



A Reproduction of the History of Warmsworth from
the Chairman's Message Booklet to Queen Elizabeth
II on her Coronation
June 2nd 1953

Chairman's Message to the Queen
on behalf of the people of the
Parish of Warmsworth

June 2nd, 1953

On this day, in common with the peoples of our vast Empire, our thoughts turn to the Coronation of Your Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to whom we of this Parish offer our loyalty and humble devotion. To the former Kings and Queens of our Empire we in this Parish, over the ages, have rendered loyal and devoted service. I am proud on this day to proclaim to Her Majesty, in the name of our people, a renewal of the pledge of loyal and devoted service. We wish for you a long, peaceful and prosperous reign.

God Save The Queen

Harald Ducker

Chairman
Warmsworth Parish Council





A SHORT HISTORY OF WARMSWORTH

Warmsworth is steeped in history as you can see by the map below, how our village has changed over the years and yet we can still enjoy the beauty of our proud heritage of the Old Village retaining its beauty of the past.



Whilst the earliest recorded mention of Warmsworth appears in the Domesday Book, there can be little doubt that long before this date, during the Roman Era, Warmsworth would be under the jurisdiction of the Commander of the Roman Camp, or Village, which was situated in Edlington Wood. The remains of this village are still in evidence, and one can well imagine this Roman encampment on the top of the hill, casting its shadow over the homes of the earliest inhabitants of what is now Warmsworth.

During the reign of William the Conqueror, Warmsworth became a feudal estate under the Manor of Hexthorpe, which was granted by William to his half-brother, Robert, Earl of Montaigne. He, subsequently, dealt his lands out to feudal retainers, one of whom, Nigel de Fossard, obtained lands and possessions of great importance in Doncaster and the surrounding districts, including Warmsworth. According to Miller, Nigel de Fossard had a hereditary right to these lands prior to the Conquest, owing allegiance only to the King of England.

It is mentioned in the Domesday Book, under the title of lands belonging to the Earl of Montaigne, "In Wormsford one ploughland, Balleby 2 ploughlands"; a ploughland being as much arable land as could be tilled in a year with one plough. Miller, in his "History of Doncaster" printed in 1804, also records that the same Nigel de Fossard, in this time of Henry I, gave to the monks of St Mary's Abbey at York, 5 Ox Gangs and one carucate, or ploughland, on the moors of Warmsworth. The probability is that the Abbey retained this plot in Warmsworth up to the Reformation;





but, in process of time, practically the whole of Warmsworth was acquired by Otto de Tilley, who was Steward of Doncaster and Steward to the Earl of Conisborough. This Otto de Tilley was the person who built the original Hall Cross in Doncaster. Tomlinson, in his book "Doncaster into Hallamshire," records that "No doubt this seneschal was subinfued to the Earl of Warren and after him the Newmarshes held the land by descent."

After the Newmarshes came the Hodsokes of Blyth, the Grendens and D'Eyvilles. The Manor was sold by one of the D'Eyvilles in 1451 to William Copley, of Sprotborough, one of whose descendents built Nether Hall. In the reign of Edward IV (1461/1483) the families of Scroopes were Lords of Warmsworth. This family was commemorated by an erection of their Coat of Arms in the old Parish Church of Doncaster, which was burnt down in 1853, and is believed to be the same family of Scroopes who afterwards came to such prominence in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Some of the family of Scroopes were also buried in the old Doncaster Parish Church.

During its long history the name of the village has changed from its original name, Wemesford, given in the Domesday Book, to Wormsford, and gradually, by slight changes, to the present Warmsworth. Tomlinson suggests that the "ford" indicated that part of the land extending to the river's edge, and the "Wemes" or "Worm" the warmest, or most sheltered, site in that area.

The foundation of the parish was in 1235 and its 700th centenary was celebrated. The parish register was commenced in 1594.



Ecclesiastical registers give records of Rectors since 1225 and it is reasonably certain that a Church has stood on the site of the one demolished, at any rate since that date. There is no direct evidence of the age of the last Church, but Kelly's Directory, 1889, speaks of a "modern building on the site". This "modern building" was enlarged: the north aisle and all the pillars were built at a cost of £358 in 1849; the loft early in the 18th century; the porch half-way through the 19th century, and the stone windows were also 19th century additions.

The present owner of Warmsworth Hall has in his possession, Land Conveyances dating back to the early fourteenth century which mention the old St.

