

## The Warner family at Quorndon Hall

*A tale of a community spirited family. This article takes a closer look at the life of this interesting family. It has been pieced together from the Quorn Village Museum artefacts, newspaper articles, websites and from the book 'The Ubiquitous Warner Family of Loughborough' by D.E.Hewitt.*

### Introduction:

In his book 'The Ubiquitous Warner Family of Loughborough' D.E. Hewitt makes the point that the Warner family are not as well-known as they deserve to be, particularly Edward, and his son Edward Handley. As we go through the information, we will discover just how much the family did contribute to our village, the region and society. Not only the two Edwards and their wives, but John and William also. We will find out just how influential they were within the village, the region and further afield. Maybe, you will, like me come to agree that the family did not receive the recognition that they probably should have done.

In Quorn and in some documents, there is, and probably understandably so, confusion between those actions attributed to Edward, the father and the sons John, Edward, and William Warner. The confusion may be exacerbated by there being: 2 Edwards, 3 Captains, 2 would be MP's, 3 Lieutenants of Leicestershire, and the list goes on.

The Quorn Village Museum, newspapers, websites, and books including 'The Ubiquitous Warner Family of Loughborough' have been used to gather evidence.

Of course, the family lived in a period far removed from modern times and the views of today. The nineteenth and early twentieth century were a time of change, as a mainly agricultural economy was moving into the industrial age. The gap between rich and poor and their lifestyles were far removed from each other. Hunting, fishing, and shooting were all accepted as sports participated in by mainly the wealthy but providing employment for others. Most of the larger family homes employed servants, gardeners, and grooms. Quorn's economy at the time was mainly a mix of agriculture, industry, and foxhunting. The coming of the Great War (1914-18) was the start of changes in the societal structure so, it is in this context that the Warner family's time at Quorndon Hall is set.

## The family:

As far as Quorn is concerned, we start with Mr Edward Warner (1804 – 1894), a member of the Loughborough philanthropic family that owned the hosiery company Cartwright and Warners and who purchased Quorndon Hall in 1855. Edward had been born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1804 in Loughborough at The Elms, a family home and estate built in 1810 by his father Thomas Warner (1776-1844). Thomas had benefitted, as had the Cradock family, and others when the Earl of Moira had offered plots of land for development in Loughborough. Thomas was responsible for building the Elms Park Estate which remained in the family until it was sold in 1906.



Francis Edward Rawdon-Hastings, 1st Marquess of Hastings, KG, PC (9 December 1754 – 28 November 1826), styled The Honourable Francis Rawdon from birth until 1762, Lord Rawdon between 1762 and 1783, The Lord Rawdon from 1783 to 1793 and The Earl of Moira between 1793 and 1816, was an Anglo-Irish politician and military officer.

He had served with British forces for years during the American Revolutionary War and in 1794 during the War of the First Coalition.

Inheriting Donington Hall in Leicestershire from his uncle, Rawdon rebuilt it in 1790–93 in the Gothic style. He placed the estate at the disposal of the Bourbon Princes upon their exile in England following the French Revolution. He is said to have left a signed chequebook in each bedroom for the occupant to use.

The village of Moira also in Leicestershire is derived from the Irish earldom of Moira, the family held Ashby de la Zouch Castle and associated lands.



Elms Park Estate and the House from the rear



The Warner family along with the Herricks, Burtons, Griggs, Lemyngtons, Schofields, Archdeacon Fearon and John Storer were well known benefactors to Loughborough and the wider Charnwood area. The Warner family contributed mainly to education and the churches in both Loughborough and Quorn.

The Warner's made their money from a well-known and successful Loughborough hosiery business. The family connection with the business dated from 1794 when Thomas Warner married the widow of the founder Richard

Cartwright. The business then became Cartwright and Warners Limited. Richard Cartwright had established the Mill Lane based company in 1784. Both Thomas's son Edward and his grandson Edward Handley would later join the firm. They were one of the first firms to introduce steam power, and were respected as innovators and modernisers, at the forefront of technical development. There were several factories across the town employing over 1000 staff which were mainly women. Previously, the industry had been male dominated.



Staff leaving the Cartwright and Warner factory in 1900. Taken from a rare but delightful film. It can be watched for free on the BFI player.

There are some strikingly well-dressed women - and a fine array of jackets - among these Loughborough textile workers. And the men behind them.

