tartar (destroyer) (Home Fleet)
(04.1940)	-		No appointment listed
21.09.1940	-	(02.)1941	Director of Operations (Foreign), Operations Division, Admiralty [HMS President]
16.08.1941	-	(10.)1943	Commanding Officer, HM Signal School, RN Barracks, Portsmouth [HMS Mercury]
22.12.1943	-	(07.1945)	Commanding Officer, HMS Britannia & in charge of Royal Naval College, Eaton, Chester
1945?	-	02.01.1946	Also: Naval ADC to the King
(04.1946)	-		HMS President *

Chapter 9

The Warner Family – Part 1

Daniel Warner

Daniel Warner was born in around 1740 in Lincolnshire and lived in and around Louth all his life. Although listed as a gentleman he acted as an Apparitor.[1] On a trip to London in the late 1780's he met Ann Saunderson and they were married at Bishopsgate in 1791. By the date of his marriage Daniel was already in his 50's and there was only one child of the union, George.[2] Unfortunately, no other records can be found about Daniel and his wife.

George Warner

At the tender age of 6 years, George was sent to the King Edward VI Grammar School in Louth. King Edward VI Grammar School is one of the oldest schools in the country. The first reference to a school at Louth comes from a passage by Simon De Luda, the town's schoolmaster, in 1276. According to records, the school was funded by the town's religious and merchant guilds, as well as an endowment established by Thomas of Louth in 1317. The dissolution of the monasteries in 1548 placed the future of education in Louth at risk. Leading figures in the local community petitioned the King, Edward Vi, to secure the school's future and on 21 September 1551 the school was given a large amount of money and a foundation was set up to administer it. The foundation continues to this day.

[1] An Apparitor is an official who summons witness to an ecclesiastical court.
[2] George Warner was born in 1792 at Louth, Lincolnshire.

The Tennysons

One of George's fellow pupils was Charles Tennyson, later to be known as Charles Tennyson-D'Eyncourt. He was the second son and youngest child of George Tennyson of Bayons Manor, Lincolnshire. Charles continued his education after leaving Louth grammar school at St John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1805 and M.A. in 1818. From a fairly early stage, he suffered, like many of his family, from epilepsy. He married, Frances Mary Hutton.[3] She was an heiress and brought Tennyson financial security. They had eight children, all in difficult births, and sexual abstinence led to frequent separation between the parents. From 1811 the marriage was in difficulties. Moreover, in April 1816 Tennyson began a long-standing liaison with Mary Thornhill.[4] The eight children were given less than complimentary nicknames by their father such as "the Stone" or "the Sot", with the exception of Eustace, Charles Tennyson's favourite. One wonders why he was a favourite as he was expelled from Sandhurst in 1833!

Charles Tennyson had made a promising start to his career as a barrister and entered parliament in 1818 as MP for Great Grimsby and then from 1826 until 1831 he represented Bletchingley. In 1835 on the death of his father he gained further wealth and, in accordance with, as he stressed, his father's wishes, changed his surname to Tennyson-D'Eyncourt[5]. He tried to revive the barony of D'Eyncourt, but Melbourne, the prime minister, refused what was generally seen as a grotesque request. Tennyson-D'Eyncourt's father left him the greater part of his estate at the expense of the elder brother, George Tennyson. George Tennyson was largely out of favour because he was a mentally ill alcoholic. George was the Rector of Somersby and father of the poet Alfred Tennyson. The Somersby branch of the family

[3] The marriage was on 1 January 1808. Frances Mary Hutton was the only child of the Reverend John Hutton.
[4] Mary Thornhill was the daughter of the Squire of Stanton near Bakewell.
[5] This was a name deriving from the ancient titles of Scarsdale and D'Eyncourt of Sutton.

bitterly resented the disposition of the family wealth, blaming Charles Tennyson-D'Eyncourt for it, and complaining at his change of name.

On inheriting his fresh wealth Charles immediately desired to use the money to reconstruct a new Bayons Manor in the style of a fairy-tale castle, with moat, medieval oratory, and secret passages. The building became an obsession that drove Tennyson-D'Eyncourt almost to madness. This and some of his earlier architectural exploits had some influence on his poetic nephew. He quarrelled with his children, who disliked Bayons Manor with a passion, and in the latter part of his life the failure of his once intense political ambition made Tennyson-D'Eyncourt bitter. In 1852 he was defeated at Lambeth in the general election, and did not stand again. He obtained various posts during his lifetime, High Steward of Louth, a Justice of the Peace, and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, but he became something of a recluse in his declining years whilst planning further changes at Bayons Manor. He came to be considered something of a bore as well as a snob; he was, in the view of his nephew Alfred Tennyson, "a considerable humbug".

Alfred, first Baron Tennyson was born on 6 August 1809 at Somersby rectory, Lincolnshire, the fourth child of twelve[6] born to the Reverend Dr. George Clayton Tennyson, Rector of Somersby, and his wife, Elizabeth Fytche.[7]

Tennyson's father, though not strictly disinherited, had been reduced in favour and fortune much below his younger brother, and Tennyson's youth was overshadowed by this family feud between the Tennysons of Somersby and the grandparents, of Bayons Manor a mere 16 miles away, with their favoured son Charles. Tennyson's wife, Emily, later recalled the whims on the part of their great-grandfather, whereby Dr. Tennyson was deprived of a station in life which he would so greatly have suited better than the Church as he felt he had no calling for preaching. This preyed upon his nerves and his health and caused much sorrow in the house.

[6] There were to be eight sons and four daughters in fourteen years.
[7] Elizabeth Fytche was daughter of the Reverend Stephen Fytche, Vicar of Louth, Lincolnshire.

The black blood of the Tennysons was also visited upon Alfred and his siblings. The oldest surviving brother, Frederick Tennyson, was irascible; he was to live, mostly in Italy, in expatriate eccentricity. Then there was Charles, often known as Charles Tennyson Turner after an uncle's bequest, an exquisite poet, praised by Samuel Taylor Coleridge[8] but addicted to opium and vulnerable to alcohol. A younger brother, Edward, succumbed in 1832 to insanity, which proved incurable throughout his long life. Arthur for a while in the 1840s collapsed into alcoholism. Then there was the brother who rose from the hearthrug and introduced himself, "I am Septimus, the most morbid of the Tennysons".

In 1815 Alfred Tennyson left the village school and, staying with his grandmother in Louth, became a pupil at Louth grammar school, where his elder brothers Frederick and Charles had started in 1814. Tennyson claims to have loathed the school, complaining that the only good he ever got from it was the memory of the words, "sonus desilientis aquae"[9], and of an old wall covered with wild weeds opposite the school windows.

Sir John Franklin

Sir John Franklin was also a contemporary of George Warner at school. John Franklin was born on 16 April 1786 in Spilsby and attended the School from 1797and was the ninth of twelve children. His sister Sarah married Henry Sellwood and was the mother of Emily Tennyson.[10] Franklin's father was initially opposed his son's interest in a career at

[8] Coleridge was born on 21 October 1772 in the rural town of Ottery St Mary. Samuel's father, the Reverend John Coleridge, was a well respected Vicar of the parish. Throughout his adult life, Coleridge suffered from crippling bouts of anxiety and depression (neuralgia); it has been speculated that Coleridge suffered from bipolar disorder, a mental disorder which was unknown during his life. Coleridge chose to treat these episodes with opium, becoming an addict in the process.

[9] Meaning "the sound of water leaping downwards".

[10] Henry Sellwood married Sarah Franklin in Mavis Enderby, Lincolnshire on 15 September 1812. Emily Sarah Sellwood was baptised on 9 July 1813 at Horncastle in Lincolnshire and married Alfred Tennyson in 1850 in Twickenham, Middlesex.

sea. However, Franklin was determined and his father reluctantly allowed him to go on a trial voyage with a merchant ship. This hardened young Franklin's resolve, so at the age of 14 his father secured him a Royal Navy appointment on HMS Polyphemus. Franklin later took to being an Arctic explorer and mapped almost two thirds of the northern coastline of North America, served as governor of Tasmania for several years and in his last expedition, he disappeared while attempting to chart and navigate a section of the Northwest Passage. The entire crew perished from a combination of starvation, hypothermia, tuberculosis, lead poisoning, scurvy and exposure before and after Franklin died and the expedition's icebound ships were abandoned in desperation. A statue of Franklin in his home town bears the somewhat false inscription stating "Sir John Franklin — Discoverer of the North West Passage". After later discussions with the local Inuit people it is clear that this was not the case.

Having completed his education George Warner moved to Kensington in London to join the War Office as a Clerk, taking his new bride Lucy Burton with him.

Her father Francis[11] was a lawyer and practised at a time when the enclosure movement provided large scale employment opportunities for lawyers in drafting conveyances, awards of land and general business. The fees for enclosure of villages could amount to as much as £500 in some cases, a princely sum in the eighteenth century. Francis was not a native of Lincoln but records show he was articled to Peter Haselwood, a Lincoln attorney in 10 November 1783.[12] According to Daniel Defoe and his Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain, Lincoln did not present a welcoming air:

> *"Such is the present state of Lincoln that it is an old, dying, decaying and dirty city except for that part that lies between the castle and church at the top of the hill, it is scarce tolerable to call it a city"*

[11] Francis Burton was born circa 1759.
[12] Francis Burton finished his articles and became a full solicitor in 1788.

During his articles Francis married Frances Barrand[13] and there were six children of the family three of whom outlived their parents. The eldest child Francis lived for about five months in 1785, the fourth child Caroline died at seven years old whilst the last child Emma was under a year old when she died. Harriet[14] the eldest surviving child died aged 35 in 1826. The third child Lucy[15] married George Warner. Before her marriage she ran a ladies' boarding school at 2 Minster Yard, Lincoln to assist with the family income but after her marriage she was no longer involved in this enterprise, whilst the youngest surviving child Frederick[16] became a solicitor like his father and formed the firm of Burton and Company of Lincoln. The mortality of the children is a comment on the age they lived in when the average life expectancy was about 40 years for any person to survive childhood. Infant mortality was about 50% in any family.

Francis Burton

Francis continued his practice in Lincoln for 27 years but almost no evidence remains of the work he undertook. However, judging from the sums he left in his Will[17][18] he mostly certainly did not make any substantial amounts from his profession as he does not seem to have benefited from wealthy landowning patronage or the enclosures. He probably obtained steady work from the city's population with conveyancing, trusts and marriage settlements and Wills. Criminal work was not a profit making exercise that solicitors were given to take unless the accused was a man of substance. Generally, the criminal element tended to be poor and unable to afford legal defence.

---

[13] They were married on 6 June 1784 at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene. The marriage took place under licence because both parties were officially resident in the neighbouring parish of St. Peter at Eastgate but their own church was being rebuilt at the time of their marriage.

[14] Harriet Burton was born 14 June 1790 and died in 1826.

[15] Lucy Burton was born on St. Patrick's Day 17 March 1793 and died in 1864.

[16] Frederick Burton was born in 1797.

[17] The Will was proved at less than £600, although a great deal more than the average labourer, hardly a fortune.

[18] Francis Burton died on 16 June 1815 and was buried at St. Margaret's in the Close adjacent to Lincoln Cathedral where his wife joined him upon her death in 1823.

Francis' parting shot was to leave all his drafts of conveyances, law proceedings, law and other books, book case, desks, tables, chairs, tools and implements used in his professional practice to his son Frederick in an attempt to set him up in business, even if he failed to provide the premises as well.

Frederick Burton

Frederick made good use of his father's bequest and secured himself some premises and formed Burton and Company of Lincoln, Solicitors in 1819. He married Frances Merryweather and they had eight children, four sons and four daughters.[19] All of the sons became lawyers and joined their father in the family business except for Frederick who decided to form his own firm.

Frederick Merryweather Burton

Frederick Merryweather Burton was the founder of the firm, Burton and Dyson of Gainsborough and the son of the Lincoln solicitor, Frederick Burton, who educated him at Rugby. He spent the first six years of his professional life in practice at Uppingham in Rutland. Frederick left in 1860 to set up practice at Gainsborough, taking with him a testimonial, from his friend and next-door neighbour, the eminent head-master Edward Thring. Thring testified not only to his high character, position as a gentleman, and general ability, but added that he had managed, to their full satisfaction, all the business connected with the re-establishment of the school.

Another testimonial, from the Sub-Warden of the school, was addressed to the Lord Chancellor, in support of Burton's application for the registrarship of the County Court, to which he was appointed. He quickly established himself in local society and before 1872 had

[19] John Francis Merryweather Burton born 12 April 1828, Frederick Merryweather Burton born 3 May 1829 died in 1912 in Gainsborough, Henry Augustus Burton born circa 1830, Harriet Burton born circa 1831, Frances Merryweather Burton born 9 July 1833, Emma Burton born circa 1835, Lucy-Ann Burton born 1 September 1836 and Alfred Barrand Burton born 1839.

acquired the impressive mansion, Highfield House, Summerhill. A man of wide scientific interests, he was a fellow of the Geological Society, the Linnean Society and the Royal Horticultural Society, a life member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and a founder of the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union.

Some bundles relate to F. M. Burton's own relatives, none of whom presented more problems than the Reverend Thomas Cooper Lewty, vicar of Rowston from 1862 to 1900, who had married Harriette, sister of F. M. Burton's first wife, Kate.

They were daughters of Darwin Chawner of Newark, M.D., and of Mary Charlotte, daughter of John Milnes of Beckingham. F. M. Burton and the Reverend R. J. Hodgkinson were trustees of Mrs. Chawner's will of 1879 that provided a small income from the Beckingham estate to be used for the education and maintenance of the Reverend T. C. Lewty's four children, since their mother had died. The correspondence provides an intensely vivid picture of the family's vicissitudes in the years 1881-1901. Rowston was a poor living and it was patently impossible for Lewty to provide even the basic essentials for his 16 household and family and also to pay his vintner's bills.

Mr. Frederick and Mrs. Frances Burton

He was constantly writing reproachful and often abusive letters to the trustees pleading for money, and the trustees found it hopelessly difficult to provide for the children without their father benefiting from the trust moneys. The children too wrote plaintive letters to "Uncle Burton" making known their modest wants for warm clothing and the like, certain that they could expect nothing from their father. The trustees sent Darwin, the eldest boy, as apprentice to Henry Hyett, a chemist in Bailgate, Lincoln, and then in 1883 they tried apprenticing him to Robey and Co., but with no more success. In 1886 he went out to Queensland and his letters from there reveal him working fairly contentedly first on railways and later on a large plantation. Walter, the second boy, was at Colston's Boarding School in 1882 and at Denstone in 1886. The next year he was at home idle because his father said he could not let him go back to school in rags and he had no clothes. In 1887 he was sent as apprentice to a bookseller at Kington, Herefordshire, but was soon rejected as unsuitable. The girls May and Maud, had little education, though they were sent intermittently to a boarding school in North Wales. They had already left school before the crisis of 1891 when the bailiffs were in the vicarage, the furniture sold, and Lewty agreed to assign over his tithe to pay his creditors. Unfortunately, worse disgrace was to follow, and in February 1892 he was suspended from the living for eighteen months for intemperance. An allowance of £1 a week was made for the maintenance of the three of them. The daughters rallied round their father, for though they found him incorrigible, they could not leave him to starve and preferred to spend some of their allowance on him. When Lewty died in 1900 his creditors received only 3s in the pound. Among the items for which he owed were twelve copies of an anthem "I will ransom them!" It is a relief to know that both daughters were married, though Maud was widowed almost at once. Walter was writing to the firm about the administration of his father's estate from the Bishop's Hostel, Lincoln. Crockford shows that he was duly ordained and that he served as vicar of Rowston from 1908 to 1948.

The War Office

George entered the War Office in 1826 and salaries were poor and over the period that George Warner worked very little changed to render the salaries more attractive. In 1826 he would have received a salary of £90 a year. On promotion to second class after fifteen years service he would have been paid £300. After a further fifteen years he would have attained first class at £500 a year. Unless some quirk of fate had allowed him to receive promotion to chief examiner or chief clerk then he could not attain the maximum salary of £800. Indeed from papers dated 1860[20] it records that George Warner retired as a Clerk with 34 years service with a pension of £300 per annum.

If there is one thing made clear by the pay structure it is that there were absolutely no inducements for the more ambitious young men of the day to join the War Office or indeed any other Government department.[21]

The War Office developed from the Council of War, an *ad hoc* grouping of the King Charles II and his senior military commanders which oversaw England's frequent wars and campaigns. A number of older institutions, notably the Board of Ordnance (which dates from the 15th century), were merged to form the War Office. It worked alongside the Admiralty, responsible for the Royal Navy.

The War Office was responsible for the Army, and originally the Secretary at War's office. The first War Office Secretary at War is usually said to have been William Blathwayt[22], though he had two predecessors in the post. Strangely, the first holder of the post was killed in battle at sea whilst fighting the Dutch in 1666. The role was,

---

[20] Grants of Public Money in the year 1860 exceeding £150 each – Section 8: War Department – Superannuation, Compensation and Retired Allowances by The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury dated 7 February 1862.

[21] The National Review of July 1855 – The Civil Service and the Competitive Principle.

[22] William Blathwayt came from a long line of lawyers. He joined the diplomatic service in 1668 when his uncle an influential London lawyer, found him a post at the English embassy in The Hague.

however, a fairly minor government post which dealt with the minutiae of administration rather than grand strategy. Issues of strategic policy during wartime were managed by the Northern and Southern Departments (the predecessors of today's Foreign Office and Home Office).

Initially the War Office ran upon “peanuts” the expenses for the six months of 1673 amounted to only £14 9s 0d but the department became increasingly importance in the political control of the army, although it was not the only Government department involved as by 1815 there were fifteen.

The department had several London homes until it settled at Horse Guards in Whitehall in 1722, where it was to remain until 1858[23]. Pall Mall, the home of the Ordinance Department since 1806 became home to the War Office when the two departments were merged, before finally moving to purpose-built accommodation in what is now known as the Old War Office Building in Whitehall.