Peter's Church, and also the road leading from Balby to Warmsworth at the side of the Church, thus shewing that not only was the Church in existence at that date, but also the present road. A peculiar feature of the ancient Church was its remoteness from the belfry which is situated in the Old Village of Warmsworth half-a-mile away. The belfry is now probably the oldest building in the Village. It has been



attributed to the Norman Era but more likely dates from the 13th Century.





There are many local legends giving reasons for it being built in this particular position. One is that various attempts were made to build a Church where the belfry now is but without success, for whatever masonry was laid in the day-time, fairies came by night and spirited away; so all attempts at removing the Church were abandoned.

Tomlinson is probably correct when he states that the Norman village of Warmsworth clustered round the old Church, but when the dwellings receded from that area the village gradually occupied the site of the present Old Village. When this occurred the tower was erected in the new village so that people could hear the church going bell.

Miller records this amusing anecdote:-

“A gentleman, from the neighbourhood of Doncaster happening to go to London, went one morning to see St. Paul’s Cathedral. The verger who conducted him, assumed more than the usual consequences of his order, and enlarged greatly upon the length, breadth, height and other particulars of the noble structure. Why, says the gentleman, it really deserves all the praise you have been bestowing upon it, but yet I must tell you we have a Church in Yorkshire which, though it may not be equal in breadth, or height to yours, is full twenty yards longer from one end to the other. Twenty yards longer! Says the astonished verger, and pray where is this extraordinary church? At Warmsworth, three miles from Doncaster, replies the stranger. Well, says the Verger, though I cannot go so far to look at it myself, yet I have a friend who is going to York in about a month, and I will make him promise me to view this Church, and bring me a minute account of its dimensions. Accordingly, at the time appointed, this friend came down, went over to Warmsworth, with his expectations highly raised, but, on seeing the distance of the steeple, and the bell in it, from the Church, laughed heartily at the jest which had been put on the simple verger by a Yorkshire bite.”

Apart from the belfry there are in the Village many buildings of ancient foundation, the most outstanding being the Hall itself. It is evident that there has been in existence a Manor of Warmsworth from at least the thirteenth century.

Of its more recent history the following facts are known:

In 1633 the Manor was sold by John Copley (a descendent, no doubt, of the William Copley mentioned earlier) to Thomas Bosville, who, it is believed, had a house in Warmsworth prior to this. It is known that Thomas Bosville was born in Warmsworth in 1585, and was baptised at Conisborough on the 23rd October 1607. He was a descendent of Robert de Bosville, Constable of the Castle of Conisborough in the reign of Richard II.





In the reign of Charles I (1625/1649) the Mansion was inhabited by John Vincent, and there is little doubt the remains of this Mansion comprised a part of the present Hall, or outbuildings, as they stood in 1945. This John Vincent's name is mentioned in the Ordnances of Parliament at that time as one of the Commissioners appointed, in the County of York, for raising money and forces under Lord Halifax.



Warmsworth descended to the Coheirs of Bosville, who on the 14th April 1648, sold it to John Battie of Wadworth, whose son probably built the present Hall in 1702 when he was 39 years of age. The son of this John Battie married the daughter, and heiress of Wm. Wrightson, of Cusworth, and took the surname Wrightson in 1761 (on the death of Wm Wrightson in 1760) and John Battie-Wrightson then probably moved to Cusworth, where he died in 1766. The Arms of Battie of Warmsworth are still in evidence on the present Hall.

In 1804, the Hall was occupied by Samuel Clowes who rented it from Wm. Wrightson of Cusworth. This Samuel Clowes was a Major in the Volunteers in 1803 under the command of Lt. Col. Wrightson and in 1828 it was occupied by Francis Offley Edmunds.

About 1882 the Hall was occupied by Lady Charlotte Fitzwilliam, sister of the Earl of Fitzwilliam and some of the parents of the present older members of Warmsworth were employed by this lady.

Through Warmsworth Hall we have a lasting memorial of the association of the Village with the Battie-Wrightson family, and through another ancient house, the White House, we have the Village association with the Warde-Aldam family. This house is reputed to have been the ancestral home of the Warde Aldams and from its architecture must indeed date back many centuries. The great association with the Aldams is through the Friends' Meeting House which was built in 1706 by Thomas Aldam, Jr., the son of George Fox's noted coadjutor, who was also a Minister of the community of the Quakers.