**1893 Chicago Exhibition – Catalogue entry 421**  
**CARTWRIGHT AND WARNERS LIMITED, LOUGHBOROUGH**

**Gentlemen**

- Underwear
- In shirts
- Trousers
- Hose and half-hose

**Ladies and childrens**

- Undervests
- Drawers
- Pantalets
- Combination dresses
- Hose and socks

**In white, merino, natural wool, cashmere, and silk and wool.**

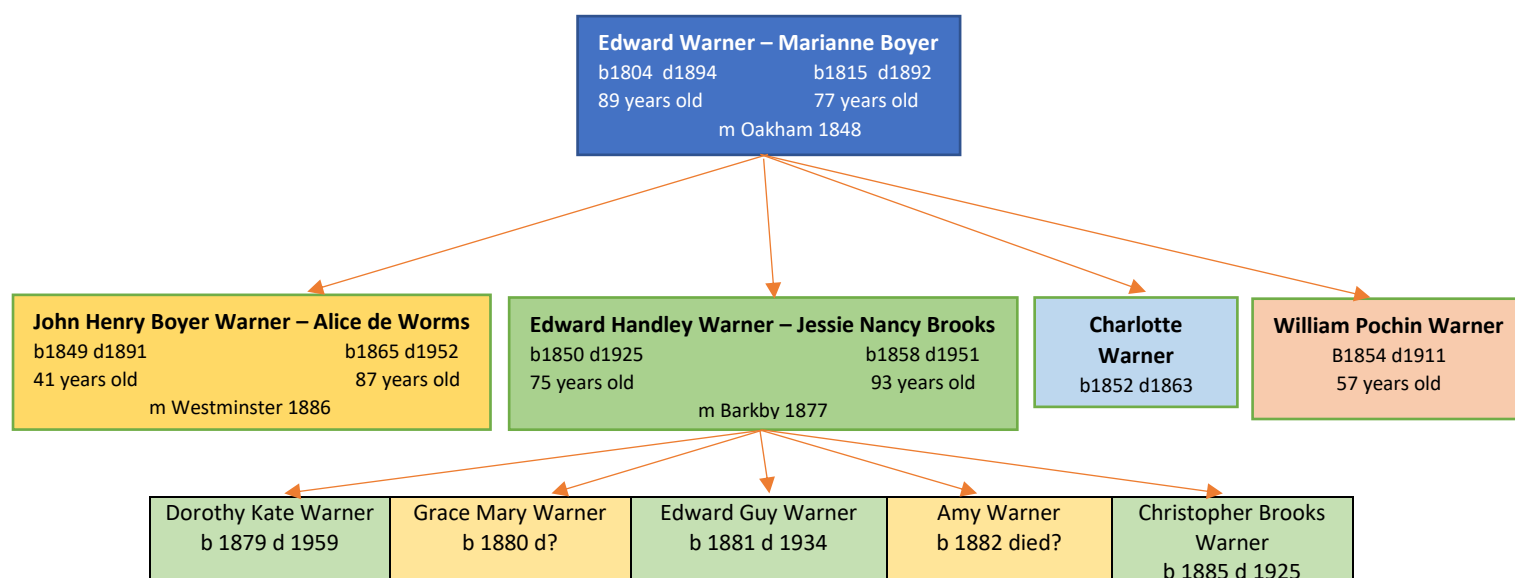




Cartwright and Warner catalogues from 1926. Note the Squirrel logo!

<http://lynneaboutloughborough.blogspot.com/2017/02/cartwright-and-warner.html>

The family were to reside at Quorn Hall for some 60 years from 1855 until 1914 and continued to own the Hall until it was sold in 1919.



### The Warner's at Quorn Hall - family tree

Edward had been married to Marry Ann Hopper, but she died in 1835. They had a child in 1833, who died within the year. He was remarried to Marianne Boyer in 1848. As for the grandchildren, Dorothy Warner married Edmond Eddowes in 1921 but had no children, Grace remained single. Edward went to Canada and married Gladys Green in 1908 who died, and he returned to England marrying Augusta Brown. Amy married Charles Wilkins in 1918, and they had two sons Christopher and David. The youngest son, Christopher married in 1918 and divorced in 1923, Gertrude Smee.

The ten-year Census returns do provide some information but is limited to the completion rules that applied at the time. The earlier returns give less information than later returns and often the age is only approximate. We do know from the 1861 census return that the Warner family members living at Quorn Hall were Edward Warner aged 56, listed as the head and his occupation as a spinner and manufacturer of hosiery. Also, a farmer of 70 acres employing two men and a boy. His wife Marianne was 45 years old and their children John (11 years old), Charlotte (8) and William (7) were all recorded as scholars and living at the Hall. Edward Handley was presumably away at school at the time of the census. Sadly, Charlotte was to die when she was 10 years old.

In 1881, the Census listed only Edward aged 76 and Marianne 65 as living at Quorndon Hall with Sarah Atchison as the Cook. At this time, Edwards occupation was listed as a County Magistrate and Farmer.

By 1901 Edward Handley Warner was listed as the head of family and a man living on his own means at Quorn Hall with his daughters Dorothy and Grace 22 and 21 years old respectively. Edward Handley was recorded as continuing to live at Quorn Hall at the time of the 1911 census. Being listed as the head of family and an alderman living on private means with his wife Jessie Nancy and daughters Grace and Amy 31 and 28 years old respectively.