The multiplicity of responsible departments was not an efficient system, and finally in 1854 the War Office was set up to take over all political and financial control of the Army. Even that was not a complete success. Florence Nightingale, who was a friend of the Secretary of State and very interested in the cause of military reform after her experiences during the Crimean War, wrote to him in 1859, describing the War Office as "a very slow office, an enormously expensive office, a not very efficient office".[24]

The administrators of the day kept long hours. Like their cabinet superiors, to whom they were answerable, they often worked shifts of 48 hours at a time in order to keep ahead of the paperwork. Many administrators found it preferable to do the work themselves, even if the hours seemed interminable and exhausting, but they reasoned

[23] Horse Guards and the War Office became virtually synonymous indeed, Horse Guards is still the official headquarters of the Army.
[24] Changes were not made until 1904.

with themselves that they were taking care of their duties, and doing it more responsibly than farming it out to underlings.

The original War Office, on the south side of Pall Mall was even in 1858, too small and inefficient. It consisted not of a single building, but rather a number of adjoining houses linked by doorways in the partition walls and staff were spread throughout the houses in Pall Mall and many were housed in other buildings, some distance away. This had such an impact on staff numbers that one quarter were employed simply as messengers.

Indeed, so poor were the facilities and the ill-health of its staff so well known that a newspaper commented in the 1860's that:

> *"Employment in the War Office, in consequence of the sickness and mortality attending it, should rank in point of danger at about the same level as an Ashantee campaign."*

George Warner retired from the War Office in 1860 at the age of 72. No doubt the strains of the working conditions played a part in his decision.

General agreement about the need for a new War Office building first led to proposals in the late 1850's for its inclusion in government offices in Downing Street, then in the late 1860's for a new building on Great George Street to house both the Admiralty and War Office. In the late 1870's, an Embankment site was proposed but a financial crisis put an end to that scheme.

The clerks of the War Office were known for their attention to every detail and for following precisely to procedures laid down regardless of the consequences. In short they were the model example of bureaucratic red tape.

It may be suggested that checking beyond a certain point entails the very inaccuracies that it is intended to prevent. An obvious error in the

War Office was committed when a certain gentleman received two lots of pay for the same period of employment. Reluctantly and pricked by honesty the gentleman in question wrote to the War Office clerks, pointing out the necessity of a refund. The clerks seeking to absolve themselves of any wrong doing rebuked the poor chap to the effect that "the error of overpayment would be overlooked on this occasion, but he must not do so again!"

Interdepartmental red tape also abounded. On Monday 2 October 1854 at six o'clock in the morning the keen people of London were roused from their houses by the sound of gun fire signalling what they hoped to be an announcement of the fall of Sebastopol for the park guns were firing and being answered by those at the Tower. Large numbers of people gathered in the parks and waited several hours in vain for fresh tidings. Unfortunately the firing in the park was more a point of official indignation than any good news. The different departments of the government of the day were obliged to correspond but treated each other like foreign nationals sometimes living in peace or otherwise waging war between them. Upon receiving a dispatch from Lord Raglan[25] to the War Office the clerk at the War Office should then have imparted the contents of the dispatch to his counterpart at Horse Guards. In fact the dispatch had been received on the Saturday and the clerk at Horse Guards had to read in the Sunday Gazette the import of the message. When the dispatch finally reached Horse Guards the injured clerk realised an opportunity of sending an official reproof to the War Office for their tardiness and the guns thundered this disapproval in the parks.

George and Lucy Warner produce a little family of two daughters and one son.[26]

[25] Lord Raglan was the British commander-in-chief during the Crimean War. It is very likely that his incompetence in the field of battle was more to blame than the Board of Ordnance for the 1854-55 supply failures. He died of dysentery in the Crimea on 29 June 1855 at a time when his forces were afflicted with cholera and reeling from a disastrous series of military failures.

[26] Lucy Warner born 23 November 1828, George Daniel Warner born 23 May 1830 and Fanny-Ann Warner born 29 November 1836.

Lucy Warner

In the Tonbridge Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul stands a handsome brass lectern donated to the church in 1892 and dedicated to Lucy Warner, George and Lucy's eldest child. On a memorial plaque on the north wall of the church she is remembered as a teacher of the men's Bible class. It must have taken a lot of courage as a Victorian woman, to teach a class of men about the Bible.

"Sunday School" continues in the church today, where the children and young people of the congregation still gather to look at the word of God. Adults gather in home-groups to study the Bible and in this way the spirit of Lucy's Bible Class still lives on.

Fanny-Ann Warner

Fanny-Ann Warner, George and Lucy's youngest child became great friends with Julia Deacon and the two women were close companions for many years living in Julia's family home at 12 Leonard Place, London.

Admiral Henry Colins Deacon

Julia's father was Admiral Henry Colins Deacon[27], the son of James Deacon and Frances Colins.[28] No doubt Henry met George at the War Office and this is when their daughters became friends. Henry entered the Royal Navy on 3 November 1800. He served with distinction under Nelson in the West Indies in 1805 and under General Whitelock at Buenos Aires in 1807. He took part in the 1815 capture of Guadaloupe and was promoted to Captain in 1817. He was party to the campaign at the Isle de France 1820. For his part in these many engagements hr received 28 wounds during his service to the Country. On 1 September 1846 he was rewarded for his service with a promotion to Rear Admiral

[27] Admiral Henry Colins Deacon was born on the 4 August 1788 and baptised on 2 September 1788 at Greenwich. He died on 5 November 1869 aged 81.
[28] James Deacon married Frances Colins on 28 June 1777 at Sutton by Croydon, Surrey.

although it records forcefully that this was without a raise in pay. Finally, in 1862 he attained the rank of Admiral. Henry Colins Deacon married Mary Ann Barwell, daughter of William Barwell and Ann Barnes[29]. They had only one child, Julia Barwell Deacon[30].

George Warner enjoyed four years of retirement and died at home at 9 Kensington Square, Kensington on the 14 March 1863 aged 71 years. Lucy died the following year in Tonbridge whilst living with her son George Daniel Warner.

Julia Barwell Deacon

[29] Mary Ann Barwell was born on 11 September 1793 and baptised on 13 September 1793 at St. Giles, Norwich, Norfolk.

[30] Julia Barwell Deacon was born on 25 April 1825 and baptised 21 June 1825 at St. Mary's, St. Marylebone in Middlesex.

George Daniel Warner

George Daniel Warner was baptised on 18 June 1830 at St. Mary Abbots, Lincoln. His own father was one god parent, Lucy's brother Frederick Burton's wife Frances (nee Merryweather) was his godmother, and Frances' father John Merryweather was the other god father. In the case of the latter, he turned out to be a good choice, despite being a generation older as he lived to the age of 92.

The idea that solicitors are less than honest in their dealings is as old as the profession itself. From a layman's point of view someone making money from another's misfortunes appears harsh and unfeeling. Even after Victoria came to the throne solicitors were viewed with suspicion, as they were not qualified to take part in proceedings in most courts and to be a solicitor was something more shameful than to be proud of.

Even in 1852 when Charles Dickens was writing Bleak House he had a jaundiced view of the profession in his description of a respectable man:

> *"He is allowed by the greater attorneys who have made good fortunes, or who are making them, to be a most respectable man. He never misses a chance in his practice, which is a mark of respectability; he never takes any pleasure, which is another mark of respectability; he is reserved and serious, which is also a mark of respectability; his digestion is impaired, which is highly respectable; he is making hay of the grass which is flesh, for his three daughters and his father are dependent upon him."*

Clearly, though George Daniel Warner took a different view and proceeded to qualify as a solicitor on 15 November 1854 while he was working at 38 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, no doubt influenced by his favourite uncle Fred Burton. Upon qualification he moved out of London to join the practice of Carnell and Gorham in Tonbridge.

Common Law and Equity

The matters which would have principally engaged a young articled clerk in 1863 would have been:

1. Purchases;
2. Sales;
3. Mortgages, both in the capacity of lender and borrower;
4. Leases and agreements to let;
5. Settlements, and
6. Wills

According to an elementary view of the practice in solicitor's offices by Edmund Smith.

In private legal practice it was common for the client and the attorney to reach an agreement as to fees in advance of work being undertaken and a local "gentleman's agreement" would be entered into to create a standard price schedule for the town. After 1883 conveyancing fees became regulated and solicitors lost the freedom to set their own prices. Whilst the new regulations created "red tape" and prevented price competition between practitioners it imposed restrictive practices that benefited the solicitor at the expense of their client. Solicitors often found themselves extending some form of credit to their clients in order to be secured for their service and so accountancy within the firm had a central role of management. Many solicitors as early as 1870 were employing book-keepers and before 1900 book keeping exams were included for articled clerks.

A senior solicitor's life was also divided by common law and equity up until 1873.

Common law develops through decisions of court and similar tribunals rather than through legislation. The system works on the premise that it is unfair to treat similar facts differently on different occasions. The

decision of a common law court provides a precedent and it binds future decisions. Therefore, if a similar dispute has been resolved in the past, the court is bound to follow the reasoning used in the prior decision. If, however, the court finds that the current dispute is fundamentally distinct from all previous cases the judges have the authority and duty to make law by creating precedent. Thereafter, the new decision becomes precedent, and will bind future courts in a flow of self perpetuating motion.

As early as the 15th century, it became the practice of litigants who felt they had been cheated by the common-law system to petition the Sovereign in person. For example, they might argue that an award of damages as recommended by common law was not sufficient redress for a trespasser occupying their land, and instead request that the trespasser be evicted. The Court of Chancery was a court that had jurisdiction over all matters of equity[31], including trusts, land law, the administration of the estates of lunatics and the guardianship of infants. Its original role was an extension of the Lord Chancellor's position as Keeper of the Sovereign's Conscience. Until the 19th century, it was able to apply a wide range of remedies that common law courts could not, such as specific performance[32] and injunctions[33], and also had some power to grant damages[34] in special circumstances.

The head of the Court was the Lord Chancellor who was assisted by the judges of the common law courts. In 1813 a Vice-Chancellor was appointed to deal with the Chancery's increasing backlogs, and two more were appointed in 1841. Offices of the Chancery were sold by the Lord Chancellor for much of its history, raising large amounts of money. Many of the clerks and other officials were unpaid and who, in lieu of wages, charged increasingly exorbitant fees to process cases.

[31] Equity is a system of law founded on principles of natural justice and fair conduct. Where the law of a country is fixed it supplements the written law to make it more flexible and fair.
[32] Specific performance is where one party was in breach of a contract and the court would ensure that the offending party performs the obligations of the contract.
[33] Injunctions are where a party wishes to do something and the court is there to prevent them.
[34] Damages were usually money claimed in compensation for some failure by the other party to a case.

This resulted high costs when bringing a case to the Chancery. Unfortunately, throughout its history the Chancery Court was plagued with these corruptions and time delays. 1832 saw the first in a succession of acts to cure the ills of the court.

The Chancery Sinecures Act 1832 sought to abolish the sinecure[35] offices within the court and provided a pension and a raise in pay for the Lord Chancellor, in the hope that it would reduce the need for the Chancellor to make money by selling court offices. Further reforms were undertaken in the 1850s allowed plaintiffs to file a claim in person, rather than go to the expense of lodging a long-winded bill of complaint. The Suitors in Chancery Relief Act 1852 gave all court officials salaries, abolished the need to pay them fees and made it illegal for them to receive gratuities; it also removed more sinecure positions. As a result of these and other reforms the court became far more efficient, and the backlog decreased.

In the 1860s an average of 3,207 cases were submitted each year, with the Court hearing and dismissing 3,833, many of them from the previous backlog. Much of this work was carried out by the growing number of clerks, however, with members of the legal profession becoming concerned about the "famine" of equity judges. Despite these reforms, it was still possible for Charles Dickens, writing in 1852 to bemoan the inefficiencies of the Court of Chancery. His novel Bleak House revolves around a fictional long-running Chancery case, Jarndyce and Jarndyce. This case revolves around a testator who apparently made several wills, all of them seeking to bequeath money and land surrounding the Manor of Marr in South Yorkshire. The litigation, which already has consumed many years and sixty to seventy thousand pounds sterling in court costs, is emblematic of the failure of Chancery. Dickens's assault on the flaws of the British judiciary system were based in part on his own experiences as a law clerk, and in part on his experiences as a Chancery litigant seeking to enforce copyright on his earlier books. His harsh characterisation of the slow, arcane Chancery

[35] Sinecure relates to unpaid officials.

law process gave memorable form to pre-existing widespread frustration with the system. Though Chancery lawyers and judges criticized Dickens's portrait of Chancery as exaggerated and unmerited, his novel helped to spur an ongoing movement that culminated in enactment of the legal reform in the 1870s. At the time he was writing the novel Dickens drew attention to the fact that in the real world there was a case before the Chancery court which commenced twenty years previously and unhappily was no nearer conclusion than when it was begun.

The idea of fusing the common law courts with the Chancery court as a method of further reform arose several times between 1850 and 1870. In 1873 the idea was resurrected by Lord Selborne the new Lord Chancellor. However, this bill was far more structured than previous attempts and contained more detail on what was to be done. Rather than fusing the common law and equity, which he saw as impracticable since it would destroy the idea of trusts, he decided to fuse the courts and the procedure. All of the existing superior courts would be fused into one court with two levels; one of first instance[36], one appellate[37]. The court of first instance, to be known as the High Court of Justice, would be subdivided into several divisions based on the old superior courts, one of which, the Chancery Division, would deal with equity cases. All jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery was to be transferred to the Chancery Division, with Section 25 of the Act providing that, where there was conflict between the common law and equity, equity would prevail.

Historically the term solicitor is derived from those who solicited causes by giving advice and guidance to clients as they tried to negotiate a legal jungle. By the time the court system was reformed in the 1870s by the Judicature Acts solicitors had also come to be litigators, playing an active part in the progress of a case, i.e. taking witness statements, collecting evidence, carrying out document management, meeting document disclosure requirements, and

[36] The first instance or first hearing of a case.
[37] Appellate court deals with appeals.

generally conducting correspondence with the court and with the opponent. They were also responsible for engaging a barrister who would provide an opinion on the likely success of a case and appear in court. The mainstay of any solicitor's workload was still transactional or non-contentious work such as conveyancing, drafting wills and trusts, etc. In short the original solicitor of causes had become the family solicitor and the first port of call for all legal matters which arise in a person's life.

The reason for having to retain a solicitor to progress a claim through the courts has changed over the centuries. Before the Royal Mail attendance at court was essential but with an efficient postal system in place greater use was made of written court documents in place of formal attendance. This also meant that solicitors were not required as attorneys in the traditional sense but in an age with limited levels of literacy, and before the advent of the typewriter, solicitors were still required to write routine documents and to make copies of the formal court documents drafted by counsel.

The introduction of universal education and, later, the availability of typing and copying machines, might have led to solicitors no longer being compulsory intermediaries between barrister and client were it not for a decision taken by the Bar[38] in the Nineteenth Century to accept instructions only from solicitors. Once this decision was taken, if a client wished to be represented in court by a barrister, the client had to instruct a solicitor also.

The solicitor would, however, appear for appellants or plaintiffs at the Court of Petty Sessions, Police Courts or Magistrates Courts.

In 1867 George appeared in various courts throughout the year in the capacity of the defence with variable results.

[38] The Bar is a collective name for barristers.

Tonbridge Petty Sessions March 1867 - the killing of a horse by brutality at Chiddingstone

Philip Ingerstone, a farmer at Chiddingstone, was charged with unlawfully and cruelly beating and ill treating his horse with a whip on 2 March 1867.

Mr Cripps appeared for the Royal Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, George Warner for the defendant.

Various witnesses in turn attested to seeing the defendant in Wigsall Lane on the morning in question riding his bay horse, trotting down the road in the direction of Tonbridge. He had a short whip in hand of about two to three feet in length but no lash. The whip had a stocky bone handle and he was beating the horse in a brutal manner on both sides of the neck. Several of the witnesses when questioned by George Warner attested to the fact that the horse seemed unwilling to travel but that the horse was not sweating, panting or looking diseased.

The horse appeared obstinate and was labouring up the hill and seemed not to be able to go any faster despite the beating until he reached the crest of the hill when it appeared to gather a very little more speed. The horse appeared to be very fatigued.

One witness, David Howlett, bat maker of Chiddingstone noticed Mr. Ingerstone beating his horse in the road outside his workshop window. Later in the day and in the company of Mr. William Duke he visited Knotley House and there saw the horse dead and flayed. He heard that two tumours were cut from the horse the size of large walnuts. He said it was obvious to him that the horse was in a diseased state. William Gasson the gardener of Knotley House then took to the witness box to say he saw Mr. Ingerstone beat the horse about the neck and fetch a heavy blow on top of the head just by the ear. This was the final blow and the horse fell directly thereafter.

George asked the witness, was it a violent blow? They were all violent blows that I saw he replied. He continued, "I saw Mr. Ingerstone stand over the horse and raise the whip as if to beat him to stand up. I went over and confirmed that there was no point as the horse was dead. Mr. Ingerstone stated in my presence that he knew the horse to have been not right for two years or more".

George asked, did you not say anything to Mr. Ingerstone about his cruelty? Howlett replied, "There were others present but I personally said nothing".

George Warner contended that no case had been made as the prosecution had failed to show that there was any knowledge on the part of the defendant that the horse was ill. He then reviewed the evidence and contended that it was not likely that the defendant would ill treat a horse to bring about its death and thereby be a considerable loser in the situation. If the Society's officer had taken the trouble to enquire he would have discovered that the horse was not unwell but merely sluggish and had been so ever since Mr. Ingerstone had owned him. That morning the defendant had ridden to Penshurst Station with the intention of getting the train to Tonbridge for the market but because the horse had been so slow of character he had missed the train so that he had to ride by horse all the way to Tonbridge instead. The defendant confessed he had beaten his horse but that was outside his normal character and he was very sorry.

The bench believed the defendant was not the type of man who would generally abuse the animals he owned but that they found the case of this day fully proved and he was fined £17 plus costs.

County Court June 1867 – the lambs who overstayed their welcome

The plaintiff was a farmer who lived in Edenbridge and the defendant a grazier. The action was brought to recover a claim for the keep of seven lambs. The original agreement provided for grazing for 30 weeks at 9s a head. In the end the sheep were permitted to graze for four extra weeks at the same rate and this rate was agreed, claimed the plaintiff. George Warner for the defendant stated that although the extra weeks had been fully agreed upon the rate was in fact 3½d per head per week. However, because the defendant was no longer sure what the agreement was the verdict went with the plaintiff.