George Fox, the celebrated Quaker, and his friends, held their meetings in the Friends' Meeting House when their sect first came into being, and Thomas Aldam was a very ardent worker for the cause. The cemetery attached to the Chapel contains the bodies of many Friends and the Donor himself was buried there in 1722.



According to John Tomlinson, the house where some of the ancient Aldams lived stood exactly opposite to the Meeting House.





. It is not known whether this house is the present Warmsworth House or whether it is the house which stood on this same site. It is by Miller that "George Fox and his Friends were greatly persecuted by the Parish Priest at Warmsworth, 'and being driven away' they were removed to Balby, where they assembled occasionally for some years as the zeal or moderation of the times would permit, until a convenient building for the purpose together with a burial place was provided. This accomplished the Meetings have regularly been continued there to within a few years past, when they were removed to Doncaster." The meetings at Balby are reputed to have been held in the farm yard of a farm which stood on the site now occupied by Dr. Ward's house at the junction of Cross Street and Springwell Lane. This house was pulled down about 1928. The Friends' Meeting House in West Laithe Gate, Doncaster, therefore, superseded the Warmsworth Quaker Meeting House though occasional meetings are still held at Warmsworth, (presently now a private residence).



This Thomas Aldam was one of the first prisoners to be kept in York Castle, following a warrant procured by the Priest of Warmsworth, being there for two-and-a-half years from 1652. Tomlinson said he was fined £40 0s. 0d. at the Assize for appearing before the Judge with his hat on and saying "Thee" and "Thou" to him. He wrote several small works in defence of truth and his son published a testimony about him in 1690. After several representations to Cromwell about the sufferings of the Quakers. Thomas and his Friends visited most of the prisons in England to collect evidence which he personally laid before Cromwell. When Cromwell still refused to intervene, Aldam took off his cap and tore it into pieces forecasting "So shall thy Government be rent and thee and thy house."

Miller speaks at some length on this matter as follows:

"In the year of 1660, our yearly meeting was held at Balby, in a great orchard of John Kilham's, where it was supposed some thousands of people and friends were gathered together. In the morning I heard a troop of horse was sent for from York to break up our meeting; and that the militia, newly raised, were to join them. I went into the meeting and stood up upon a great stool, and after I had spoken some time, two trumpeters came sounding their trumpets pretty near to me, and the captain of the troop cried, "Divide to the right and left and make way." Then they rode up to me, I was declaring the everlasting truth, and the word of life in the mighty power of the Lord. The captain bid me come down, for he was come to disperse our meeting. After some time I told him, they all knew we were a peaceful people, and that we used to have such great meetings; but if he apprehended we met in a hostile way, I desired him to make search amongst us, and if he found either sword or pistol about any there, let such suffer.





I requested that he would stay and see the meeting ended.



He said he would not stay to see the meeting ended, but must disperse my people before he went. I said if he could not stay, would he let a dozen of the soldiers stay, and see the order and peaceableness of our meeting? He said he would permit us an hour's time, and left half a dozen soldiers with us. Then he went away with his troop, and the soldiers that were left told us, we might stay till night if we would. Many of the militia soldiers stayed also, and cursed the captain and his troopers for not breaking up the meeting. It was reported, they intended evil against us that day; but the troopers, instead of assisting them, were rather assisting to us in not joining them as they expected, but preventing them doing the mischief they designed."

This period of oppression, just after the death of Oliver Cromwell, and at the time of General Monk's return from Scotland into England, ended with the General issued the following order, dated St. James' March 9th 1659-60. "I do require all officers and soldiers to forbear to disturb the peaceable meetings of the Quakers, they doing nothing prejudicial to the parliament and commonwealth of England."

The close association of the Aldam family with the Village of Warmsworth is well illustrated by the fact that they have been Freeman of the Manor of Warmsworth since the twelfth or thirteenth centuries and Lt. Col. Warde-Aldam has still considerable holdings of land and property in and about the Village.

There still exists in the Village a close association with the old mail coach days through the Barrel Inn situated in Barrel Lane leading down to the main gates of the Hall. This house which is now used as a private residence served as an Inn until the building of the Cecil and Battie-Wrightson Hotel at Warmsworth, when the license was transferred. Many of the old Warmsworth residents can remember the happy evenings spent at this old Inn when the resident licensee was the late George Guest, and their parents and grandparents would have known the old Inn as a Coaching House when the main road from Doncaster to Sheffield ran down Barrel Lane and through the grounds of the present Hall, subsequently passing along the Low Road and by the old Toll House, which stood at the junction of the Sheffield and Sprotborough Road. Even the not-so-old Warmsworth residents can remember this Toll House which was demolished many years ago.