### **Quorndon Hall and the Quorn Hunt:**

The Quorndon Hall, now more commonly known as Quorn Hall was originally known as the Nether Hall. It was established by Thomas Farnham, who had broken away from the old family who lived at the Over Hall. It became synonymous as the home of the Quorn Hunt after it was purchased in 1753 by Mr Hugo Meynell. He is attributed as the father of English fox hunting and was Master of the Quorn Hunt until 1800.



Quorndon Hall pictured in 1805

Various Masters of the hunt occupied the Hall until Mr Edward Warner arrived with his wife Marianne (Mary Anne) and their four children John, Edward, Charlotte, and William in 1855. Edward and Marianne had been married in 1848. Marianne, at the time, was described in the press as “The poor, but beautiful daughter of the ex-Quorn curate the Reverend John W. R. Boyer. Now Rector of Snarestone-cum-Swepstone, a Leicestershire Parish near Ashby-del-la-Zouch, he had been the curate at Quorn for 34 years from 1798 until 1832 and was of ancient family descent and beloved by all who knew him.” Marianne was however, welcomed back to Quorn where she had been born in 1815 and lived until the family moved to Snarestone-cum-Swepstone when she was 27 years old. Marianne was well known and liked during this time in Quorn and must have been pleased to return to Quorn in 1855 when her husband purchased the Hall. She then remained in the village until her death in 1892 at the age of 77.

The previous owner of the Hall had been Sir Richard Sutton, a widower, and independent Master of Quorn Hunt, who had settled there with his three daughters and seven sons! He, apparently put the ‘sparkle’ back into the hall, not seen since the times of Meynell. Hunting had been his life and during his time with the Quorn he was hunting six days a week. Sir Richard died suddenly in London in November of 1855.



Sir Richard Sutton, upon taking Mastership of the Quorn Hunt in 1847 rented only the stables and kennels at Quorndon Hall. He bought Quorn Hall and the estate a year or two later and was said to have kept a lavish household costing over £10,000 a year until his death in 1855.

Edward Warner was a follower of the hunt but was in no way master material and his purchase of the Hall had caused raised eyebrows in certain circles. After

all, he was not from the landed aristocracy having made his money as a hosiery factory owner!

The press at this time, turned on Mr Warner because it was thought that with the departure of Sir Richard Sutton from the Hunt, and the Hall, and the new owner not being an aristocrat or Master, this would surely, be the end of the Quorn Hunt. The Sporting Magazine at the time reported “The Quorn Hunt is now nothing but a glorious reminiscence – its name as well as its prestige is henceforth to be a thing of the past. The hall and kennels and about 120 acres of land – classic spot as it has long been to sportsmen – have been sold to Mr Edward Warner of Loughborough, who is fond of a quiet gallop after hounds, but has no further intention than making it his country residence”. For some, things were to get even worse when the Earl of Stamford although, saving the Quorn Hunt by taking on the mastership, was married to a woman from the circus! This, of course is another story.



Quorndon Hall staff

Photo from the Shuttlewood collection c1905



Quorndon Hall Stable staff c1906



**Edward Warner (1804 – 1894)**

Edward Warner and his family lived at The Cottage, Ashby Road, Loughborough before the move to Quorn. The eldest son John Henry Boyer Warner was born there in 1849, Edward Handley Warner in 1850, the only daughter Charlotte Elizabeth in 1852 and the third son William Pochin Warner in 1854.

The Warner family, during their time in Quorn, were substantial benefactors to St. Bartholomews Church. The magnificent east stained-glass window was installed by Edward and Marianne in 1865, in memory of Charlotte their daughter, who had died aged 10 in 1863. The window portrays Christ Crucifixion and Resurrection as well as other biblical scenes. Along the bottom it says: *"In the dear memory of Charlotte Elizabeth Grey daughter of Edward and Marianne Warner of Quorndon Hall born September 1851 died 5th March 1862"*. In 1919 it was removed for two weeks for repairs and colour changes, being replaced, temporarily, by plain glass. During this time Mr Warner received a poem from an anonymous rhymester which highlights that the window was held in esteem by parishioners. The poem was later published in the Loughborough Echo on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1928.



The magnificent east stained-glass window was installed by Edward and Marianne Warner in 1865

*The famous Warner window  
Has gone to be re-glazed;  
We knew it when, on Sunday,  
We saw the light that blazed  
Where formally a mixture  
Of colours looked so hot;  
We thought it was a fixture,  
Thank goodness, it was not*

*The leaves of yellow and pink,  
The sky of Reckett's blue,  
The plants that look like starfish,  
The angel's feathers too,  
The politeness of Elijah,  
At which we've often laughed,  
Are gone; and now the window  
Lets in an awful draught.*

*When looking at the window,  
I often have recalled  
The statement that Elisha  
Undoubtedly was bald.  
I looked for him this morning,  
Alas! he was not there;  
I missed him with his top-knot  
Of thick and curly hair.*

*What though the icy breezes  
Blow in from Barrow Cliff,  
And fill the church with sneezes,  
And make the choir sniff;  
We know it's not for ever,  
For we are now informed  
By Whitsuntide the window  
Will come back quite reformed.*

The poem published in the Loughborough Echo on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1928

In 1887 they donated the marble altar and ornamental screen covering the wall at the back of the altar (reredos).