New Police Court November 1867 – a very lame rape case

A very lame rape case where George Warner appeared on behalf of James Baker who was on remanded charged with raping Ann Finch, an 80 year old, rather muddled woman. Mr. Palmer was present appearing on behalf of Thomas Towner the other man accused of the same rape. The two men were brought into court for the plaintiff to "have her pick of the two" to finally find one name for the charge. George Warner objected to this but was overruled.

Ann Finch wanted them to wear their hats and unbutton their coats. She finally decided upon Towner as the one at which point George asked for his client James Baker to be discharged. He was man of good conduct who had suffered the pains of twice being remanded to court and claimed that the plaintiff be rebuked by the court for the way she had acted in the case.

The plaintiff then gave her account that she had been to the Loggerheads looking for a bed but had no money and so was returning to the South Eastern Hotel where she had slept the night before. She met a young man who seemed cordial at first but who dragged her down the New Wharf and proceeded to rape her and threaten murder. After a number of witnesses were called some of who knew the

plaintiff and others Mr. Towner it became clear that the plaintiff had not been raped but was probably drunk. The case was dismissed.

Hearth and home

When George had arrived in Tonbridge he was introduced to Jane Herring the daughter of the painter Frederick Herring who had taken up occupation of Meopham Bank in Hildenborough. They were married on 23 July 1857 at Tonbridge.

John Frederick Herring

John Frederick Herring senior[39] was the son of Benjamin Herring[40] and Sarah Jemima Howard. Benjamin was a fringe maker and upholsterer by trade working from Newgate Street in the City of London.

Herring was never apprenticed to his father and was, therefore, ineligible to work in the trade. Instead he lent his artistic talents to producing both inn signs and paintings at the tender age of 18. In September 1814 he took the Royal Leeds Union stage and arrived at Doncaster in time to attend the Great St Leger horse race. Lodging in the town, he came upon a coach builder's finishing shop and helped an employee complete the painting of a horse on one of the coaches. The coach builder was impressed and asked him to paint the insignia on the Royal Forrester. On the trial run of the latter he met the proprietor, Mr. Hill, and obtained the post of coachman to the Nelson.

[39] John Frederick Herring senior was born on 12 September 1795 in Blackfriars, London the eldest of nine children.
[40] Benjamin Herring died 1871 and Sarah Jemima Howard died 1831.

George Daniel Warner

Jane Warner (née Herring – known as Jennie)

He stuck to this for six long years eventually piloting the High Flyer a coach that ran between York and London.

Within a year of arriving in Doncaster Herring had set up house with Ann Harris[41] and she gave birth of the first of their children, John Frederick junior. In his leisure time Herring played the clarinet, composed music, and continued to paint. As the public became aware of his talent for painting he was increasingly encourage to make art his full time employment. Herring's first exhibit at the Royal Academy was a painting entitled "A Dog" in 1818. The following year he had his drawing of the fractured leg of a racehorse reproduced in the Sporting Magazine.

The year 1825 saw the start of the scheme that made the name Herring a household word. The Doncaster Gazette arranged for him to paint the winners of the St Leger from 1815 onwards. The pictures were then engraved and published. In all, Herring painted thirty-four winners, thirty-one of which were made into prints. A series of twenty Derby winners followed two years later in 1827. As a portrayer of the thoroughbred horse in high condition, he was then and still is largely unrivalled.

At the age of thirty-two, now with an established a reputation, he took some painting lessons from Abraham Cooper R.A. It is said that Herring's studies under Cooper taught him all that his work had hitherto lacked in technicality.

By 1830, his fame as a painter of the turf established, Herring moved to Six Mile Bottom, near Newmarket, the headquarters of racing. During this time his daughter Jane was born. He stayed there for three years before departing for Camberwell on the outskirts of London. He now had seven surviving children, three of whom became artists: John Frederick junior, Charles[42] and Benjamin whilst two of his daughters

[41] Ann Harris was born circa 1796 and died in 1838 aged 42.
[42] Charles Herring born 1828 and died 1856, Benjamin Herring born 1830 and died 1871.

Ann and Emma, both married painters. Herring's brother was also an artist.

Although apparently successful, Herring was in fact in financial difficulties and was rescued by William Taylor Copeland, the owner of the Spode China Company. Copeland paid off his debts of £500, and commissioned a number of paintings, and used Herring's images of fox-hunting to decorate the company's wares. After his wife's death Herring moved from Park Street to Cottage Green in the same village. Although he did not totally abandon racing subjects, in 1840 he was visiting France to paint the racehorses of the duc d'Orléans, his future renown came when he was appointed animal painter to the Duchess of Kent (Queen Victoria's mother) and received commissions from Queen Victoria.

After twenty years in Camberwell, and now married to Sarah Gale[43], he revolted against the smell from both the nearby manure factory and the house drains, and the hungry and thirsty uninvited guests, and made an instant decision to move to the country. He rented Meopham Park in Hildenborough. He described it as "his idyllic refuge" although on several occasions the household was in uproar due to unexpected explosions at the gunpowder factory not three miles away. Meopham Park was blessed with a number of outbuildings and 30 acres and he soon installed his favourite model, the white Arab Imaum, once given to Queen Victoria, together with other horses, a miniature pony that wandered around the house eating ginger nuts, ten cows, two pigs, geese, peacocks, fowl, duck, rabbits, and two dogs. This ark of animals soon featured in his immensely popular paintings of the farmyard which were no sooner completed than sold to the London dealers. Satisfaction at his success was marred by the death in 1856, after a long illness, of his favourite son, Charles, who had lived with him and worked as his assistant, for which he had been paid £500 a year. Herring himself had suffered since his youth from asthma and bronchitis as a result, he thought, of his early exposure, when a night

[43] Sarah Gale born 1794 and died circa 1882.

coachman, to the bitter winter weather of the north of England. His health now began to deteriorate and for the last few years of his life he was confined to a wheelchair. He continued to send paintings to the British Institution and the Royal Academy until his death.

Although his work was disparaged by some it was sought by the increasingly prosperous middle classes. Engravings of over 350 of his paintings were made in his lifetime. Although suspicious that other artists might steal his ideas and apprehensive of forgers, he did collaborate with a number of his contemporaries to produce paintings in which he portrayed the animals in the background. He exhibited twenty-two pictures at the Royal Academy, eighty-three at the Society of British Artists, and forty-four at the British Institution.

Herring spent the last twelve years of his life at Meopham Park and died at his home on 23 September 1865.

John Frederick Herring Senior circa 1860[44]

[44] National Portrait Gallery, London.

On 6 January 1862 George Daniel Warner took a lease of Myrtle House in Hadlow Road from Marianne Waite for ten years at the sum of £75 15s per annum to house his growing family. The schedule describes the property as having a study, drawing room, kitchen, pantry and scullery, five bedrooms plus a nursery.

In the Easter term of 1862 he was joined by his cousin Alfred Barrand Burton, Frederick's son, as an article clerk. Alfred was about ten years younger than George.

In 1863 George qualified as a Commissioner to administer oaths in the High Court of Chancery and the partnership between John Carnell, William Gorham and George was dissolved as far as John Carnell was concerned, as John was now 72 and decided upon a well earned retirement.

On 17 April 1863 George bought two plots at Brompton Cemetery for his parents in the eastern portion known as compartment K at the price of £3 3s. An unusual gift by today's standards but the Victorians embraced death rather than treating it as a taboo silent subject. It was a time of pomp and ceremony as the middle classes tried to follow the upper class trend for the grandest of funeral cortèges. Mourning the loss of Albert, Queen Victoria dressed permanently in black and set a trend for widows up and down the country to do the same. Some Victorians widows went into mourning for up to two years and decorated themselves with black brooches and mementoes of the husband who had gone on to eternal life. A failure to plan for death reflected a failure to succeed in life. By 1858 the Tonbridge Burial Board acquired a site outside the town for a new cemetery as the Parish Churchyard was full. On 20 September 1892 George Daniel Warner bought two grave spaces from the Tonbridge Burial Board at the price of £7 7s plus 1s for the stamps. Burial prices had increased rapidly with the population explosion. One space was his personal use and the other was for his sister Fanny Ann Warner.

On 28 October 1868, on the advice of William Gorham, George bought three shares in the Tonbridge Gas Company from Beechings Bank and Samuel Pierce and a further twelve shares on 12 August 1870 from Elizabeth Sutton and others.

Dry Hill Park Estate

In 1873 after some years tinkering with Myrtle Cottage, George decided when the lease expired to move his little family to the new Dry Hill Park estate to the north of the town. The area promised to be a community of like minded people with a church to match the more Anglo-Catholic tastes of some Tonbridge citizens. Local opinion gathered that the estate would become a new parish for people of quality.

The ever-expanding population of the town of Tonbridge resulted in the sale of many farms and estate lands to provide housing. In 1848 James Alexander[45] of Somerhill[46], a wealthy banker, sold 40 acres in 37 plot providing two new roads, Pembury Road and Priory Street.[47] There were a few covenants concerned with fencing, rights of way and offensive trades but no proper standards of building construction, sanitation, or density were imposed. George Punnett and William Chalklin both master builders were the main investors but a number of private individuals also bought plots including the solicitor John Carnell

[45] James Alexander was born in 1769. He is the son of Robert Alexander of County Londonderry, Ireland and Anne McCullogh. He married, firstly, Eliza Dundas, the daughter of Captain Ralph Dundas. He then married Charlotte Sophia Dashwood, daughter of Thomas Dashwood and Charlotte Louisa Auriol, on 8 March 1813. James Alexander lived at Somerhill and held the office of Member of Parliament for Old Sarum in Wiltshire between 1812 and 1832.

[46] In 1811, J M W Turner painted Somerhill for the Woodgate family depicting the house as a honey coloured idyll from the lakeside through the trees in soft evening light. The Woodgates were hit hard by the agricultural depression at the end of the Napoleonic Wars and sold in 1816 to James Alexander. As the new owner he obtained Turner's painting but sold it before his death on 12 September 1848. In 1849 the house came into the ownership of Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid, Baronet, a rich City banker.

[47] After the Poor Law Act of 1834 Tonbridge and the surrounding villages formed the Tonbridge Union to build a new workhouse at Pembury. The chosen site, two acres at Sandhill Farm, in Tonbridge parish, was offered at a very modest £100 by James Alexander of Somerhill and the original building was erected in 1836. It was designed to accommodate up to 400 people and cost £4,152.

who purchased two plots fronting the more important of the two roads, Pembury Road.

By 1864, however, the nature of buying up land and selling off lots had changed. 39 acres, 3 rods and 4 perches belonging to Dry Hill Estate were sold to the British Land Company for £9,500 by the executors of the former owner Captain James Eldridge West[48]. Three new roads were planned Dry Hill Road, Park Road (now Dry Hill Park Road) and Judd Crescent (now Dry Hill Park Crescent). The lands abutting these roads were divided into lots and strict covenants were placed on the lots governing the size, type and value of the houses to be built. By this method, the British Land Company sought to define the type of desired development. Any commercial use was absolutely disallowed. The deeds stipulated that on lots 1 to 16 houses must exceed the value of £500 if detached or £900 if semi-detached, lots 17 to 36 £150 and £250 respectively.

The British Land Company was set up with the aim of enabling people to buy freehold property at market prices in order to qualify for a vote in Parliamentary elections. At the start of the 1800's there were severe restrictions on voting rights and the simplest way for an individual to obtain a parliamentary vote was for him to show he owned property. Following the Reform Act of 1832, the standard qualification was the ownership of a house with a "forty-bob freehold", that is a freehold with an annual rental value of £2 in today's currency.

The National Freehold Land Society was the first company to sell land under the auspices of vote gain. It was established in 1849 by two Liberal Members of Parliament: Sir Joshua Walmsley and Richard Cobden and due to the radical nature of these two politicians no other organisation grew to such prominence. As the National Freehold Land

[48] James Eldridge West was born 20 June 1783 at Postern Park the son of John Hartup West and Amy Eldridge (daughter of James Eldridge of Postern Park and Mary Whitaker of Trosley Court, whose father Thomas was the High Sheriff of Kent in 1758). He married Alicia Ashburnham daughter of the Vicar of Tonbridge Sir William Ashburnham, Baronet of Broomham in Sussex and Alicia Woodgate (daughter of Francis Woodgate of Tonbridge) on 3 December 1804. James Eldridge West died 30 June 1851 following by his wife Alicia on 22 December 1860.

Society was actually a building society, in spite of its name, it was unable to own land. All dealings in land had to be carried on by the directors as individuals, at their own risk, for the benefit of the Society. This was clearly unsatisfactory and, from 1856 onwards, land dealings were entrusted to a separate organisation, The British Land Company. British Land operated from the same address as The National Freehold Land Society and with the same directors. The formation of this new company was possible by new legislation permitting limited liability for shareholders in companies, meaning that they only were liable to the extent of their investment.

The business of this new company was to purchase land and to resell it on the best terms it could get to any customer who might be willing to purchase. However, the political impetus, so strong in 1849, quickly disappeared. Henceforward the main business thrust of the Company was definitely towards home ownership, not voting.

The first sale of 72 lots at Dry Hill Estate took place on 18 October 1865. The final lot (number 2) was sold by 1872. There was intense building activity up until 1875 and then after a 15-year lull, another spurt of activity in the around 1890 resulted in three new roads, Uridge Road, Manor Grove and Ashburnham Road[49] were laid down. The houses in these roads were built to accommodate servants of the larger houses who lived "out".

There appears to have been a good deal of land speculation with people either making modest sums on a group of a few lots or buyers obtaining large areas as long-term investments. For example, J.F. Wadmore, a local architect, bought lots 5 and 6 and part of lot 4 from the British Land Company in 1867. He then sold them to the Reverend James Welldon of Tonbridge School in 1869 for £300. In 1871, Welldon sold them to George Daniel Warner for £325. The normal procedure appears to have been to buy two consecutive lots and build either a pair of semi-detached houses or one large house on the combined plot.

[49] Ashburnham Road was named after Alicia Ashburnham wife of the last owner of the estate James Eldridge West.

Gothic architecture had become a serious style beloved by the Victorians, the enthusiasm for everything gothic started in the rebuilding and remodelling of new and existing churches up and down the country. Then encouraged by Pugin and the pre-Raphaelite artists such as Ruskin the romance of the gothic took hold. By the middle of the century Gothic architecture had begun to appear on the domestic scene, and where once scoffed at by high minded academics, it now appeared to be gaining some architectural respect. Many of the houses in Dry Hill paid more than a glance at this fashion including the house built by George Daniel Warner at 4 Dry Hill Road. The driving force of Victorian Gothic was the height of the building versus the narrowing of the footprint. It was accompanied by marked asymmetry and broken outlines as well as giving full expression on the outside of the function of the rooms inside, known in architectural terms as "truth". The front door was no longer in the centre with matching windows either side as they had been in the Georgian buildings the century before.

The "truth" also controlled the use of the external materials, gone was stucco in favour of rough stone and bare bricks. Every English family wanted their own baronial hall as a home.

Insofar as 4 Dry Hill Road is concerned the main arch is just about steep enough to be called truly gothic but purists felt that the tympanum panel of herringbone brickwork reduced its role to that of a relieving arch in the manner of the Henry Edward Kendall's alternative design for Orne Cottage in Essex.[50]

[50] Henry Edward Kendall was a pupil of Thomas Leverton (1743-1824) and one of the founders of the Institute of British Architects. He exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1799 to 1843, and was a prolific architect, whose work included churches, town and country-houses, gaols, and workhouses. His winning designs for Kensal Green Cemetery envisaged an ornate chapel filled with sculptural monuments, complemented by a stout tower for the main gate onto Harrow Road, and a romantic watergate for the reception of barge-borne funerals from the Grand Union Canal. Unfortunately, he did not win the contract and the exterior of the Anglican Chapel at Kensal Green was completed in April 1838 to John Griffth's designs that bore a striking resemblance to Kendall's work on the Session House of Spilsby, Lincolnshire (now the Spilsby Theatre).

The echoing arch of the window further along is shallow and cannot be considered as gothic at all.

Shallow Gothic arch

The front bay is articulated with attached columns and finely cut stonework. The stone finials are all individual both at the top of the main columns and at the bottom of the white buttresses either side.

Front bay columns and stone finials

The wide black and blue brick bands are illustrated in a section of Audley's book devoted to ornamental brickwork. The use of polychromic brickwork and tiling is reminiscent of Audley's villa.

The traditional Elizabethan diaper-work panels (left) appear on a number of buildings at Dry Hill and appear on both the walls and the chimneys at 4 Dry Hill Road.

The Greek cross in black and blue is more original.

Diaper work and Greek cross

No part of this property is left without embellishment, there seems to be an obsession with pattern making in the brickwork that continues in the hanging tiles and the roof. The dressing room window in the side tower nestles in a frenzy of ornamentation culminating in an odd twisted candy cane column in a recess. A longer column at this point may have been intended but perhaps at the time of building the builders ran out of those necessitating this queer invention.

The stone had the ability to be finely cut and this is exploited to the full with jagged teeth moulding at the top of the bay window and the incisions in the mock-balcony slab before the dressing room window to match those on the bargeboards. The designer of this house has patently enjoyed himself and produced a pseudo gothic confection. The cumbersome truss style of the gable ends is another common feature of Dry Hill Park and may be seen on Henry Kendall's Cottage Orne. The rear of the property is a reflection of the front but with less frenetic detail.

For external and internal detailing builders, architects and clients could look to architectural pattern books. Some of the writers of architectural pattern books also wrote separately on interior fittings. There were individual pattern books for each of the trades such as brickwork, cast iron, furniture and textiles. Issues surrounding heating, plumbing, lighting and ventilation caused many column inches in the press after the Great Exhibition of 1851 as new solutions were found. The Victorian interest in sanitation and hygiene was more than aesthetic as cholera had taken many lives, especially in Tonbridge; any new house was surely in need of protection.

George Warner's tastes for his new home may have been influenced by the family friendship with James Fowler, five times Mayor of Louth and a Church architect of some renown.

In 1900 George Daniel Warner employed Edward Punnett & Son to overhaul his residence at 4 Dry Hill Road. They installed a bathroom, there was an indoor closet but they wanted a proper indoor bathroom, ensured that gas pipes ran throughout the house and fitted new burners to those rooms that had previously had the benefit of the service. Then George decided to change all the latch sets on the doors with new locks and handles, to add a dormer window in one of the bedrooms, replacing the leaded lights over internal doors where they had been damaged, and sundry other smaller improvements. He also took the opportunity to relay the lead water main in the back garden, something that would not be done in the modern age. The total of these works was a hefty £165 10s 6d which he immediately negotiated down to £157 and promptly paid.