The construction of a new turnpike did away with the usefulness of Barrel Lane and also of the Barrel Inn as a Coaching House. This turnpike was constructed round the White House and divided, as we can see now, this house from its gardens, which now lie across the road.





It would appear that one of the earliest roads from Doncaster to



Conisborough occupied the present site of the Back Lane by the old St. Peter's Church and thence along Tenter Lane, Levitt Hag Cliffs and the Butterbusk; since a Land Conveyance in the Author's possession, dated 1344, refers to the assignment of land bounded by the road running from Balby to Warmsworth by St Peter's Church and the Butterbusk. This is mentioned in several Conveyances dated about this period. A close association with the past is still maintained in various road and street names in Warmsworth, many of these names being very early or mediaeval English, for example, Glebe Street, Tenter Lane, Calves Head Lane, Quaker Lane, Lord's

Head Lane and Backside Lane. Some of these names are self-explanatory, for example, Tenter Lane being a perimeter boundary, Backside Lane being the back side of the Village, Glebe Street, no doubt derives its name from the old Glebe, Moot Hall or Tythe Barn. The Glebe, or Moot Hall, was the local place where tenants of the Lords of the Manor paid their annual rents to the Overlord in kind; such rent comprising produce of the land held under the Lord of the Manor. It has been assumed that the present Parish Room was originally a Tythe Barn and, as such, no doubt has played a very important part through the ages in the affairs of the Villagers.

In the late Saxon and early Norman periods it was customary when a Serf was made a Freeman by the Overlord to grant him a piece of land for his own tillage, payment for which was made partly by the payment of a tythe, or produce, to the Overlord; or by the Freeman assisting with the tillage of the Overlord's own lands. Division of lands was in hundreds, and maps are in existence shewing the land of Warmsworth still divided into these hundreds almost to the end of the 18th Century. Even at this stage, when fields, as such, were non-existent, the long narrow strips of land are shewn under their numerous different ownerships, and it can be seen how the great land owners such as the Battie-Wrightons and Warde-Aldams have gradually (by purchasing individual strips of land) built up their subsequent holdings. An interesting point, illustrating the little change that occurred in place names and country life up to the end of the 18th Century, is well shown by the comparison of 14th Century land Conveyances dealing with property in Warmsworth with the 18th Century map giving the division of the local lands; since some of the Conveyances which were effected over 600 years ago can be roughly identified by the division of hundreds in the 18th Century.





The Old Village of Warmsworth, including the Hall, is built in the main from Warmsworth stone obtained no doubt from the disused quarry at Edlington Lane, but during the 18th Century, Warmsworth stone had a further usefulness, being known far and wide as the component of the best lime for soil treatment.

Miller mentions “That this Village is remembered for its numerous lime quarries wherein a great quantity of lime is burnt which is afterwards used in building or applied by local farmers to improve the lands”

Another interesting relic of centuries ago is the old Pound or Pinfold situated at the junction of Tenter Road with the Main Road. This has now been almost destroyed but even up to 100 years ago was an essential part of any English Village, being the place where stray animals were impounded until such times as claimed by their rightful owner; possession being taken only on the payment of a fee or poundage.

Balby has now joined up with Warmsworth, and Warmsworth with Edlington; but sandwiched in between there still remains a part of Old Warmsworth which has altered very little with the passing of the years.

*A. S Haywood
J. R Hebditch*

**Translation of Manorial Inquisition, In Norman French, Dated
November 12th, 1321**

On another occasion, an inquisition taken officially at Conyngesborough by the said John de Lathelles, the Thursday the morrow of St. Martin, upon the multure of the manor of Wermesworth and upon the things and services aforesaid, in the fifteenth year of our Lord King Edward son of King Edward, by (oath of) Pers of the Rodes, William Moundesder, Aleyn Vessy, John de Mykelbryng and others; who say that the manor of Wermesworth is not (part of) the manor of Charleton in Kestewene, in demesne or in service, nor is any service due to the castle of Conyngesborough, beyond two calves each year at the Tower on the More, and half a quarter of wheat and half a quarter of maslin each year at Michaelmus, for the furnishing of his free table; this inquisition is kept in the Treasury of the Earl of Lancaster, under the seals of the twelve jurors.