The St Bartholomews Church marble altar and ornamental screen.

Edward Warner is credited with the laying down of the chestnut lined driveway to the hall which commenced at Barrow Road and ran directly to the hall. It is likely though that he improved or completed the work started by Richard Sutton. As it is believed that the chestnuts were planted in 1850. The current route of the footpath from Barrow Bridge to Meynell Road was an improvement made by Edward Warner in 1886. The previous routing was of rough slabs that ran

along the side of the river. He instigated the construction of lodges including the Coachman's, Santa Maria and Quorn Hall Lodges. The River Soar footbridge he had constructed to access the south bank of the river for shooting and fishing.



The new approach driveway to Quorn Hall from Barrow Road.

Edward was a Senior Magistrate for the Loughborough Division and contributed to village life. In 1889 he helped finance the building of the Village Hall. As well as one of the St Bartholomew School managers he was President of the Quorndon Flower and Horticultural Society. This annual gala was a successful event, starting around 1870, it remained popular for many years. It was held in either J.W Wright's or Cradock's Fields. In 1880, for example, it took place on the August Bank holiday Monday when over 350 prizes were awarded for plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Both the Woodhouse Brass Band (under the direction of Mr F Woodford) and the Quorndon Brass Band (under the direction of Mr J Disney) provided the music. The show entries were open to the residents of Quorndon, Barrow, Mountsorrel. Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves, Swithland and Woodthorpe. The shows were so popular that the Midland Railway Company provided reduced rail fares to and from Barrow-on-Soar Railway Station for Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester passengers.

During his time at Quorn Hall Edward Warner still contributed to the benefit of Loughborough giving the land and paying for the construction of Alms houses and what became known as the Warner School. The school was opened on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1872, along with a schoolhouse which was built next to the school. On

26<sup>th</sup> November 1883, the land, and property was conveyed by Edward Warner to Henry Fearon in trust with the trustees being:

Edward Warner of Quorn Hall in the Parish of Quorndon,  
 The Venerable Henry Fearon Clerk Rector of All Saints Church Loughborough,  
 The Reverend Octavius Glover Clerk Rector of Emanuel Church Loughborough,  
 The Reverend Edward Bell Clerk Rector of Holy Trinity Church Loughborough,  
 John Henry Boyd Warner of Quorn Hall,  
 Esquire Edward Handley Warner of the Elms, Loughborough,  
 The Reverend Robert Stammers Clerk Rector of Quorndon.

In 1971, the Rector of All Saints Church Loughborough and the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education were appointed by the Secretary of State for Education, as managing trustees of the Warner Church of England School. In spite of protests the school was demolished in 2013 for a new road to be constructed. Only the schoolhouse has survived.



The Warner School - before and during demolition.  
 (Gary Short)

Warner Street in Barrow on Soar was to be named after Edward Warner who from 1861 had held the Lord of the Manor of Barrow. After his death in 1894 he was succeeded by his son Edward Handley Warner. The records of the old Manor of Barrow were later handed over by E. H. Warner, to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Barrow on Soar parish.

It was in 1863, that the Earl of Stamford who was Master of the Quorn Hunt and although living at Bradgate Park, rented the Quorn Hall stables and kennels from Edward Warner. On his retirement from the hunt, the Earl decided to sell his horses, hounds, saddlery, clothing, etc. It was planned that the sale would be held in the stable yard, however, as almost 7,000 people turned up Mr Warner agreed that the sale be moved into the Hall grounds.





This engraving appeared in the London Illustrated News in May 1863. It shows what was thought to be the biggest ever horse sale in the country. Most of the leading sportsmen in the country and a large number of the nobility were there. The representatives of the Prince of Wales, Emperor of the French, Duke and Duchess of Beaufort included as well as well-known dealers, Huntsmen and retired sportsmen. The proceeds of the sale of 81 horses, saddlery and clothing amounted to nearly £16,000 and if we may reckon the hounds, it is evident that Lord Stamford had not much less than £20,000 employed in sustaining the reputation of the Quorn Hunt. The principal purchasers were the Prince of Wales, Lord H Bentick, Captain Chaplin and the Marquis of Hastings.