Although George had kept his "powder dry" in May of 1881 during his dispute with William Gorham by not communicating with William directly, he had seen the signs of dispute arising eighteen months beforehand when William Gorham first fell ill. In 1880 he ascertained the advice of John Monckton, a London barrister. Mr. Monckton agreed to be a "go between" in order to help settle the dispute and

create a little peace although he felt he had been put in an uneasy position between the two partners.

His difficulty stemmed from the fact that he had no wish to prejudice William Gorham and his family after he had been put to so much effort in establishing a healthy business with good connections although he wanted to be fair to George who had taken on board a considerable amount of extra work in maintaining the business throughout William's absence. He also had to mediate around the terms of the partnership agreement in order to provide a future for Edwin Gorham, William's son and Charles Warner, George's son.

Mr. Monckton understood on eminent medical authority that all William required was a few extra months off work in quiet solitude to regain his former health before he could return to the office. An additional resolution to the partnership agreement would allow Edwin to continue as a clerk of the firm and assist George by taking a fair share of the work in keeping the practice going in his father's absence and also provide in the future for him to become a partner. For the privilege of the trial period of six months William was to pay George remuneration for his extra work and Edwin was to have an increase in salary to £150 per annum on the understanding that Charles as a clerk would be paid equally.

Mr. Monckton communicated the above terms also to William Gorham. By the end of the year a formal proposal had been delivered:

- "The period during which William Gorham has practically ceased altogether to work extends back to the middle of 1879. Payment is based on the principle of giving for the first six months of 1879 one-half of £200 for the last six months, £600 plus a half of £800 making a grand total of £1,100.

- William Gorham to receive from 1 January 1880 and during the rest of his life one third of the net profits not exceeding in any one year £800 and not to be required to do any work.

- If William Gorham shall die during the five years ending 1 January 1885 his executors to receive out of the net profits £300 a year for five years from death.

- William Gorham hereby nominates Edwin John Gorham as partner in pursuance of clause 18 of the Articles of Partnership but this nomination is only to take effect on the 1 January 1882. In the meantime, Edwin John Gorham is to be a clerk in the firm receiving out of the net profits a salary at the rate of £150 per annum for twelve months after the date of the agreement based on these proposals. Then at the rate of £200 per annum thenceforth until the 1 January 1889 with George Daniel Warner undertaking to put work his way to aid him to become an effective partner.

- If George Daniel Warner on the 1 January 1881 alleges that Edwin John Gorham has not "faithfully and effectively performed" the duties of his clerkship and has not devoted the whole of his time and attention thereto this question shall be referred to arbitration under the provisions of the Articles of Partnership. If the award shall find that the allegation of George Daniel Warner is true the nomination of William Gorham shall be considered at an end and the power of William Gorham to nominate Edwin John Gorham by deed shall be deemed to be at an end.

- Any member of the firm from time to time to be at liberty to article one son without premium and to admit any son by nomination or Will to a share not exceeding half the business as in clauses 18 and 19 of the Articles of Partnership. Any such son will become liable perform the stipulations therein contained.

- George Daniel Warner is to have the remainder of the net profits in consideration of an increase in labour and responsibility."

This agreement was signed. In the event, William died in December 1881 and his son Edwin, who was known to have a weak constitution, followed his father in 1884. This left George temporarily without a partner, but he had sought help for the day to day working of the practice from his own son Charles Edward Warner who became articled to his father in 1881. Charles was admitted as a solicitor in 1886 and immediately became his father's partner. The firm was now completely in the hands of the Warner family. However, the name of the firm Gorham, Warner & Son was so well known locally it was not changed until 1920.

In 1896 George obtained a catalogue from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry for a company called Mears and Stainbank who had exhibited at The Great Exhibition and are the oldest of the bell foundries in England. Tonbridge had acquired a peal of eight bells in 1774 brought from London by barge and then hauled up the hill to the steeple. By 1896 four of the bells required recasting and George decided to leave Tonbridge a gift by paying for three of the bells to be recast. He marked in the catalogue the inscriptions for the bells:

"There shall be upon the bells holiness unto the Lord"

"Let Christ be known around and loved where'er we sound" and

"May all in truth and harmony rejoice to honour Church and King with heart and voice".

George Daniel Warner died at home in 1903 followed by his wife Jane two years later. Of their children, Florence, Beatrice and Constance never married and lived on in the family home at Dry Hill Road. All three daughters took part in civic meetings and matters of the soul for the residents of Tonbridge. Lilian the youngest child (known affectionately as Diddy) was the only daughter to marry.

Constance even joined Tonbridge Urban Council. She was a very outspoken councillor of the Tonbridge Urban District Council. In 1926 Tonbridge was growing rapidly and new housing was being created for the Council to provide homes for the working men and women of Tonbridge.

New houses had just been completed in 1926 in Shipbourne Road and Hectorage Road and the local housing clerk Mr. Pink was about providing tenants. His methods in finding new tenants, however, did not accord with the tenets of Miss Warner and a row ensued taking up many column inches in the Tonbridge Free Press.

Although personal slight was levelled at Miss Warner she was at pains to point out that her dispute was not concerned with Mr. Pink personally. However, in his capacity as housing clerk Mr. Pink had not allocated housing to those people who lived in Tonbridge and had local connections with the town. He was mismatching the size of the property to the size of the family and accepting non-married couples.

The Council accused Miss Warner of being vindictive and making improper investigations into the housing allocations and she was formally admonished for, as Mr. Pink put it, “poking her nose in where it was not wanted”.

Miss Warner did not attend the next two Council meetings in protest of her treatment.

Charles Edward Warner

Charles Edward Warner was born on 2 January 1865 and his father George sent him to Tonbridge School as a day boy for his education. He certainly excelled academically but was most renowned by gaining places in both the cricket XI and the rugby XV before the age of 16 years.

In 1890 he married Ethel Cornfoot[51] and set up home at 16 London Road, Tonbridge. He had qualified as a solicitor on 23 June 1886 and after obtaining a partnership in his father's firm he moved to a more substantial dwelling within the Dry Hill Estate, called Correnden, at 32 Dry Hill Park Road. This was a house with fewer confections that his father's but certainly equal in status. Correnden had been designed by George Friend an architect of East Street in Maidstone. It was the only house in the Park to have space for a billiards table which stood in the ample hallway. Although J.J. Stevenson in his writing "House Architecture" was rather scathing "exposure to every caller prevents playing in shirt sleeves". In fact the design of the house meant that the hallway was a good venue by virtue of the fact that the service corridor was sealed off by a connecting door and the stairs sat in an alcove. In fact the whole ambience of the building was pleasing; the drawing room faced south, the dining room south east and the morning room directly east. The house is now encased in many alterations and bears little resemblance to the original building.

Their family grew with three boys and a girl Elnyth Constantia. In 1911 the family were struck by tragedy when Elnyth died aged just 13 years. The Vicar of Tonbridge, Charles Gardiner Baskerville[52] wrote in the local paper:

> *"Very rarely have I taken part in such sorrowful service as we had for dear Elnyth Warner on Thursday last, August 17. The final hymn was sung at the grave, and its final "Amen" closed a service which will live long in the memories of those present.*
>
> *Elnyth took a warm interest in her Sunday afternoon Bible Class, and of her Mr. McNeil wrote – Dear sweet child, it would seem*

[51] Ethel Constantia Catherine Cornfoot was born in 1868 in Twickenham, Middlesex the daughter of David Cornfoot and Mary Esther Harman of 20 Lancaster Gate, London and The Manor House, Tonbridge. She died in at home in Tonbridge in 1947.

[52] Charles Gardiner Baskerville was baptised on 5 January 1831 at St. James, Bristol the son of George and Susanna Baskerville. He married Ellen Spencer Parsons the daughter of William Singer Parsons and Ellen Froud on 8 September 1858 at St. Andrew's Church, Clifton, Gloucestershire.

that she was too good for this world. She always had the appearance and disposition more of heaven than of earth. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. He lent the jewel and now He has asked for its return".

Correnden was now tainted with sorrow and so the family moved in 1913 to The Trench in Coldharbour Lane in Hildenborough.

The Trench was a much earlier building from about 1830 of Flemish and English bond brick with sandstone dressings and some tile hanging and Tudor in style. Although there was a nod towards the gothic with filigree barge boards and a steep apex. The house possessed a beautiful bay the whole height of the building overlooking the garden.

When Charles had left Tonbridge School he had been keenly interested in the Volunteer Force and as soon as he was of the right age he became a recruit in the 1st Volunteer Battalion the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Following his father's death in 1903 he took over the roles of Registrar of the Tonbridge County Court, Clerk to the Justices of the Tonbridge Division and later obtained the post of Registrar of the Sevenoaks County Court.

In order to finance extended mains, add an additional reservoir, engines, pumps and to provide for the steady expansion of Tonbridge and an increasing rural demand for water the Tonbridge Water Company asked Mr. Isaac Race to organise an auction at the Rose and Crown on 15 May 1906 to sell 300 new shares. Like his father before him Charles Edward Warner bought them all at the princely sum of £15 10s investing in local amenities in order to develop his position within the town. He also took part in many of the town's activities. From the Tonbridge Free Press in 1909 it was reported that he took part in the annual distribution of bread to the needy in January. As usual the distribution took place from the Bank Street schoolrooms and the bread was donated via the local charities. In February he attended the

Tonbridge Ratepayers Association annual dinner and also the annual general meeting of the Tonbridge Gas Company as a shareholder in the company, shares he had inherited from his father. At this stage the consumption of gas was still rising, the company reported that in the last year five million cubic feet was used, a 5% increase in the previous year. Buoyed by this news and pending a favourable contract for coal being made, the directors proposed a 2d reduction effective from 31 March setting the price at 2s6d per 1,000 cubic feet. The reduction entitled the shareholders an increase in dividend of 5%. They also reported that the extension of the gas line to Leigh was now completed and the company had gained 60 new customers.

In March there was a large congregation at the Parish Church for the first in a series of planned lantern lectures to be held throughout Lent. The lantern slides were shown by Charles Warner. In April at the annual vestry meeting at the Parish Church, Charles Warner was appointed Church Warden for another year in association with John Le Fleming.

Despite the above activities, a greater part of 1909 was devoted to the new Territorial Force.

Following the Crimean War, it became painfully clear to the War Office that, with half of the British Army positioned around the Empire on garrison duty; it had insufficient forces available to provide an effective expeditionary force to a new area of conflict, unless it was to reduce homeland defences. During the Crimean War, the War Office had been forced to send militia[53] and yeomanry[54] to make up the shortfall in

[53] The term militia (pronounced is commonly used today to refer to a military force composed of ordinary citizens to provide defence, emergency law enforcement, or paramilitary service, in times of emergency without being paid a regular salary or committed to a fixed term of service.

[54] In the 1790s, the threat of invasion was high, after the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. Volunteer regiments were raised in many counties from yeomen. The word "yeoman" refers to small farmers, who owned the land they cultivated as opposed to peasants, but the officers were drawn from the nobility and many of the men were their tenants. These regiments became known collectively as the Yeomanry. Members of the yeomanry were not obliged to serve overseas without their individual consent.

regular soldiers. The situation had been complicated by the fact that both auxiliary forces were under the control of the Home Office until 1855.

Tensions rose between the Britain and France following an assassination attempt on Emperor Napoleon III on 14 January 1858. It emerged that the would-be assassin, Felice Orsini had travelled to England to have the bombs used in the attack manufactured. The perceived threat of invasion by the much larger French Army was such that, even without sending a third of the army to Crimea, Britain's military defences had already been stretched invitingly thin. On April 29, 1859, war broke out between France and the Austrian Empire and there were fears that Britain might be caught up in a wider European conflict.

On May 12, 1859, the Secretary of State for War, Jonathan Peel issued a circular letter to lieutenants of counties in England, Wales and Scotland, authorising the formation of volunteer rifle corps and of artillery corps to defend coastal towns. Volunteer corps was to be raised under the provisions of the Volunteer Act 1804, which had been used to form local defence forces during the Napoleonic Wars. Many communities had rifle clubs for the enjoyment of the sport of shooting.

Alfred Tennyson captured the spirit of the time by publishing his poem “Riflemen Form” in The Times on 9 May 1859.

There is a sound of thunder afar,
Storm in the south that darkens the day,
Storm of battle and thunder of war,
Well, if it do not roll our way.
Form! form! Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm!
Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

Be not deaf to the sound that warns!
Be not gull'd by a despot's plea!

Are figs of thistles or grapes of thorns?
How should a despot set men free?
Form! form! Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm!
Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

Let your Reforms for a moment go,
Look to your butts and make good aims.
Better a rotten borough or so,
Than a rotten fleet or a city of flames!
Form! form! Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm!
Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

Form, be ready to do or die!
Form in freedom's name and the Queen's!
True, that we have a faithful ally,
But only the devil knows what he means!
Form! form! Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm!
Riflemen, riflemen, riflemen form!

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Almost as soon as the cycle was invented its use in war was recognised and the Volunteers began using cycles in their manoeuvres from 1885 onwards. Numerous experiments were carried out to determine the possible role of bicycles and cycling within military establishments until in 1894 when a turning point occurred and improved the resilience of pneumatics and provided a shorter sturdier construction of the frame. Cyclists were employed on an intermittent basis during the South African War - whilst they were not deployed as organised combat formations, the bicycle was found to be invaluable for reconnaissance and communications work, being lighter, quieter, and logistically much easier to support than horses.

By 1907, when its civilian administration teetered on the brink of insolvency, the Volunteer Force had become indispensable to British defence planning, as well as an enabler of the Regular Army's when drawing its own forces away from home defence stations. Consequently, the government passed the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act 1907, which merged the Volunteer Force with the Yeomanry to form the Territorial Force in 1908. The total cost was to be met in future by central government. In addition to the introduction of terms of service for volunteers, most of the units lost their unique identities, becoming numbered territorial battalions of the local army regiment, albeit with distinctive badges or dress distinctions.

The Kent Cyclist Battalion was formed in 1908 as part of the new Territorial Force, replacing the Volunteers, to form an effective properly trained and organised part-time army to be called to arms to defend the homeland when the regular army was sent overseas. This Battalion was one of the ten original Territorial Cyclist Battalions in the country. It was composed of eight companies and was one of 15 units of the Territorial Force administered by the Kent County Association headed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County.

For the first few months the Cyclist Battalion was part of the Royal West Kent Regiment, but this inhibited recruitment in East Kent and so it was re-designated The Kent Cyclist Battalion, and on 1st March 1909 it was recognised by the Army Council as a separate unit independent of both the West Kent and East Kent Regiments.

Recruiting for the Battalion had begun in 1908, mainly from members of the numerous cyclist detachments of the Volunteer battalions in Kent. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Edward Warner had been commissioned in the 1st Volunteer Battalion the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) being appointed a Major in 1903. He had retired at the end of 1907 but had been brought out of retirement and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel to command the Kent Cyclist Battalion. By 11 July 1908 the Battalion was short of men and needed 21 officers and 502 men of other ranks to be at full strength.

The Honorary Colonel of the Battalion was Colonel Sir Henry Streatfeild[55]. He was also the Chairman of the Kent County Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. Lt. Col. Warner was the Commanding Officer of the Kent Cyclist Battalion and became a military member of the Association in March 1909 replacing Captain H.W. Knocker.[56] Originally the headquarters of the Battalion were at 29 High Street, Tonbridge and a home to B Company of the Kent Cyclists. The men who joined B Company came from Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and Pembury.

On 10 February 1909 the Tonbridge Ratepayers Association had a pleasing gathering at The Angel for their 23rd Annual Dinner. During the evening Mr. E.W. Handcock proposed a toast to the "Imperial Forces". In regard to the Territorial Forces, he said:

> *"They must all agree that the danger of invasion was true or there would be no need for the existence of the Territorial Force. Everyone was doing his best to make preparation to repel an invasion and in this county such gentlemen as Lord Camden, Colonel Streatfeild and others were doing their best to make the force efficient. The results, however, were disappointing, as some companies needed many more to join to bring about their full complement. He was inclined to favour the idea of the*

[55] Colonel Sir Henry Streatfeild was born on 4 January 1857 the son of Lt.-Col. Henry Dorrien Streatfeild and Marion Henrietta Smith. He married Lady Florence Beatrice Anson, daughter of Thomas George Anson, 2nd Earl of Lichfield and Lady Harriett Georgiana Louisa Hamilton, on 15 August 1885. He died at the age of 81 on 26 July 1938. During his life Colonel Sir Henry Streatfeild gained the rank of Colonel in the service of the Grenadier Guards, Private Secretary to HM Queen Alexandra between 1910 and 1925, was decorated with the award of Territorial Decoration, held the office of Deputy Lieutenant, was invested as a Companion, Order of the Bath and invested as a Knight Grand Cross, Royal Victorian Order. He lived at Chiddingstone.

[56] Cousin to John Cowper Knocker a partner in Warners born in Great Dunmow in Essex in 1874 to William Wheatley Knocker and Nora Josephine Duke. He was a solicitor and lived and practised at Sevenoaks.

National Service League[57], that there should be some form of compulsory service. There was a good deal of compulsion now-a-days and we were prepared to submit to it when it was for the common good."

He then proposed a toast to Lt. Col. Warner who responded by saying:

"There would be no question that some sort of National Defence was necessary. He did not think that the people really appreciated the position in which they were placed at the present moment. They did not appreciate what an invasion would be if it took place. He went on to refer to the surprise invasion which was made when Tonbridge was occupied by the Kent Brigade and when every detail which would have been required in actual warfare was gone through. One of the necessary persons in this part was the Commissariat[58], and it was his duty to ascertain what supply of food could be provided for a mobilised army. They would be surprised at the result. To provide food for three days for the Army would result in Tonbridge being denuded of every bit of food in the place. That would be the position if there was an invasion tomorrow. If they could only bring home to the people the real position of things, how much more popular the Territorial Force would be. They would have no difficulty in finding recruits, and as it was at the present time, the infantry

[57] The National Service League was a pressure group begun in February 1902 to alert the country to the inadequacy of the military to fight a major war and propose national service as a solution. The League argued for four years for compulsory military training for home defence for all men aged between 18 and 30. Compulsory military service or conscription was not popular and in October 1904 the membership of the League only about 1,500 but by December 1908 had increased suddenly to about 30,000 due to "sabre rattling" by "Kaiser Bill" that fuelled fears of a possible German invasion of Britain. Add to this the belief that the military could not stop an invasion as things stood it would seem that many of the League's proposals now appeared reasonable.

[58] The Commissariat Department was a civilian authority attached to the Treasury and was responsible for military supply. During the Crimea the Commissariat was branded inept and corrupt. It sent no building materials or food; left and right boots in separate ships and when a public subscription had been set up to provide "extras" for the troops, e.g. chocolates, cigars, socks, they never got them to the men: they were either lost, stolen, kept or sold by the department. This created uproar and led to massive protests, petitions and demonstrations.

*were much below strength. He hoped that the recruiting committee in the town – for they had not done much yet – would make a more desperate effort to get men to join. He would, like Mr. Handcock, like to see everybody bound to do their duty. He could not see why **A** should take the trouble and spare a tremendous amount of time in order to keep **B** comfortable at home. He wanted Tonbridge to realise that it was a necessity for everyone to do their share. If they could not actually join the Territorial Force let them join recruiting committees. The Volunteers were at one time scoffed at, but it was only owing to their existence that they were able to form the Territorial Force."*

On 9 March 1909 under the Presidency of Mr. Osmund Elim d'Avigdor-Goldsmid[59], J.P., the recruitment committee met to consider how best to stimulate recruiting in the district. After discussion it was decided with the consent of the Vicar, Reverend Charles Gardiner Baskerville[60], to hold a combined parade of Engineers, Infantry and Cyclists at the Parish Church on Sunday 26 March 1909 to be followed on Monday evening with a grand military torchlight procession through the principal streets of the town then later a smoking concert[61] at the Public Hall under the Presidency of Colonel Streatfeild supported by a most influential company. They hoped that Lord Lucas, the Under Secretary of State for War, would come and speak to the populace. They decided to call the days "Territorial Days", shopkeepers were

[59] The House of Avigdor was until the end of the nineteenth century, devoted to their Italian homeland. It was Osmond Elim d'Avigdor who really established the House of Avigdor in England. He added the name Goldsmid to his surname on inheriting the estates of his cousin Sir Julian Goldsmid. He devoted his life to public service and received recognition for these services in 1934 when the hereditary baronetcy of Isaac Lyon Goldsmid was revived and awarded to him. Sir Osmond Elim d'Avigdor-Goldsmid headed various Jewish organizations and was High Sheriff of Kent. His brother, Major General James Arthur d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, headed the British Territorial Army and was UK Minister of Defence from 1966.

[60] Reverend Charles Gardiner Baskerville was the son of George and Susanna Baskerville and baptised at St. James in Bristol on 5 January 1831. He married Ellen Spencer Parsons daughter of William Singer Parsons on 8 September 1858 at St. Andrew, Clifton.

[61] Smoking concerts were live performances, usually of music, before an audience of men only; popular during the Victorian era. These social occasions were instrumental in introducing new musical forms to the public. At these functions men would smoke and speak of politics while listening to live music. These popular gatherings were sometimes held at hotels.

asked to extinguish their shop lights and close early in order to make the torchlight procession more spectacular. All the shops in the High Street were to display patriotic window displays to include plenty of bunting. The evening concert opened with a rollicking good chorus of "In Camp" sung by Tonbridge School Cadets, followed by a bioscope entitled "An Englishman's Home" and then a tableau called "Britannia" arranged by a local photographer, Mr. T.A. Flemons. Tonbridge alone had to raise 300 men from a local population of approximately 2,000 young men of military age. In letter to local tradesmen Mr. Goldsmid wrote:

> *"It is not unreasonable to ask that 300 of them should take upon themselves the comparatively light responsibilities involved in joining the Territorial Force."*

Actually joining the Force was a very real and onerous commitment and not a decision most working men could lightly make.

By the 1830s there was a growing sense among reforming and Evangelical groups that, though the working-classes seemed to have an inbuilt disposition towards spending any free time they had in sexual excesses, gambling and drinking, the middle and upper-classes were not entirely free from blame or responsibility for this situation.

There were several reasons for this feeling of guilt. The growth of towns and enclosures had resulted in a loss of public open spaces and hence restricted the scope of leisure time activities amongst the working-classes. As a result they were driven from comparatively healthy outdoor pastimes towards the numerous temptations offered by drinking houses. In the 1840s consideration was given to setting up some open land for general use in the form of parks. Within the parks there would be places of amusement for the playing of games and sports. It was not until the 1850s and 1860s and in some places the 1870s, that municipal parks were established in most provincial towns and cities. In 1870 a horse racing track opened in the centre of Tonbridge and the local papers were full of news from the track. In

1890 the Angel Cricket Ground is used for the first time. In 1898 the Castle is purchased by Tonbridge Urban District Council who then opened the gardens and ground to the public and in 1923 Lord Hardinge of Penshurst opens the Council's new sports ground and park (where the old Racecourse used to be). Nearly all the places of cultural improvement from which the working-classes could benefit -- art galleries, botanical gardens, libraries and museums -- were denied to them, either because they could not afford the subscriptions or entrance fees or because they were, if not positively excluded, at least not welcomed. Both the Museums Act of 1845 and the Public Libraries Act of 1850 gave local authorities permission to build museums and libraries out of public funds. By 1860, however, only 28 library authorities had been set up. The lower classes had been influenced and harmed by the lax manners and morals of their social superiors. The early Victorians were genuinely concerned and bewildered about how leisure time should be used. For one thing leisure was often associated with idleness, so while it was recognised that spare time could bring benefits; it was also acknowledged that it had its dangers. In a society where work was the burden of the masses its virtues highly trumpeted, it was perhaps inevitable that leisure time should be regarded with suspicion.

Leisure inevitably requires time. The problem was an extension of hours in all positions and trades from the eighteenth to the nineteenth century resulted in the working-classes having no leisure time to misspend. After 1850 the campaign for the nine-hour day started in the building trade, but success was limited until the economic boom of the early 1870s when most organised trades were able to breakthrough to a 54 hour week and by and large were able to maintain that position in the subsequent depression. The campaign for the eight-hour day was even longer in gestation than that for the nine-hour day. Despite all the pressure mounted in the 1890s and beyond, reduction in hours was insignificant on a national scale. There had been a sharp decline in the number of holidays that were recognised and observed since the seventeenth century. They continued to be observed, with some regional variation, around Christmas or New Year,

at Easter and Whitsuntide, at the local fair, feast or wake, and to some extent on such national days such as the 5th of November and Shrove Tuesday. They were not yet holidays with pay but their existence established a precedent that others later could follow. It was in the areas where holidays were measured by the day that the Bank Holidays Acts of 1871 and 1875 were of most significance. They were not the first legislative recognition of holidays -- that had happened in the Factory Act 1833 -- but they were the first in which the state's intervention was widely recognised and applauded. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries employers increasingly conceded holidays to their workforce.

The hours of work for the working-classes are relatively easy to establish in comparison to those of the middle-classes. There are no national statistics and only the most scattered and perhaps unrepresentative data. Three trends may be distinguished. First, within the professions and the civil service hours were relatively short and imprecise until late in the nineteenth century, perhaps six hours a day. In the private sector clerks worked rather longer hours, generally 40 hours per week in five days. Secondly, among businessmen, the days of long hours lay in the first half of the nineteenth century and by 1900 they too began to internalise the 9 to 5 norm. Finally, at the lower end of the middle-classes, amongst shop workers, hours were notoriously long and remained so. After over fifty years of effort to curtail hours, a House of Lords Select Committee in 1901 could only confirm that many shops were working 80 or 90 hours a week. Pressure from the Shop-Assistants Twelve Hours' Labour League, founded in 1881, and from the Early Closing Association did result in some improvement but the shift towards a legislative solution was only very partially successful. The 1911 Act did, however, enact a half-day holiday. As far as annual holidays were concerned the middle-class workers undoubtedly had the advantage and in 1875 the Civil Service Inquiry Commission indicated that clerks working for insurance companies, solicitors, banks, railway companies and the civil service were getting at least two week's holiday a year. They had achieved this some seventy-five years before the bulk of manual workers. Due to

these circumstances it was purely a sense of national pride and duty that anyone would want to volunteer for the Territorial Force.

In peace time they were taught drill, shooting, distance judgement, reconnoitring, semaphore and to acquire a good working knowledge of their area. For this they received 1s 4d a day. In August 1909, a notice in the paper demonstrates the commitment necessary:

> *"Tonbridge Detachment of Kent Cyclists Battalion No. 2 Company – Recruit drills will be held on Wednesdays 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 September at 8 p.m. – N.B. All recruits are warned that they must complete over 40 recruit drills by October and must therefore be assiduous in attending every drill possible during the next few weeks. Several recruits still have over 20 drills to attend and complete. These men must attend the drills at other places than where they live, e.g. Sevenoaks and Pembury for Tonbridge men."*

By September 1909 the company had outgrown their premises at 29 High Street and the Association took a lease on the 13 September of the Agricultural Hall, Market Hall and Corn Exchange owned by the Tonbridge Stock and Cattle Market Company Ltd. The Agricultural Hall was in the coming years renamed the Drill Hall. For rifle practice they used the range at Castle Hill.

By March 1910 the Battalion was still short of senior officers being seven captains light, but Lt. Col. Warner's own son Kenneth was one of those who stepped into the breach as a second Lieutenant on 26 June 1909.

The Battalion paraded regularly for instruction and drill and camped on the coast for practice for a fortnight each year. They were practising for war by keeping a patrol of the coast to give early information with regard to any enemy that might be sighted. The duty of the Cyclists would be to retard the invaders as much as possible. They were also to watch every movement so that the troops behind would know exactly

where to dispose themselves to the best advantage. They would then join the troops in the rear to repel the invader who had “placed his unwholesome foot on this homely shore”.

By 1910 the daily pay had increased to 2s 6d and there were regular camps at various venues along the coast on an annual basis.

Up until 1914 Tonbridge was just an average market town rather insulated from the World beyond. Their quiet little life was about to be shattered by the First World War after which Tonbridge would never be the same again.

The Battalion was camped at Broadstairs on 4 August 1914 when the news came that war had been declared and it was immediately mobilised. Fortunately for the firm Charles was too old to go to war and busied himself with the Territorial Force at home.

Colonel Charles Warner bought Bassetts in Mill Lane, Hildenborough once all the family was grown where he died on 10 April 1937. At his death his widow, Ethel bought a processional cross for the parish church at Hildenborough in remembrance.

Col. C.E. Warner at his home The Trench circa 1910-1911
(the black arm band may refer to the death of King Edward VII in 1910 or his daughter Elnyth in 1911)

Chapter 11

The Warner Family – Part 2

Kenneth Charles Harman Warner

The Law Gazette of December 1946 remarked "Not many solicitors have abandoned the law for the Church and it is particularly interesting therefore to record that one of them has attained high clerical preferment". Adding "The good wishes of his former colleagues in England go with his Lordship in that northern land whose legal system differs so greatly from that which once knew so well here".

He was born 6 April 1891; eldest son of Charles Edward Warner and Ethel Constantia Catharine Cornfoot of Tonbridge, Kent. Educated at Tonbridge School and then at Trinity College, Oxford he completed his articles with his father's firm and became a solicitor just before the First World War.

In 1916 he married Constance Margaret Hills[62] the second daughter of Arnold Frank Hills and Mary Elizabeth Lafone of Penshurst, Kent.

He had joined the Kent Cyclist Battalion in 1909 and was sent overseas with the Battalion as soon as the war started. In the summer of 1917, Captain Kenneth Warner was promoted to Major and was seconded to the 7th (Service) Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment in France. He was awarded the D.S.O. in June 1919 for building railways and roads just behind the front lines during the final advance between August and November 1918. In the last few days of the war he wrote to a letter to his aunts, giving an understated description of his latest experiences:

[62] Constance Margaret Hills (known as Margaret) was born in 1892 at Buckhurst Hill in Essex and died at home in Canterbury in 1968.

"9 November 1918

My Dear Aunts

Many apologies for not writing sooner to thank you very much indeed for the most excellent cigars which I found waiting for me when I got back here. You know how much I appreciate them. Since I reached the battalion on Monday [4 November], we have been so continually on the move that I really have had no time to write. Tonight I think we shall stay where we are and then sleep two nights in the same place. In the village where we are now, we have excellent billets – in fact we have now reached a much more thickly populated country, and after a spell of getting through a great forest where there was no accommodation at all, and that in very wet weather nearly all the troops are in quite decent quarters, the weather too has improved and today has been beautiful.

The country here is quite different from the part of France we have left us and much more like England – hedges and meadows, orchards and copses of trees.

These villages have all their inhabitants left and their joy at our arrival is tremendous. They have had a terrible time of it for four years then the last day or two when the fighting has been passing through them has finished some of them off. This place especially was a good deal shelled by the Hun as he retired two days ago and some of the poor people were killed and when we arrived was very hysterical. Now, however, they are quickly regaining confidence – and cannot do enough for us. All their hidden belongings are being routed out and they produce sheets, beds and mattresses and do all they can to make us comfortable. I have a topping little room with a large bed, great luxury. Their tales of the Hun and his doings are horrible.

The way things are going is perfectly marvellous and we have heard now of the Hun's application for armistice and wait anxiously to hear

what comes of it. It looks very much as if he will have to accept any terms, as he seems to be in a hopeless military position.

He blows great craters as big as houses in the roads and railways as he goes back and one of our jobs is filling them up or making ways round them.

Best love to all

Your loving nephew,

Kenneth."

He was discharged on 11 February 1919 and returned to a partnership in the firm, but he seemed unsettled, as so many were, by his experiences and it became obvious to all his family that he was unfulfilled as a solicitor. He had returned to a very different Tonbridge. The local worthies that had been the town organisation were petering out and new style of countrywide organisation was taking its place.

All the old values were swept away and the decadence of the twenties was on the horizon. Now, even more than ever before there was a need to look to the Church for guidance. A letter from his father-in-law shows his concern as Kenneth does battle with his conscience:

"26 April 1921

My dear Kenneth

Forgive a word of warning from your second father. You and Margaret are both wearing yourselves out before your time by excess of toil. I do most earnestly urge you, for the next few years to give up public work outside of office hours. Drop all Church of England missionary services work and other committees and lecturing and make your home your place of rest and happiness during the coming summer.

Be much with Margaret during the next six months, comfort her and sustain her and do not let her be over tired. Insist on having another household servant for the expense of which I will be responsible and be sure that Margaret is delivered wholly from the burden of household drudgery. I have written to Margaret to the same intent. Get her to read my letter to you for I am most anxious about both.

Take a lesson from the Prince Consort or indeed from myself and do not work yourself to death before your time. There is much wisdom in abstaining from as in engaging in excess of work.

Ever yours affectionately,

Arnold F. Hills

P.S. Have a whole summers holiday and let good works go hang!"

Hills then wrote to his daughter:

"26 April 1921

My darling Margaret

It was a great pleasure to see you here today but I must write and say how seriously I am concerned in regard to the manifold responsibilities which you and Kenneth are so light heartedly undertaking. Unless you both call a halt you will find yourselves exhausted and worn out before your time."

He again suggests another household servant and then adds:

"You should be soundly asleep in bed every evening by 10:30 and not be down to breakfast before 8 a.m. You should take a leaf out of my book and have a regular siesta between 2 and 3 p.m. In a word you should be mindful of your maternal responsibilities and take more care of yourself – not thinking of pushing John about for long distances; or

in other ways over-tiring yourself. Take it easy; be much in the open air and eat plenty of fresh fruit not forgetting the invaluable olive oil."

Kenneth persevered in the law until 1922. When he announced to his father that he would be leaving the practice and attending Ripon Theological College at Cuddesdon.

He left the College in 1923 when he was a deacon and from 1924 a priest at St. George's, Ramsgate. His father wrote to him of his approval:

"1 January 1924

Dearest Ken

This will be the first time I shall address the envelope to you as God's minister here on earth. I cannot tell you what my feelings were at the service last Sunday [30 December 1923]. Of course, I shall never forget it but I think the feeling really that sticks is of thankfulness to our Father for all his great goodness to me during my life and not the least that he has chosen one of my sons for the high privilege of service as a faithful servant in his Church. We can all be his servants but we cannot all be his officially appointed priests and purveyors of his gospel to others. May God's grace and blessing be yours dear Ken in your work and in your home. May He be with us also; "God be with us."

He signs off after some family notes, "your ever loving father".

From 1927 to 1933 he was a Chaplain of the Royal Air Force, then Rector and Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, from 1933 to 1938, Archdeacon of Lincoln and Fourth Canon in Lincoln Cathedral until 1947 and finally Bishop of Edinburgh living at 27/29 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh until 1961 when he retired.

After the death of Margaret he married a second time in 1970 to Angela Margaret Prescott-Decie, widow of Reverend Edward Prescott-

Decie and they set up home at Perry Wood House, Sheldwich, near Faversham, Kent where he died on 18 March 1983 at the age of 91.

Passport photographs of Kenneth Charles Harman Warner and Constance Margaret Warner (nee Hills) stamped in Palestine in 1932

Arnold Frank Hills

Arnold Frank Hills was born was born at Denmark Hill, London, on 12 March 1857, the youngest son of Frank Clarke Hills[63] and his wife, Ann Ellen Rawlings[64]. His father made his fortune as a manufacturing chemist and along the way had acquired a large interest in the Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company at Blackwall. Arnold was educated at Harrow School and at University College, Oxford studying

[63] Frank Clarke Hills born circa 13 March 1807at West Ham married Ann Ellen Rawlings on 29 December 1848 at St. Matthew's in Brixton. They set up home at Redleaf in Penshurst and there were three sons and two daughters of the family. Frank died aged 84 on 3 May 1892 at Redleaf.

[64] Ann Ellen Rawlings born on 21 February 1816 at St. Michael Bassinshaw, Middlesex the daughter of James Rawlings, a merchant and his wife Ann. She died aged 61 in 1877 at Redleaf, Penshurst.

the classics. Arnold was a keen sportsman who was the English mile and three mile champion, and in his youth had played football and cricket (he was Captain of the 1st XI) for his school team Harrow. At university he earned two football blues and continued to play as an amateur for Old Harrovians after he left, even winning a Corinthian's Cap whilst there; for England, against Scotland on 5 April 1879 at the Kennington Oval[65].