Edward died on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1894. The Nottingham Evening Post of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1894 carried the following: 'WILL OF THE MR, E. WARNER. Probate duty has been paid on £30,738 13s. 9d., as the value of the personal estate of Mr. Edward Warner, late of Quorndon Hall, Leicestershire, who died on April 29 last, his 90th year, and of whose will the surviving executors are his sons Edward Handley Warner and William Pochin Warner, both of Quorndon Hall, to the former of whom the testator bequeaths his interest in their partnership business, carried on in conjunction with Edward Parkinson White. In his will Mr. Warner bequeathed to his wife, Mrs. Marianne Warner, daughter of the Rev. J. W. Boyer, £500, a life annuity of £3,000, and the use and enjoyment for her life of Quorndon Hall and its furniture. He bequeathed to three servants £50 each

and to another £25. Having settled the Kepwick Park estate in Yorkshire on his son John Henry Warner, he devised his estates in the Parks, Loughborough, and the estate which bought from the Mountsorrel Charities to his son Edward Handley, and other real estate to his son William Pochin. All the residue of his real and personal estate Mr. Warner left equal shares to his sons Edward Handley and William Warner’.

**John Henry Boyer Warner** (1849 – 1891), JHB as he was known was born on the 2nd of September 1849 in Loughborough. As mentioned, the family moved from their home at The Cottage, Ashby Road, into Quorndon Hall in 1855. John was sent as a boarder to Harrow School at the age of fourteen, where he excelled at sport and he remained there for five years, until 1868, when he entered Trinity College, Cambridge. He made the political economy his speciality and in 1872 attained, his B.A. degree. On 5th November 1870 he was accepted into the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in London (one of the professional associations for barristers and judges). During his undergraduateship he paid visits to Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and the Indian Empire and in 1874 when only 24 years old, John Warner contested the seat of Leicester as the Conservative Candidate but failed to be elected. Continuing his studies he obtained an M.A. in 1876. Travel, Law, Politics, and sport would form the major elements of his life.

He is probably best remembered locally, as the person who selected ‘Quorn’ as the name for a small township in South Australia, naming it after his home village.



Quorn is a small town and railhead in the Flinders Ranges in the north of South Australia. Population of 1,230. The town was first surveyed in 1878 as part of the preparations for building a railway line from Port Augusta northwards.



In 1876 he was appointed Secretary to the Commissioner and reporting on the defences of the Australian Colonies. Chief of the Commission was Sir William Jervois who was Governor of the Straits Settlements. During this role he was able to visit and examine Australian ports and coast. In October 1877 Sir William Jervois left Singapore and was appointed Governor of South Australia. JHB was then appointed by him to the responsible duties of Clerk to the Council, and Secretary to the Governor. South Australia at the time was a large area, sparsely populated and very arid. It became apparent that railways were needed to link new centres of population and of course, the settlements needed names. Sir William Jervois selected his own children's first names, to name three, Amyton, Carrieton (Lucy Caroline), and Hammond and his own surname Jervois for another. As part of the preparations for extending the railways northward, a site for a railway town was surveyed in 1878, and JHB being Jervois's Secretary was asked to select a name and this he did, choosing 'Quorn' after his family home.

He returned home to Quorn Hall, and in 1879 was working as a London Barrister. At this time he paid more than £6000 to join a business partnership with the Governor of Queensland Sir Thomas McIlwraith in the North Australia Pastoral Company (NAPCO). NAPCO became and remains one of the largest agricultural enterprises in Australia. He continued to stand for parliament but without success. His work and travels are far too numerous to detail here, but he travelled widely and through Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. It was during this time that he wrote a series of letters to the local newspaper which provide an excellent insight into the views of Empire, Slavery, and the Zulu Wars. He said that the object in undertaking these journeys was also to initiate local branches of the Imperial Federation League, lately started in London, upon which he felt very strongly. He was successful in getting branch societies initiated in nearly all the colonies he visited including Hong Kong, the Straits settlements, Mauritius, Ceylon, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and in Tasmania. The Imperial Federation League was an organisation which aimed to promote the reorganisation of the British Empire into an Imperial Federation. John was also a contributor to the National Refugee Society between 1883 and 1891.

One of the constituencies he stood for election in was the Borough of Hastings in Kent. After the election and between 1884 and 5, he wrote a series of letters detailing his travels and observations that were published in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer. These letters are fascinating accounts of his journeys including his views on politics, colonisation, slavery, the Zulu Wars and more,



including the promotion of the Imperial Federation. The Village Online Museum artefact 2451 provides more details of his life and the transcriptions of his correspondence.