In 1880, at the age of twenty-three, Hills became a director of Thames Ironworks that occupied both banks of the River Lea at where it joins the Thames, with 30 acres in West Ham and 5 acres in Blackwall. After 1865 the Thames Ironworks had concentrated mainly on building warships for the Royal Navy. Although the firm had become a limited liability company in 1872 by the 1880s all the southern shipyards were facing increased competition from the cheaper products of north-east England like the Clyde.

Arnold Hills was aware of social problems his workforce suffered and from the beginning of his working life sought to improve their lives. For the five years he lived in Canning Town in the early 1880's he was a shipbuilder by day and a social worker by night. He set up clubs, lectures, concerts and other entertainments all at the expense of the firm. However, such philanthropy did not prevent growing labour unrest in the shipyard. The shipyard management fought with the trade unions particularly over non-union labour resulting in costly strikes.

On 12 May 1886 he married Mary Elizabeth Lafone[66]. There were five children of the family, four girls and one boy.

The strike of 1897 to 1898 provided a turning point for Arnold in his social endeavours. The workers were defeated and returned to work in

[65] England won 5-4.

[66] Mary Elizabeth Lafone was born on 30 January 1856 at Hanworth Park, Feltham, Middlesex the daughter of Alfred Lafone an M.P. and local Justice of the Peace and Jane Boutcher. She died on 16 February 1942 at Tonbridge.

a bitter and hostile mood and so he decided to try and create a new relationship between the firm and its workforce. The first step was to take the Thames Ironworks out of the Federation of Shipbuilders so that in future they would negotiate directly with their own men. He introduced a limited working week, one of the first employers to do so, and he also set up a profit-sharing scheme. These measures impressed upon his workers how candid Arnold was when he said he was concerned about their welfare. As a result industrial relations improved and kept shipbuilding alive on the Thames where other yards at Yarrows and Thornycroft closed.

The year 1898 the firm had a total capital of £600,000 in ordinary shares and £200,000 in preference shares and was becoming increasingly diversified. The firm had split into six departments including a shipbuilding section as well as one devoted to boatbuilding. 206 lifeboats were constructed for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, including 11 motor lifeboats from 1908 onwards. A civil engineering department carried out construction projects such as the Hammersmith Bridge and the roof of Alexandra Palace. Cranes were manufactured and smaller engineering projects like switches, drills, and marine engines. When demand for marine engines began to decline, Arnold turned his workforce towards building motor vehicles instead.
An ardent advocate of total abstinence as well as of vegetarianism, Arnold had many philanthropic activities, which were not solely restricted to his own workers. The most lasting, if unintended, legacy of his career was West Ham United Football Club. Originally established by him in 1895 as the Thames Ironworks Football Club, it soon became highly successful, and in 1897 Hills provided the club with its own ground. The club became increasingly professional, rather than amateur, and its links with the works diminished. In July 1900 the club became the West Ham United Football Club. Arnold was still associated with the club, but relations became increasingly strained as West Ham moved further away from his ideal of amateur sport. In 1904 Hills refused to rent the Memorial Ground to the club any longer. West Ham moved to the Boleyn Ground and soon severed its last links with Arnold and Thames Ironworks.

Arnold had always been a leader of Victorian temperance and an inspirational speaker. He used his personal fortune to set up the United Temperance Association and draft the first United Temperance bill. He was also a vegetarian and President of the Vegetarian Federal Union and the London Temperance Society. In 1896 he funded a new restaurant in Birmingham in a building in Corporation Street. The whole building was later leased in 1898 and established as The Pitman Vegetarian Hotel named after Sir Isaac Pitman of Pitman Short-hand who had been a vegetarian for 60 years.

Alfred also astutely promoted the athletic and muscular image of the healthy vegetarian body and established the Vegetarian Cycling and Athletic Club. He also held seminars and meetings at his estate.

Arnold was known to frequent a well established vegetarian restaurant in Farringdon Street, near the Memorial Hall, the base of the Fabian Society, many of whom were also vegetarians. The London Vegetarian Society was also based in the Memorial Hall. Other frequent visitors to the restaurant included an unknown 21 year old Indian law student called Gandhi[67], George Bernard Shaw[68], a member of the Fabian Society, Henry Salt[69], Annie Besant[70] and General Bramwell Booth[71] of

[67] Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 and died 30 January 1948. He was the pre-eminent political and spiritual leader of India during the Indian independence movement. He resisted tyranny through mass, non-violent, civil disobedience, leading India to declare independence. He inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. Gandhi is commonly known around the world as Mahatma Gandhi or "Great Soul".

[68] George Bernard Shaw was born on 26 July 1856 and died on 2 November 1950. He was an Irish playwright. He wrote many highly articulate pieces of journalism before making the most of his main talent for drama by writing 60 plays during his career. Most all his writings concern themselves with the social problems of his day but have a comic edge to make the observations more palatable. It seems that nothing escaped his pen, education, marriage, religion, government, health care and class privilege.

[69] Henry Stephens Salt was born on20 September 1851 and died on 19 April 1939. He was an writer and campaigner for social reform, an anti-vivisectionist, socialist, and pacifist, classical scholar and naturalist. It was Salt who first introduced Mahatma Gandhi to the influential works of Henry David Thoreau. Salt is credited with being the first writer to argue explicitly that animals ought to have rights, as opposed to better treatment.

the Salvation Army. Mohandas Gandhi spent some time on the Executive Committee of the London Vegetarian Society from 1890 to 1891 and knew Arnold Hills well.

The Memorial Hall was owned by the Congregationalist Church. Arnold was a deeply religious man and appears to have had some connection with the Congregationalists.

By 1900 and despite Arnold's commitment, shipbuilding on the Thames soon began to decline as the northern shipyards could now turn out warships much more cheaply than Thames Ironworks. After 1901 the Thames Ironworks only received three Admiralty contracts and it was only government fears about unemployment in the East End of London that enabled those contracts to be granted. As well as having higher labour costs, the Thames Ironworks found construction hampered by the cramped nature of the shipyard's site, but Arnold was adamant that he did not want to move the yard farther out of the city to the estuary. Given the space problems that blighted the Ironworks it is surprising that Thames Ironworks should receive a contract to build the dreadnought battleship HMS Thunderer, the modern reincarnation of the ship James Marr Brydone had been on as surgeon during the days of Trafalgar. This last and largest ship constructed by the firm was produced efficiently and on time, being launched in 1911, but a special wharf had to be hired at Dagenham to fit her out as there was no room in the shipyard. Despite considerable lobbying on the firm's part by Arnold no further orders were forthcoming, and the shipyard closed down at the end of 1912.

Arnold's fight to save his shipyard came at the same time as he was struggling against his own physical decline. Growing ill health left him completely disabled by 1906: his mind was still vigorous, but he was

---

[70] Annie Besant *née* Wood was born in Clapham, London on 1 October 1847 and died in Adyar, India on 20 September 1933. She was a prominent theosophist, women's rights activist, writer and orator and supporter of Irish and Indian self rule.

[71] He was born William Bramwell Booth in Halifax, Yorkshire, son of William Booth and Catherine Mumford and the eldest of eight children. He became an active full-time collaborator with his father in 1874 and an officer when the Army began in 1878.

unable to move hand or foot due to a wasting disease which left him almost totally paralysed. At the launch of the Thunderer he spoke from a wheelchair. On 1st January, 1912, Hills attended a protest meeting in Trafalgar Square in an effort to get more Government contracts to the southern shipyards. He went on the same day to visit the offices of Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty. Arnold was so incapacitated they carried him in on a stretcher and the Daily Mail described him, very unkindly, as the "invalid builder of Dreadnoughts". For a man who looked after his health and diet so much of his life this was a cruel blow.

In the 1840's when the engineer James Nasmyth[72] (the inventor of the steam hammer) was looking for a place to retire to chose a "Cottage in Kent" which with the help of local Penshurst architect George Devey[73] he converted into a comfortable mansion. His family crest; two broken hammers and a sword were incorporated into the building. Arnold's move from Canning Town to Hammerfield provided a coincidence of the West Ham logo of crossed hammers with the Nasmyth family crest.

Arnold died on 7 March 1927 at his home, Hammerfield, Penshurst, Kent.

---

[72] James Hall Nasmyth was born on 19 August 1808 in Edinburgh the son of Alexander Nasmyth a landscape and portrait painter. One of Alexander's hobbies was mechanics and he spent his spare time in his workshop encouraging his youngest son to work with him in all sorts of materials. James became an engineer and inventor and In 1839 he invented the steam hammer for making large steel forgings. His hammer was first used by Isambard Kingdom Brunel to make the propeller shaft for his steamship Great Britain. He co-founded Nasmyth, Gaskell and Co. manufacturers of machine tools. He married Anne Hartop on 16 June 1840 at Wentworth. He retired at the age of 48, and at his house in Penshurst he developed his hobbies of astronomy and photography.

[73] George Devey was an influential Victorian architect with a particular links to Leigh and Penshurst. Devey was born to a well-to-do family on 23 February 1820 in Dorset Place, Kentish Town, London the son of Frederick Nicholls Devey and Ann Egg. His initial ambition was to become a professional artist and he studied art before later training as an architect in1856. Although Devey never married, he was rumoured to have loved Flora Streatfeild (of Chiddingstone) for many years. He died on 4 November 1886 at St. Mary-in-the-Castle at Hastings aged 66 of bronchitis complicated by pneumonia just as he was planning to retire. He was not particularly highly regarded by his immediate contemporaries but by the end of the century it is clear that he influenced a large number of well-known British architects.

Gerald Harman Warner

Gerald Harman Warner second son of Charles Edward Warner was born on 15 January 1893 at Tonbridge.

He joined the Royal Navy on 15 January 1906 having no intention of following his brothers into the family business. He was aboard HMS Dublin a light cruiser during the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916. This was one of the most famous sea battles of the First World War and on paper should have been a British naval victory but it turned out to be no "Trafalgar" and was recorded in the history books as well hard fought draw. Gerald received the DSC[74] for his part in the action on 17 July 1919. During the war he wrote to his brother Kenneth jokingly that he was bored and so had decided to write to his brother to redeem his Enfield motor cycle which if he cared to pay the repair bill from the Baker Garage he could use for the duration of the war. He said that he had also heard that some of the officers in the Cyclist Battalion had requested cushion cycle seats but felt that "the old pa" would not want any of this having a serviceable and portable leather saddle of his own. He also intimated that his mother was helping with the war effort and thus he expected on his next leave to find his parents wearing "his and her" putties.

By 18 November 1918 he was transferred as a Flag Lieutenant to Sir Charles Madden aboard the battleship HMS Revenge and by 15 May 1922 he was a Lieutenant Commander aboard the flagship HMS Iron Duke.

In September 1922 Iron Duke was called upon to help evacuate civilians from Smyrna and for two months operated against the Turks. In October 1922 she hosted a conference at Mudania to end the Greek-Turkish conflict.

[74] Distinguished Service Cross.

Smyrna was the wealthiest of Ottoman cities, located on Turkey's Aegean coast, and embodied the highest qualities of an empire with a cosmopolitan air and total religious tolerance. The city was known as the “Pearl of the Orient”. Smyrna had some of the most luxurious department stores, cinemas and opera houses in the world. While the Greeks were predominant, the city also housed sizeable Armenian, Jewish, Turkish, European and American populations. Smyrna was a place where people lived in peace. The Levantines were by far the richest community, with the largest stake in every commercial activity. They were of British and European descent and had lived in Smyrna since the reign of King George III (1760). Life was one long round of glittering parties, balls, tennis games, yachting and picnics accompanied by bouzouki players. The decentralised Ottoman system of government had allowed Smyrna to function freely through World War I, and was largely untouched by the tragedies of the Great War.

In 1922 the balance was disturbed by a rush of Greek nationalism and Turkish pride and whole empire was destabilised. On 6 September 1922 there were 21 war ships in the harbour: 11 British (including HMS Iron Duke), 5 French, 1 Italian, 2 US with more to come. Some 50,000 Greek troops and thousands of refugees in their wake poured into Smyrna and congregated on the quay side. The interior was in complete turmoil. Greek ships in the bay were taking away the soldiers as quickly as they could be embarked. The allies had strict orders from the Prime Minister David Lloyd George not to intervene in Turkish internal affairs. Their responsibilities lay with British Nationals. On the 8 September troops were landed in Smyrna: American 35 soldiers and British 200 marines. For the following two days after the Turkish cavalry entered into Smyrna there was large scale looting, raping, and killing of Armenians and Greeks. The Armenian quarter was systematically ransacked. On 11 and 12 September the situation was deteriorating as more refugees made their way to Smyrna to camp out in streets victims of lawless elements of the Turkish army. At that time some 7,000 British troops were stationed in Constantinople. The allies began evacuating their nationals on the 13 September but they were unprepared for the horror unleashed upon them. Turkish troops set

the Armenian quarter alight. The quay side was a scene of total misery and many of those waiting to board ships were in danger of being burned alive as the fire had reached the waterfront. The ships moved 250 yards further out to avoid the intense heat. The ships' bands struck-up tunes to drown-out the screams and shrill cries of a frantic mob on the quay side. A British admiral had a dramatic change of heart and ordered all available boats to be lowered and dispatched to the quay side. There followed total chaos. Yet, one by one the ships were filled to overflowing with Greeks and Armenians. The harbour and streets were filled with bloated corpses: people, dogs, horses. There was the stench of burning flesh.

On Monday, 11 September 1922 Gerald began a letter to his parents describing what he witnessed:

“Dear Mum and Father

I couldn’t write to you any time yesterday because at the end of the day I was simply tired out.

There has been a lot doing and very tiring but last nigh I got through without a call and so felt very refreshed this morning.

It’s really very difficult to give a clear account of what is going on. Yesterday was spent in many ways.

We began by shipping off old Hirgiadias in a Destroyer. There were many scares of massacres taking place with the net result that the foolish people who scoffed at our idea earlier of the week to embark in ships got the wind up and expected protection miles out of the country.

As a matter of fact none have been injured but fairly well plundered by Irregulars and Bandits from the hills. The Turks have the town in fairly good order but insufficient troops to police the environs – as the majority are in hot pursuit of the Greek.

The stories one hears of the Greek atrocities are worse and worse. Still I think the Turk is going a fair amount. Chiefly it is the Armenians who have created disturbances. There is a good deal of sniping going on and small fires. About noon yesterday the Consul[75] reported that the Turks (Kematists)[76] refused to acknowledge him as British Consul. This was rather a blow as it looked as if we were considered the enemy.

The Commander in Chief[77] therefore demanded an interview with General Noureddin[78] and we proceeded to headquarters at 18:00 hours. We had a very instructing interview. No beating about the bush and it was decided that we were not at War. (Shows the comic but very unsatisfactory state our relationship is and how hard for the Commander in Chief who can get nothing out of the Government at all.) He was a fine looking old Beaver and obviously proud of his achievements. Not surprised, as he has 24,000 troops down here. A week ago they were at least 160 kilometres away. No train, all by marching. The interview terminated very satisfactorily; he promised protection to our subjects and no different treatment of any Allied power. The Commander in Chief therefore withdrew the guards to express good faith.

The town is under martial law and one measure they have taken is to blockade it. Net result is no objects can leave or disembark from the refuge ships. Today has been very trying by people beseeching to come aboard; of course we cannot move and they are inclined to

[75] British Consul-General, Sir Harry Harling Lamb.

[76] Followers of Mustapha Kemal, the revolutionary ruler of Turkey, who led his troops into Smyrna (now Izmir), which in 1922 was a predominantly Christian city. His armies indulged in an orgy of pillage, rape and slaughter; which the Western powers condoned - eager to protect their oil and trade interests in Turkey - through their silence and by their refusal to intervene. Turkish forces then set fire to the legendary city and totally destroyed it. A massive cover-up followed, by tacit agreement of the Western Allies, who had defeated Turkey and Germany during World War I. By 1923, Smyrna 's demise was all but expunged from historical memory.

[77] Admiral Sir Osmond de Beauvoir Brock, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet.

[78] On 10 September 1922 Kemal's cortege entered Smyrna through the Turkish quarter where the cavalry awaited him. General Noureddin was appointed governor - a cruel man with an intense hatred of foreigners.

threaten the Commander in Chief. It is a very difficult problem. If he decided to take them, the Turkish guards could, I suppose, begin shooting. Tonight the Commander in Chief demanded permission to embark women and children and this was allowed so the air is a little clearer.

It is all very interesting, the French and Italians do not seem to bother much whether they abide by the law and I think are carrying on as they like. It is risky and may lead to some shooting incident which becomes at once serious. Nevertheless this behaviour doesn't strengthen the Commander in Chief's position with our own blighters. I call them this because they are British to my mind. More Levantine made pots of money during the war [World War 1] by staying here.

Yesterday afternoon, a battalion of Greeks who had been isolated and arrived on the scene to join us with the 4th Greek Army Corps. They phoned in and were told that there were Turks here but they wouldn't believe it. Net result, we watched a preliminary shelling on a minor scale of Smyrna and then the ambushing of the battalion. Eventually they were all captured.

The peasant refugees are the sad plight. For a week now they have been huddled up on the quays. On the day of the Turks entry they rushed to lighters in the harbour which we were towing to a detached mole and remained on them for 24 hours, but yesterday the Turks towed them back. The panic was indescribable. We gave them what scraps we can – at least we did till they left the detached mole. Some tried swimming off to the ships being potted at by the sentry. Nine got on board and also five Greek soldiers in a sinking boat. What do we do with them? For 46 hours a family lay off the ship in a small row boat. Yesterday was choppy and they spent the day being sick. We sent a boat to them this afternoon with food but they rowed away. Today the Turks manned a ferry steamer and went round the bay collecting the whole lot of small boats.

They say all the males will be conscripted. The rest will be taken to Concentration Camps!![79] This means they have to talk to them and either they get there tomorrow or the destination has been altered. I am afraid I have been very morbid but it is the kind of surroundings one is in at present. Old Mackenzie is very faithful and used often, goodnight, love, Gerald.

Tuesday, 12 September 1922 at 23:20.

Today up to this evening had been quiet and so one was able to get on with ordinary things. Ashore the general situation seemed better, though from all accounts and various sights, atrocities between Greeks, Turks and Armenians are going on apace. I won't dwell on it. However, this evening the Consul had occasion to go to the Turkish headquarters and saw Mustapha Kemal who informed him he didn't recognise him as British Consul and more or less took a very high handed line.

On being asked if he could guarantee the safety of our Nationals he replied he was "taking no steps with regard to them until tomorrow night". Naturally this looks ugly and is a difficult problem for the Commander in Chief as it is almost as good as saying we are at war. What can we do? Nothing. We could blow Smyrna up but we shouldn't achieve anything and any British Nationals we can't get off between now and that happening would be let in for anything. We are going to try and get them all off by tomorrow afternoon but if the Turks are playing dirty I am afraid when they see them congregating may start killing and prevent them from coming to the congregation spot which is by the two torpedo boat destroyer moored to the quay. What can we do? The torpedo boat destroyers can fire but it is no use. The only hope is they may not realise this. So it becomes the game of

[79] The Oxford English Dictionary, defines concentration camp as: a camp where non-combatants of a district are accommodated, such as those instituted by Lord Kitchener during the South African war of 1899-1902; one for the internment of political prisoners, foreign nationals, etc. These words should be enough to send a chill through the spine and regrettably a British idea though it is doubtful we could have ever envisaged the type of horror these camps would cause under Hitler's regime.

bluff. At 09:00 tomorrow the Chief of Staff[80] and I personally will present Mustapha Kemal with a letter from the Commander in Chief demanding a written statement of his idea on British-Kemalist relations and his intentions. I am looking forward to it very much because out of curiosity sake I want to see him. I hope he doesn't do the dirty on us and hold us as hostages.

One thing is a relief and that is the French who are working hand in hand now and their Admiral[81] has assured the Commander in Chief that should Kemal say war he will inform him that it includes France as well. Half the trouble is with Lloyd George and his bally prose. Ever since we've been here his bombastic statements have been in the W/T news, saying how:

1. The Greeks would never be allowed to leave Anatolia
2. The Government would now allow this and that
3. Force would be taken etc.

All jolly fine but none of these can be supported unless we are prepared to have a war. But in the meantime no help of intentions from home are forthcoming but the Turks take in all these wild statements and naturally enough act accordingly. Goodnight. G.

Wednesday 13 September 1922

Today has been full of events. The note was duly delivered but unfortunately I didn't go in the end. So missed seeing Mustapha. From all accounts it gave him rather a nasty shock, as anyhow for the time being he is anxious to try and improve his relationship with us. Anyhow for the moment all is well in-so-much that we are not at war.

For the whole day we have been embarking our Nationals who wanted to leave – as from intelligence it is quite apparent that the Turks have

[80] Commodore Barry E. Domvile, Chief of Staff of the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet.
[81] Admiral Dumesnil.

designs on re-crossing Gallipoli into Thrace to follow on the Greeks. This means crossing the neutral zone and we are to prevent it.

However, at about 16:00 a fire which had been quite a small one began to spread and is now raging. The most colossal sight I have ever seen, it extends about half a mile in the middle of the town. Fortunately, there is little wind and it spreads lengthways of the town but if it shifts it will burn the whole place. From our point of view it may be a blessing as most of our Nationals were off and now the rest have come. If the Consulate is burnt we can evacuate that and so the whole town without any questioning. Of course, though, it is dreadful. The streets which have been full of the war refugees are now being filled up with town refugees. A big panic and some shooting. The French and Italians who rather sniggered I think at our early evacuation are feeling hard put as they have about 5000 each, suddenly thrown upon their hands; no ships and no food. It is said that the fire which started in the Armenian quarter was started by the Turks who barricaded it beforehand and then set light to it, in order to hide the remains of a small 2000 massacre which took place yesterday. However, they let it go too far.

Really I think this will be the finale to Smyrna. I expect we shall be off tomorrow to the Dardanelles to organise our operations, if necessary, against the Turks. Some fortnight, goodnight, love Gerald.

Thursday 14 September 1922

Too tired to write more than a line after I finished off my line of last night because the fire got worse and it became an inferno. It broke through to the front and another one at the opposite end blocked about three quarters of mile of front. I cannot and do not want to go into details, suffice to say that the front was where the refugees were. I am confident that although the authorities never meant it to perhaps go so far, it was an act of fanatic incendiarism. Many authentic accounts are of seeing kerosene being poured into the street; the fire was only in the European and Armenian quarters. At 01:00 this

appalling state of affairs was so ghastly that the Commander in Chief ordered in all boats to save who we could (all our own were now safely off by 21:00. I went in the barge. I cannot describe what I saw, but my convictions are I feel not far wrong. You don't see horses or mules walking about with a blaze on their backs and black smoke for some considerable time without supposing there was some ulterior reason for such a phenomenon. I feel I have said too much now. Adding to all this until daylight the wind was off shore and so fanning the fire onto the road. Thank God it shifted round the opposite way at 05:00 and so eased matters. We saved 2000 a mere cipher of the total. Fed them in various ships and chartered our last two merchant ships and packed them off to Greece. It is a relief to feel we just did something. I was thankful to leave such an awful sight. The fire was still raging but the Turks were getting out all the refugees and I hope that tonight won't repeat such a "hell" as last night. Goodnight my darlings. One lives and learns but I never could have imagined such a "devilish" state of affairs which I believe to have been intentionally produced. Of course, officially it could never be proved and so little will be said, that is why I have just roughed it out. Excuse my adjectives, but they are really the only ones that can apply. Very weary, but fit and happy.

Not saying much to B because I couldn't write to her on such a subject to I leave it to you to say what you like. All my love. G. Preparing scenery and stage for props for Act 3. Will it ever be performed?

Friday 15 September 1922 – Chanak[82], Constantinople.

It is ever such a relief to get free of Smyrna and also a fresher feeling in the air. It is at best a stuffy hole. We arrived at 08:00 this morning and

[82] After the Turkish troops defeated the Greek forces and recaptured Smyrna they threatened to attack British and French troops stationed near Chanak to guard the Dardanelles neutral zone. French forces pulled out from their positions near Dardanelles, but the British seemed prepared to hold their ground. The British government issued a request for military support from its colonies but the response was poor and only New Zealand agreed to help. The French leaving the British on the straits signalled that the Allies were unwilling to intervene on the side of Greece. The Greek and French troops withdrew beyond the Meriç River.

conferred with the General. Sent all hands ashore to dig trenches and put up barbed wire. In the afternoon did a staff ride round, I must say being a sailor I was not impressed with the ease with which the plan can be held unless there will be plenty of time to improve trenches and wiring. The latter is very scanty and against cavalry which is all the Turks can fit up for three weeks, useless. However, the soldiers say it's alright. Easy if they aren't attacked before arrival of Sussex Regiment on Sunday. Certainly from our point of view it's good. We can anchor big ships and destroyers in ideal places and sweep the plain and entrances. The Turks are reported just outside the neutral zone line! I cannot believe they are going to be such fools as if they get Chanak they cannot cross and nor can they hold up the Dardanelles. Our first move is if they cross the neutral line to collect every boat of any description from Constantinople to Hellas [Greece]. Not a hard job as they have got no navy.

The only other place for the Turks to have a go for Constantinople is at the Ismid end. This I don't see how they can begin inside four weeks and then the campaigning season is over. Anyhow it is all very interesting. We arrive in Constantinople 06:00 tomorrow so this scrawl will be posted off. I hope my letters have been turning up. I'm afraid they have been very slow of late. Don't worry if they don't come regularly as we shall be very busy whatever happens. With heaps of love to all, ever your loving son, Gerald."

On 30 June 1929 he rose to the position of Commander and became a Captain on 31 December 1936. He commanded HMS Tartar a tribal class Royal Navy Destroyer from 27 February 1938 to 13 October 1939. The ship got the nickname "Lucky Tartar" because although she had problems and misfortunes and faced periods of intense danger she seemed to survive every event. When war was declared on 1 September 1939, the ship was assigned to the monotonous routine of fleet screening, interspersed with high speed runs to search out U-boat contacts. During his command on the 14 Sep 1939 the British steam merchant ship Fanad Head was torpedoed whilst plying its way between Canada and Britain loaded with grain. It was sunk by a

German U-boat 200 miles west of the Hebrides; the Tartar collected the whole crew of 42 with no fatalities.

He married Marie Dorothy Vere Chamberlain only child of Laurence Beaumont Chamberlain and Dorothy Worthington of 73 Eaton Square, London SW1 in 1932.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Harman Warner

On 16 August 1941 he was sent to HMS Mercury as commander. This was a shore establishment and a Royal Navy Signals School transferred from Portsmouth to Petersfield in Hampshire during the Second World War.

He retired in 1946 and lived out the remainder of his life in the County of his birth.[83]

[83] Gerald Harman Warner died in 1979 in Sevenoaks followed by his wife in 1993.

Chapter 14

The Warner Family – Part 3

David Basil Harman Warner

He was the youngest child of the family born 13 May 1902 in Tonbridge. He followed his brothers to Tonbridge School and Trinity College, Oxford.

The reasons for the passing of the first Emergency Powers Act arose during the First World War. When war broke out a “state of national emergency” was declared, the first since the Napoleonic wars a hundred years before. Within days of the outbreak of war parliament passed the 1914 Defence of the Realm Act (popularly known as DORA). The Act enabled the government to make regulations for “securing the public safety and the defence of the realm”'. Immediately a series of Regulations were issued. Some were patently ludicrous, prohibiting dog-shows and regulating the supply of cocaine to actresses. Others included six months in prison for spreading false rumours, and the detention of people of alleged “hostile origin or association”. The Regulations made under DORA were due to lapse when hostilities were officially declared to have ended; however, the government and various state agencies were keen to retain the key powers afforded by DORA for more permanent use.

The period immediately after the war challenged the authority of the ruling class, and in 19l9 the first draft of a national emergency plan was prepared for the supply and transport system. Before DORA expired the Emergency Powers Act was brought in, which was to “make exceptional provisions for the protection of the community in case of emergency”. The government was empowering itself with special sanctions in cases of major strikes, civil disorders and pre-revolutionary situations.

The 1920 Act was first invoked in 1921. The government was planning to decontrol the mines and railways in 1921. The coal industry was making heavy losses and owners argued that wage cuts were needed. On 31 March 1921, the day of transfer, the miners were locked out. The Triple Alliance of unions comprising miners, railwaymen and transport workers called a sympathy strike but on "Black Friday", 15 April 1921, they refused. This resulted in the end of the unions' Triple Alliance. The Lloyd George government had declared a state of emergency due to the threat of strike and had dispatched troops to working-class areas.

In Tonbridge David Warner joined the 4th Royal West Kent Defence Force on 10 April 1921. He was eventually discharged on 5 July 1921 by post with a copy of a letter from 10 Downing Street signed by David Lloyd George:

> *"I have much pleasure in personally thanking you and in conveying to you the thanks of my colleagues for the services you have rendered during the recent national emergency.*
>
> *The readiness which you and other have shewn in coming forward to defend the public was an effectual guarantee for the maintenance of law and order, and for the preservation of the people from threatened privation and misery; it will be remembered with gratitude by all sections of the community.*
>
> *I trust that no further demand will have to be made on your services. If, however, a fresh necessity should arise, I feel sure you will respond with no less public spirit and zeal than you have shown during the past crisis."*

As membership diminished, unions experienced a period of consolidation. An important centralising development took place when the General Council of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) was formed in 1921 as a result of Black Friday, promoting cooperation between unions. Individual unions retained a large degree of autonomy.

In January 1924, Ramsay MacDonald formed a Labour government with Liberal support. Despite Labour's links with the unions, within a few days there was an extensive dockworkers strike, followed by a tram workers strike. A settlement was worked out, but not before the government had considered invoking the Emergency Powers Act.

The General Strike of 1926 lasted nine days, from 3 May 1926 to 12 May 1926. It was called in an unsuccessful attempt to force the government to act to prevent wage reduction and worsening conditions for coal miners. The British coal-mining industry suffered an economic crisis in 1925. The heavy usage of coal in World War I domestically meant that rich seams were depleted during this time. This combined with the fact that Britain was unable to export as it would have done in times of peace, allowed other countries to fill the gap left by Britain. In particular the United States, Poland and Germany benefited from this.

Mine owners therefore announced their intention to reduce miners' wages, and the TUC responded to this news by promising to support the miners in their dispute. The Conservative government decided to intervene, declaring that they would provide a nine-month subsidy to maintain the miners' wages and that a Royal Commission under the chairmanship of Sir Herbert Samuel would look into the problems of the mining industry. This decision became known as "Red Friday" because it was seen as a victory for working-class solidarity. In practice, the subsidy gave the mine owners and the Government time to prepare for a major labour dispute.

The Samuel Commission was published in March 1926 and in its pages recognised that the industry needed to be reorganised but rejected the suggestion of nationalisation. The report also recommended that the Government subsidy should be withdrawn and that the miners' wages should be reduced in order to save the industry's profitability. A previous Royal Commission, the Sankey Commission, had recommended nationalisation a few years earlier to deal with the

problems of productivity and profitability in the industry, but the then Prime Minister, Lloyd George, had rejected its report.

As a result of the report miners saw their average seven hour day increased to eight hours with a 10% cut in pay. When the miners went on strike in the hope of improving their lot the mine owners locked them out of the mines in the hope that starvation would bring them to their senses. Unfortunately, for the mine owners, the TUC called for a general strike as a response.

The protestors came from many groups of workers apart from the miners: transport workers, printers and builders all of which trades had a strong foothold in the economy of Kent. The unions in Kent were almost completely unprepared to strike, including those in Tonbridge. By contrast the government called upon the army and special constables. This "militia" of special constables was called the Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies (OMS). They were volunteers to maintain order in the street and to guard middle-class volunteers who helped to break the strike by driving public transport and supplies and recruitment started in September 1925. Suspicious that a general strike may be called the Government also gathered stocks of oil, milk and coal.

It could be argued that the general strike was an exercise in futility as the Government won the day. They used the radio to spread propaganda against the strike and refused to allow the strikers a right of reply using the same media. The increasing ownership of motor cars also played a part because it allowed many people to go to work without being dependent on public transport. The volunteers who helped to break the strike were not skilled workers and four people were killed and 35 injured in train crashes. A special constable said: "It was not difficult to understand the strikers' attitude toward us. After a few days I found my sympathy with them rather than with the employers. For one thing, I had never realized the appalling poverty which existed. If I had been aware of all the facts, I should not have

joined up as a special constable".[84] It was decided that Fascists would not be allowed to enlist in the OMS without first giving up their political beliefs as the government feared a right-wing backlash so the fascists formed Q Division under Rotha Lintorn-Orman to combat the strikers.

In Tonbridge Miss Mary Gorham threw open the doors of the club rooms at St. Eanswythe's Mission for the benefit of the men on strike. In the Tonbridge Free Press she claimed that this was not a political statement or act but merely to help the men during this difficult time. Large numbers used the rooms to get meals and drinks supplied at cost, to play board games, read and listen to music. Miss Gorham also arranged a concert the proceeds of which were given to the Strike Distress Fund.

Once again David Warner volunteered to maintain the peace and was issued with an armlet and a truncheon for the purpose. Few references to the special constables survive and they were recruited from a very mixed bag of trades and professions. They were reviled by the strikers, even more than the regular police. Over 5,000 people were arrested and over a thousand people were imprisoned. On the whole, however, relations between strikers and normal police, as opposed to the middle-class volunteer special constables, were generally good-natured.

At the end of the strike, on 17 May 1926, the Chief Constable of Kent, Major H.E. Chapman sent this letter out to all the Head Special Constables of each parish who then passed a copy on to each volunteer:

> *"The general strike having ended, orders have been issued to the effect that the Special Constabulary will be relieved of further duty from today.*

[84] British Gazette 5 May 1926

The value of the Special Constabulary throughout the recent emergency can scarcely be overrated. To labour this facet is unnecessary.

It remains for me, therefore, only to express my high appreciation of the manner in which the Force has responded to the call of duty, and to assure all ranks that their action has been of inestimable value to the country and their brothers in the regular constabulary."

The Head Special Constable for the Tonbridge Parish, George Johnson, said in his postscript:

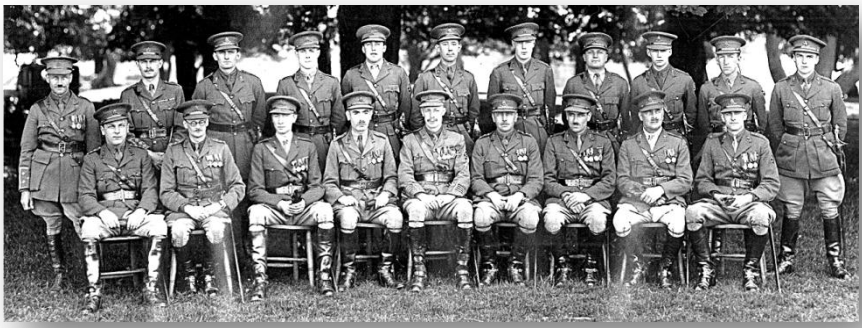
"May I also add my own thanks for the splendid way in which all responded to the call for a job that was so necessary yet very irksome in its performance".

He requested the armlets and truncheons to be returned just in case they were needed again. The Government also gave thanks by supplying each volunteer with a certificate of service signed by Stanley Baldwin the Prime Minister and William Joynson-Hicks the Home Secretary.

By the end of the strike food prices had risen by 50%, the TUC were forced to accept the Government's compromise, whilst being portrayed as traitors. The miners that began the proceedings continued to strike for another seven months but by the end of November most miners were back at work. However, many were victimised and remained unemployed for many years. Those that were employed were forced to accept longer hours, lower wages, and district wage agreements.

In 1927, the British Government passed the Trade Disputes and Trade Union Act. This act made all sympathetic strikes illegal, and ensured that trade union members had to voluntarily "contract in" to pay the political levy. It also forbade Civil service unions from affiliating with the TUC, and made mass picketing illegal. The effect on the British

coal-mining industry was profound. By the late 1930s, employment in mining had fallen by more than one-third from its pre-strike peak of 1.2m miners, but productivity had rebounded from under 200 tons produced per miner to over 300 tons by the outbreak of the Second World War.