	<p>JHB Warner joined HMS Osprey in Mauritius as the guest of the Captain Commander Dowding and the Madagascar Consul, Mr Hicks-Graves on anti-salary patrols off Madagascar and Zanzibar. His accounts are harrowing.</p> <p>The <i>Osprey</i> class was a Royal Navy class of screw-driven sloops built between 1874 and 1877</p>
	<p>One of many of JHBs artworks</p> <p>From the Book THE NEVER NEVER LAND: RIDE IN NORTH QUEENSLAND. BY A. W. STIRLING, B.C.L., F.E.G.S.</p> <p>I cannot close this Preface without thanking Mr, William Senior and the other friends who have so generously helped me in the production of the following pages, and especially my friend, Mr. J. H. B. Warner, whose sketches have been of the greatest value, A. W. S.</p>

On 25th April 1886, JHB was married at St. James Church in Piccadilly to Alice de Worms daughter of Baron de Worms MP. Despite being a lavish and happy occasion there was some controversy over the marriage, a union contrary to Jewish observance causing her father to sever his connections with the Jewish community. The couple spent their honeymoon on the Continent and made their home at Kepwick Hall in Yorkshire, a property that had been purchased by his father in 1871. In 1886 he tried once more to be elected as a Member of Parliament. This time standing for Rushcliffe seat in Nottinghamshire, again, he was unsuccessful.





A controversial liaison:  
On 25th April 1886 John Warner was married to the Honourable Alice de Worms daughter of Baron de Worms MP at St. James Church in Piccadilly



Kepwick Hall near Thirsk in North Yorkshire. The property had been purchased by JHB's father Edward Warner in 1871.

In 1887, JHB was to become a Member of a British Royal Commission that was looking at how Britain could benefit from the trade opportunities in the Indian Ocean following the opening of the Suez Canal. He was appointed as Special Commissioner for the Seychelles, which was now connected to the outside

world by ships of the British India Company and the mail steamers of the French Messageries Maritime calling there. He was responsible for the islands exhibits at the Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition which ran from 1887 until 1888. The export of the islands exotic fruits such as, coconut, breadfruit, mangoes and copra and turtle shell were all promoted. JHB received much praise for the work he did.



### Return to Quorn:

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1891, JHB died at 41 years of age but, during his short life he achieved much, not least his promotion of the Imperial Federation. And of course in ensuring there would be a place named Quorn in the other side of the world!

The privations he endured during his journeys no doubt brought on the premature illness, which caused his death. His mother and brother, who were telegraphed for and arrived from Quorn a few hours before he passed, arranged that the body should be interred in the family vault at Quorn Church. Accordingly, after the first part of the funeral ceremony held at Kepwick Hall on Wednesday at 1pm the body was then conveyed from Yorkshire. The coffin was placed in a hearse drawn by two horses and was conveyed to Thirsk Station for removal to Quorn Hall. The widow, accompanied by Mr. E. H. Warner, attended the funeral procession to the end of the village of Kepwick on foot, as did the estate tenants and the servants at the Hall. Throughout the village there were general signs of mourning. The coffin was placed in a through carriage at Thirsk Station destined for Barrow Station, arriving at a quarter past ten at night. A hearse was waiting, and the body was taken to Quorn Hall and placed in the Breakfast Room. On Friday at 1:30pm the funeral cortege left Quorn Hall for the funeral service, which was conducted at the Parish Church, Quorn by the Vicar, the Rev. A. C. Faithful. The body was interred in the family vault, situated in the churchyard at the north-east corner of the chancel. Having predeceased his

mother and Father the only previous interment in the vault was his sister, Charlotte Elizabeth Warner (1852-1863) who died aged 10. During his last few years he had lived the life of a country gentleman, fishing, and shooting. He was also a staunch Churchman, strongly believing in the maintenance of the relationship between Church and State. They say he possessed a genial face, was of easy manners, and seemed to have that sense of modesty and urbanity which are so frequently the accompaniment of true ability. According to his Will and amongst other things, he left £136,801 plus Kepwick Hall to his wife. To his father he left his art collections, arms and armour, and wine at Quorn; and to his brother, Edward Handley, his personal objects of art and the paintings and sketches executed by himself at Quorn. To his brother, William Pochin all his pastoral (as distinguished from mineral) freehold and leasehold estate in Australia and eight acres close of land at Barrow-on-Soar, his real estate at Atterton, near Nuneaton, and all other of his real estate in the county of Leicester,

#### Kepwick Hall Estate memorial

*'In memory of John Henry Boyer Warner. He was a great and intellectual traveller throughout the world all his life, a popular candidate for parliament, a true and noble man, his mind was one of the first in which originated the germ of that grand scheme 'Imperial Federation'. He was a man liked and respected by all who knew him, never to be forgotten by those he loved. He was a man take him for all in all, I shall not look on his like again. Not lost but gone before.'*





John Henry Boyer Warner is interned in the family vault at the east end of St. Bartholomew's Church, Quorn. The vault also contains his mother, father, and sister.