97th (Kent Yeomanry) Field Brigade R.A. training camp at Arundel 17 to 31 May 1931 – David Basil Harman Warner seated front row far left

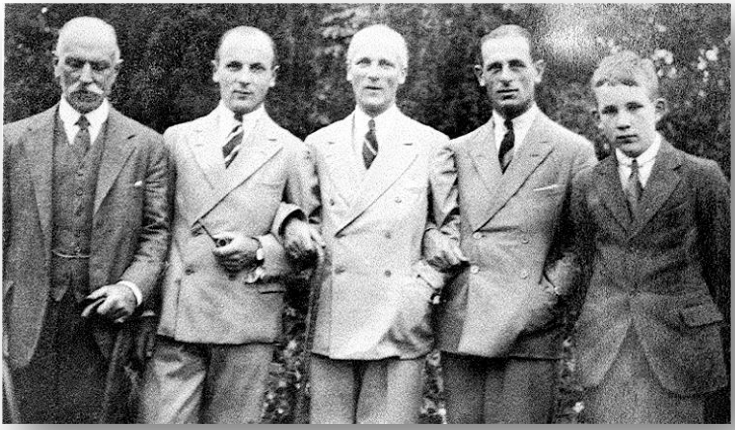
On 21 November 1936 he announced his engagement in The Times to Agneta Joan Campbell[85] of The Forge, Underriver, the elder daughter of Mr. Ronald George Campbell[8687] and Ivy Maud Meredith, although the marriage did not take place until April 1947 because war intervened.

[85] Agneta Joan Campbell was living at The Forge, Underriver when the couple got engaged in 1936. She was born on 10 April 1913 at Chorlton, Lancashire and died in Maidstone in 1981.

[86] Ronald George Campbell was born 4 September 1878 at 59 Onslow Gardens, London SW and baptised 10 October 1878 at Chelsea Presbyterian Church, Belgrave the son of William Middleton Campbell a West Indies Merchant and owner of the Colgrain and Carnis Eskan estates in Scotland and Edith Agneta Bevan. Edith was born in Brighton circa 1850 the daughter of Robert Cooper Lee Bevan a partner in Barclay, Bevan and Tritton's Bank (later known as Barclays Bank Plc) and founded of the London Banks' Prayer Union in 1878 and Lady Agneta Elizabeth Yorke sister of the Earl of Hardwicke. Later Robert Cooper Lee Bevan married again to Emma Frances Shuttleworth who wrote hymnals to be used in the Church of England.

[87] On the death of Ivy Maud Meredith, Ronald George Campbell was living at Pickhurst Manor in Hayes and he married again on 26 June 1929 to his neighbour's daughter from Wickhurst Place, Mary Grace Hallam Lennard.

Even before his father's death in 1937 David begins to assume the duties his father once had. The Law Journal of January 1937 records that he was appointed the Registrar of Tonbridge in succession to his father who had retired. This was a post his father had assumed on the death of his own father George Daniel Warner.



Charles Edward Warner, David Basil Harman Warner, Kenneth Charles Harman Warner, Gerald Harman Warner and Kenneth's son John Kenneth Warner all at Coldharbour Park, Hildenborough circa 1936

On 20 April 1937 he records the last days of his father to the Law Fire Insurance Society Limited "Thank you for your letter of the 13th instant and for your very kind sympathy. In think I had told you that Father had more or less given up work at the end of last summer, but had hoped that he would have been able to enjoy a certain amount of leisure. Unfortunately his heart got steadily worse and towards the end was finding it rather irksome. I should like to continue the Agency which has been with my Father for so many years, and if it is all the same to you I would suggest that it would be better to put it into the firm's name rather than into my individual name, but this I leave to you to adopt whichever course is best." The agency was adopted in the name of the firm.

Kelly's Director of Tonbridge in the following year shows that he had acquired quite a few other positions:

Commissioner for Oaths
Registrar of Tonbridge and Sevenoaks County Courts
Clerk to the Justices of the Tonbridge Division
Clerk to the Commissioner of Taxes and Land Tax Commissioners

In April 1941 he added the clerkship to the Magistrates of Tonbridge Petty Sessional Division.

In 1936 John Kenneth Warner, son of Kenneth Warner had written to his grandfather asking for a place in the family business. His grandfather was cordial but firm in his reply saying that John could not expect a place to be automatically offered to him because his last name was Warner. Provided his Oxford law degree was good enough and his fellow partners approved then the matter could be considered but that he had to attain his degree and complete his articles before they consider offering him a place.

In August 1941, David Warner composed a letter to be sent to everyone with an interest in the firm:

> *"As you probably know, I have been away from my office on military service since August 1939 and have consequently been unable to give the necessary personal attention to my client's affairs and although I made the best arrangements I could for the practice to be carried on during my absence this fact has worried me very much.*
>
> *The position is that I am now liable to be sent overseas again at short notice and it is obviously impossible for me to say when I am likely to return. Further, my partner, Mr. Godfrey Higginson Skrine, left six months ago to serve in the Royal Navy.*

I have therefore decided that the time has come when some definite and more permanent step must be taken to secure, so far as possible, the continuity of my firm and the interests of its clients. With this end, in view I have effected an amalgamation of Messrs. Warner, Son and Brydone with Messrs. Stenning, Knocker and Company, of this town.

This arrangement will date from the 1 September 1941. For the time being, each firm will continue at its present office but later Messrs. Stenning, Knocker & Company will move to 180 High Street at which address the combined practice will be carried on. The firm name will be Messrs. Warner, Knocker & Soady.

Messrs. Stenning, Knocker and Company, whose present partners are Mr. John Cowper Knocker and Mr. John Harold Soady have been established in Tonbridge for very many years and I am confident that the fusion of these two old firms will achieve my desired object. I very much hope therefore that in spite of this necessary change you will feel that your association with my firm remains unbroken."

The deed of amalgamation was made the 31 December 1941 providing for return of staff members at the cessation of hostilities to include John Kenneth Warner who had already begun his articles with the firm when he was called up to serve in the armed forces.

Although the war in Europe did not officially finish until June 1945 the writing was already on the wall in April so much so that the Law Society wrote to Warner, Knocker & Soady asking them if they will continue the articles of John Warner. They confirmed so.

On 6 June 1945, John Warner wrote to Mr. Knocker:

"VE Day having come and gone – I hope amusingly in Tonbridge! – and the prospects of demobilisation looking quite good I thought I would write to you about the future with special

reference to the firm – and, if you will accept me back, the possibility of my returning to it.

I reckon that if all goes well and the demobilisation scheme works out as expected I should be out of the army by the end of January 1946 and fully qualified towards the end of 1946. These dates of course cannot be regarded as firm 100%, but they seem very probable.

I intend, as soon as I escape from the khaki machine to sit down and cram for my finals - doing this probably at home at Lincoln and to take the exam just as soon as the Law Society will let me. This much I can do for myself but the next step depends a great deal on you. There is nothing, I should like to do better, than return to the firm. What are the chances of this being possible?

The financial aspects of it would of course have to be considered nearer the time – but I feel that the general principle of the thing may shortly become, or indeed may now be, an immediate question. It would be very kind of you indeed, if sometime you could let me know what you feel about the matter.

I am off this afternoon to take command of a camp of 13,500 mixed Russian soldiers and displaced persons – so am anticipating a lot of quiet fun in the next few days! I'm afraid though that their knowledge of the subjects of crime and tort leaves much to be desired though I gather that in many cases their practice of them is more than adequate!"

John Knocker responded kindly by welcoming him back and added:

"I should have expected that the "fun" from 13,500 Russians etc., would be anything but "quiet". After you have been in charge of them for a short time your knowledge of "crime" is likely to be considerably increased."

On 15 December 1945, Colonel David Warner wrote to Mr. Knocker from his address in Drury Lane, Lincoln to let Mr. Knocker know that he wanted to return to the firm because so many clients were bound up in him as a trustee. His proposed a new agreement whereby Mr. Soady would continue as the Coroner's Registrar, David would do the Police Court and Mental Deficiency work and Mr. Knocker to head the private practice work.

On 2 January 1946, David Warner was back in Hildenborough staying with his mother at Bassetts Cottage. Mr. Knocker having been somewhat resistant to his return, David decided to write to Mr. Soady instead. He writes, "For the moment, becoming purely personal, I live in the neighbourhood and due to circumstances, I am known by a large number of people. Goodwill can never be really sold but it sticks to a person and I am, therefore, a source of business. I am owed a considerable sum of money, and this has caused some argument already and the situation cannot be said to be entirely satisfactory to either of us. The original documents were prepared in a hurry and, as far as I was concerned at any rate, were not drawn up with all that "due care and attention" which they deserved.

He went to propose turning the clock back to the status of 1941 and re-amalgamate the firms with three partners. Then, turning his attention briefly to John Warner, he adds, "He is articled to me and does not become eligible for joining a firm for about a year". He proposed to leave John's employment out of the equation until he had passed his finals.

Mr. Soady sent an olive branch on the 29 August 1946 welcoming John into the firm after he and his partner had been in discussion with Kenneth Warner, John's father. After twelve months of clerkship, he was to be offered a partnership. John passed his finals in November 1946.

Eventually a new partnership emerged although notably in 1946 no new partnership deed was signed. By 1948, the partners were

squabbling about their interests in the firm. John had paid £745 for a fifth share in a partnership that really did not exist. By 1949, the matter had been sent to counsel for an opinion.

On 26 July 1948 David wrote to his fellow partners:

> *"Dear Mr. Knocker, I wish to give you and Mr. Soady six months notice, as required by our partnership, of my wish to retire at the expiration of that period."*

This letter was sent in order to dissolve the partnership between these specific lawyers and not because DBHW wanted to retire from the profession.

In 1944, John Soady had agreed that John Knocker should only work in the mornings from Monday to Friday and not at all on Saturdays. By 1949, John Knocker was 81 years old and indicated that as he was taking an ever-decreasing role in the firm he wanted to retire. John Soady had many roles outside the firm including the Tonbridge Poor Persons Committee and his work at the firm was falling progressively behind with the result that a number of matrimonial cases due to be dealt with by him had been outstanding for a number of years. Despite letters from various quarters including the Lord Chancellor's office urging that these matters be dealt with it had no effect. David and John Warner felt that the firm would in grave danger of being held to condone John Soady's inertia and the firm's good reputation be considerably damaged thereby. Eventually unable to repel the pressure from his partners any longer John Soady sent a letter of resignation on 12 December 1949. He wished to continue with his public appointments and from 1 January 1950 would practice at 111 High Street alone and David and John Warner would practice together at 180 High Street under the style of Messrs. Warner & Knocker.

Sadly, John Knocker never had a chance to enjoy his retirement as he died on August 1950. In 1955, his name was dropped from the firm's title and the firm became Warners.

In 1951 David became the President of The Tunbridge Wells and District Law Society and moved to Bowshots, Underriver. He died at home in 1979.

John Kenneth Warner

He was the eldest child of Kenneth Charles Harman Warner and Constance Margaret Hills born on 29 December 1916. His three siblings were all girls. The tragic death of Elynth Constantia Warner repeated itself when John's eldest sister Mary Elnyth Lennox Warner died 1920 at only one year old.

The Reconnaissance Corps more simply known as Recce Corps were an elite band of men of the British Army whose duties were to provide a mobile spearhead of infantry divisions from the Far East to Europe during the Second World War.

Originally the 3rd Recce Regiment was part of the 23rd (Northumbrian) Division raised in October 1939. They were sent to France on 22 April 1940 on labour and training duties but without any artillery, signals or administration. As a result on 20 May 1940 the Division suffered heavy losses in attempting to delay the German advance through France at Arras. After being rescued at Dunkirk the Regiment was disbanded for a time due to the number of casualties.

It was reformed on 14 January 1941 under the divisional command of Major General Thomas Rennie. All the brigade reconnaissance groups of each infantry corps were formed into reconnaissance battalions, each usually bearing the number of its relevant Division thus on 30 April 1942 they were renamed the 3rd Recce Battalion. However from June 1942 the Corps changed to the cavalry descriptions of regiments, squadrons and troops and so another name change was necessary to 3rd Recce Regiment. They became part of the Royal Armoured Corps (R.A.C.) in 1944 whilst still maintaining their own cap badge with two

lightning strikes supporting an upright spear were renamed again on 1 January 1944 the 3rd Reece Regiment R.A.C. By the end of the war the greater number of reconnaissance units were no longer required and so the Regiment was disbanded in 1946 and reconnaissance duties reverted to the regular armoured units of the R.A.C.

The Reconnaissance Corps were charged with gathering vital tactical information in battle for infantry divisions, probing ahead and screening the flanks of main advances. Although the corps was raised from various regular army units, it did not follow that all men would be retained. All entrants were required to take an intelligence test and perform well on training manoeuvres before being accepted. Those who failed were transferred to the ordinary infantry battalions. Reconnaissance regiments were organised into a headquarters squadron (including anti-tank, signals and mortar troops) and usually three reconnaissance squadrons. Each recce squadron comprised three scout troops and an assault troop. Scout troops were equipped with Light Reconnaissance Cars (an L.R.C.) such as the Humber Light Reconnaissance Car and with Bren carriers. The assault troop comprised infantry who moved about the fields of battle in lorry loads and were placed where enemy resistance was strong.

After the evacuation at Dunkirk, what remained of the 3rd Reece Corps was incorporated into the 3rd Infantry Division which was also known as the 3rd Mechanised Division affectionately known as “Iron Sides”. They spent four years training preparing their return to France whilst stationed at Langholm, Dumfriesshire at beginning of 1944. They embarked for Normandy in June 1944 and fought in the Invasion of Normandy and throughout the campaign in North-West Europe. The Division was the first British division to land at Sword Beach on D-Day and fought through to the Netherlands and later the invasion of Germany. For the campaign in Normandy, the division was commanded by Major General Thomas Rennie until 13 June 1944. One week after D-Day Rennie was wounded so Montgomery called for

Major General Lashmer Gordon Whistler[88] and gave him the command of the division as an acting major-general. John Warner was a Lieutenant Colonel in Whistler's Division in charge of the 3rd Recce Regiment R.A.C. together with Lt-Col. E. H. D. Grimley, Lt-Col. E. L. Bols and Lt-Col. H. H. Merriman, D.S.O., M.C., T.D. From the Normandy landings on 6 June 1944 they fought in land to Caen between 4 to 18 July, on to Bourguebus Ridge on the 18-23 July, and Mont Pincon between 30 July and 9 August. By the 17 September they had reached The Nederrijn. On 8 February 1945 they were sent to the Rhineland where they remained until disbanded in 1946.

On 17 January 1946 Field Marshal B L Montgomery wrote a secret and personal letter to John Warner:

"Dear Warner

To meet the effects of the release scheme, it has become necessary to reduce the number of units in this theatre.

It is with the greatest regret that I have now to inform you that I have decided to disperse the regiment under your command. I know that this will be a great disappointment to you all, but I am sure that you and all your officers and men will realise that I would not have taken this step had it not been essential.

Official instructions are being issued as usual through my staff.

Yours sincerely
B. L. Montgomery
Field Marshal"

[88] Sir Lashmer Gordon Whistler was born on 3 September 1898 the son of Colonel A.E. Whistler of the British Indian Army and his wife Florence Annie Gordon Rivett-Carnac, daughter of Charles Forbes Rivett-Carnac. He was a popular commander with his men and renown for sending a message to Brigade Headquarters whilst under constant bombardment on the Belgian border "Please may I have half a Hurricane for half an hour". He achieved senior ranking serving with Field Marshal Montgomery in North Africa and Europe, and became a full general after the war. Montgomery considered that "He was about the best infantry brigade Commander I knew". He died 4 July 1963.

Hot on the heels of this letter came one from Major General Edward Temple Leigh Gurdon, C.B.E., M.C. Commander of 49 (West Riding) Infantry Division of the British Army of the Rhine:

"My dear Warner

The disbandment of 3 Recce Regt is now rapidly drawing to a close and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you and all ranks of your fine unit for your cheerful and willing co-operation in all the activities of this Division, since you first came under my command.

It is indeed sad to see the disintegration of a unit with a war record, high morale and esprit de corps and magnificent standard of sport such as your unit has got and I can feel for you all in the breaking up of that spirit of comradeship and endeavour which has made the name of your Regiment what it is.

I would therefore like, on behalf of 49 Division to wish you, your officers, warrant officers, NCOs and men God Speed and Good Luck in whatever the future hold in store for you.

Yours sincerely

E.T.L. Gurdon"

Finally, on 3 February 1946 Whistler writes from the Headquarters of the 3rd British Infantry Division M.E.F.:

"Dear John

I am sending you this special message in the belief that you are breaking up soon.

If not do not publish until later.

We have heard of your football exploits. Delighted.

The 15/19th you will be glad to hear are proving worthy successors.

Yours ever

L.G. Whistler"

Before his return to Britain John Warner received another exciting message from the Headquarters of the 49 (WR) Infantry Divisions at Neheim:

"The Belgian Government has awarded you the Chevalier of the Order of Leopold II with Palm and Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm – Class 4 in recognition of your gallant and distinguished services in the 1944 campaign that led to the liberation of Belgium."

"His Majesty the King has granted you unrestricted permission to accept and wear this decoration. The Divisional Commander sends his congratulations."

Appendix 2

Constitution of Warners

Bowdlers

1785	Thomas Bowdler

Lingards

1797	George Lingard

Lingard & Carnell

1814	George Lingard
	John Carnell
1829	John Carnell

Carnell & Gorham

1841	John Carnell
	William Gorham
1857	John Carnell
	William Gorham
	George Daniel Warner

Gorham & Warner

1863	William Gorham
	George Daniel Warner
1882	George Daniel Warner
	Edwin John Gorham
1884	George Daniel Warner
1887	George Daniel Warner
	Charles Edward Warner
1903	Charles Edward Warner

Warner, Son & Brydone

1920	Charles Edward Warner
	Kenneth Charles Harman Warner
	Patrick Marr Brydone
1922	Charles Edward Warner
	Patrick Marr Brydone
1929	Charles Edward Warner
	Patrick Marr Brydone
	David Basil Harman Warner

1933	Charles Edward Warner
	David Basil Harman Warner
1937	David Basil Harman Warner

Warner, Knocker & Soady

1941	David Basil Harman Warner
	John Cowper Knocker
	John Harold Soady
1948	David Basil Harman Warner
	John Cowper Knocker
	John Harold Soady
	John Kenneth Warner
1950	David Basil Harman Warner
	John Cowper Knocker
	John Kenneth Warner

Warners

1950	David Basil Harman Warner
	John Kenneth Warner