**Edward Handley Warner** (1851 – 1925), sometimes referred to as Teddy, was the second son and was born on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1851. He attended Loughborough Grammar School and Rugby School before going to Trinity College, Oxford. He obtained his degree in 1873 and joined the family hosiery business. He married Jessie Nancy Brookes at Barkby in 1877 and they moved into Nanpantan Hall, which was the gift of his father. They were to have five children Dorothy, Grace, Edward, Amy and Christopher. All were born before they moved into Quorn Hall following the death of Edward senior. The eldest Grace and youngest Christopher were 14 and 10 respectively when they arrived at the Hall.





Nanpantan Hall a gift to Edward Handley from his father

During his time, he was a member of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, a Magistrate, High Sheriff of Leicestershire and a trustee of the Warner School and the Conservative Club. He was also a County Councillor, Returning Officer, and President of the Soar Valley Cricket Club. In 1881, he was listed as one of the directors of the Charnwood Forest Railway Company. He was also a share holder in the Great Western Railway. In 1908 he had invested over £3,000 in Leicester motor manufacturer 'G.H. Waite and Co'. The company went into liquidation in 1910, Mr Warner being listed as a creditor had his investment returned with interest. In April 1883, he was promoted to Captain in the Leicestershire Yeomanry.

Edward Handley carried out various property improvements and additions to the estate which included: between 1894 and 1895, an extension to Quorn Hall toward the river and improved the lodges. The Soar Road (now Meynell Road) cottages were also added during Edward Handley's time. The Hall gardens were greatly improved during this time, and a water tank was added to the roof of the Santa Maria Lodge to provide water for the garden fountains. Santa Maria had been built by EH's father, Edward Snr. To be the prominent front lodge for Quorn Hall. With windows facing all directions and now with access to the water tower, a watch could be kept for people approaching Quorn Hall. The gates could then

opened to allow a smooth arrival for visitors from Soar Road. The thinning of the driveway avenue of chestnut trees was also carried out around 1895 when, Edward had every other tree removed.



These cottages were built for hunt workers on Meynell Road by the Warner family of Quorn Hall.



Santa Maria Lodge and Bridge in 2023 and EW gable inset and date of 1880





Postcard of the Quorn Hall Lodge (Meynell Road entrance) sent in 1909

Kelly's Directory records Edward Handley as living at Quorn Hall in 1899 and the 1911 census records that he was living at Quorn Hall with his wife Jessie, daughters Grace and Amy and ten servants.

In 1902 he served on the village's King Edward Coronation Committee and purchased, what would become the Quorn Conservative Club for the village. During the agricultural recession and high labourer unemployment, he helped the local labourers by providing employment for them on the estate demolishing the Quorn Hunt Kennel blocks.

Edward H. Warner along with Mr C Parker purchased, in 1904, the former Balm's hosiery factory site land and gardens to ensure it was available for the proposed Church Room and Churchyard extension. As well as a major funder of these projects, he was also, at the same time, one of the main funders of the extension to the village school.

It became clear that by 1904 the Quorn Hunt kennels at the Hall were obsolete and the site was damp and thought bad for the hounds. Mr. E.H. Warner wanted them removed and he provided a new facility at Pawdy Lane, Barrow. At the end of the 1905/6 season the move was complete.



In 1912, the Quorndon Urban District Council were proposing that the council enter into a lease arrangement with Mr Farnham for the Stafford Orchard however, when in 1914 negotiations broke down, Mr Henry Warner along with Messrs J. D. Cradock, S. Wright, and C.T. Parker purchased the site for the village, preventing it being sold as freehold building land. On 21st April 1920 the Stafford Orchard was finally conveyed to the Quorndon Urban District Council for the village by the gentlemen and by the end of June 1920 the Stafford Orchard recreation ground was opened to the village.



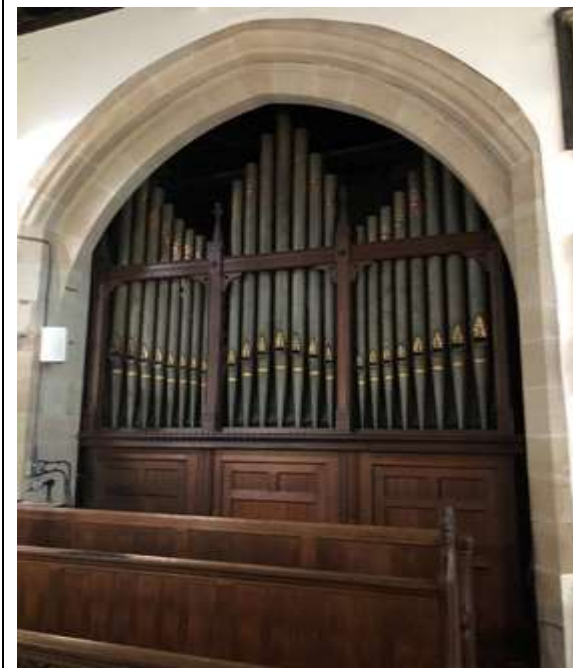
*A copy of the 1920 Indenture that conveyed the Orchard to the Council is held in the Parish Council Archive*

Edward Handley Warner had St Bartholomews Church organ chamber erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and dedicating it to the memory of his mother and family, Edward, and Marianne. The associated metal plaque reads: 'to the glory of God in memory of Edward and Mary Anne his wife (daughter of the Revd J W Boyer incumbent of this parish from the year 1799 to 1832). This organ chamber was erected by their son E H Warner in the 60<sup>th</sup> year of Queen Victoria's reign AD1897.





This organ chamber was erected by E H Warner in the 60<sup>th</sup> year of Queen Victoria's reign AD1897



Edwards wife, Jessie Warner also, supported the village. For many years there had been a society in Quorn for securing allotments, but hitherto it had only been possible to obtain land for this purpose as tenants, with the chance of having it removed or of being turned out at the landlord's discretion. An opportunity was offered of buying small plots of land for garden and building purposes, by small weekly payments. The matter was started by Mr George White, who had managed similar schemes in other places. In 1895, with the assistance of Mrs Warner, of Quorn Hall, 12 and 1/2 acres of land were bought,

lying on the Loughborough side of Barrow Lane. This was cut up into plots varying from one eighth of an acre (600 yards). The price of the plots differed according to the situation, but a piece of this size cost about £12, which was paid for either in one sum or by a weekly payment of 1/-, kept up for about eight years. As soon as the payments began the land was taken possession of, and if the payments were kept up, or the remainder due at any time were paid off, the land belonged absolutely to the person. All this land was soon taken up by those wishing to invest their little savings or manage a small weekly sum out of their earnings. The allotments are still there and in use in Highborne Lane today.

Jessie, along with other ladies provided the poor of the village with a beef joint each Christmas and was remembered as a faithful and devoted church worker. She supported the Sunday School, church activities, donated to the church and in 1902 gave the carved oak choir stalls. At this time of only men and boys sang in the choir and she encouraged ladies to join.

In 1904 Jessie and her daughters helped organise and themselves ran one of the stalls at a Sale of Work to raise funds to address the church's deficit.

Their daughter, Dorothy Kate married the Reverend Edmund Edward Eddowes at Quorn Church on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1910. The ceremony was carried out jointly by the bridegroom's father the Rev. Eddowes and the Quorn vicar the Rev. H. Rumsey. The Queen, The Lady's Newspaper at the time, reported "Quorn Hall was the scene of a very gay reception during the afternoon, and later in the day the bride and bridegroom left for London *enroute* for the continent....."

Edward Handley and Jessie left Quorn in 1919 to move to Knebworth in Hertfordshire where they owned property. He passed away here on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1925 and his wife on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1951. In his will he left £289,843 and gifted funds to the King George's Fund for Sailors and to the British Legion Benevolent Fund and provided generous gifts for the servants. The Leicester Chronicle of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1925 reported under the headline – "Quorn people will hear with regret of the death of a former respected owner of Quorn Hall, and High Sheriff of Leicestershire, Mr. Edward Handley Warner, now of Bragsbury End. Herts., at the age of 75. He was a member of the family associated with the long established firm of Cartwright and Warner, hosiery manufacturers, at Loughborough. In his early days Mr. Warner took some part in public life. He was elected on the first Leicestershire County Council in 1889 and served two triennial terms. He was a county magistrate, and in 1897 was High Sheriff for the County'. Amongst his many achievements, he was also instrumental in forming

the Leicestershire branch of St, Johns Ambulance and served them as its treasurer.



Edward Handley Warner

Jessie Nancy Warner

**Charlotte Elizabeth Warner (1852-1863).** Charlotte died when she was ten years old. There is some confusion about her age at death. The death certificate records 9 and the memorial inscription 11. The church-stained glass widow has her birth date as September 1852 and death in March 1863 meaning that she was 10 and that is her age used in this article. She died from Leukaemia, from which she suffered for three months. The Hermitage at Harrow Weald is listed as the place of death. Charlotte's Aunt, Harriet Hole lived in the house and Charlotte's brother John was studying at nearby Harrow School so, this is probably why she was cared for here.

476	Fifth March 1863 The Hermitage Harrow Weald	Charlotte Elizabeth Warner	Female	9 Years	Daughter of Edward Warner Gentleman	Leukaemia 3 months Certified	9 <sup>th</sup> Hope St Harrow Weald	Sixth March 1863	Winkley Register
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Charlotte's Death Certificate

**William Pochin Warner (1854 – 1911),** William like his siblings was born at The Cottage, Ashby Road in Loughborough, in 1854. He moved to Quorn soon after when his father Edward purchased Quorndon Hall in 1855. Like his brother Edward Handley, he attended Rugby School and subsequently went to Trinity



College Oxford before joining the Army. According to The Army and Navy Gazette he joined the 18<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1873 and was sent to India. He transferred to the 19<sup>th</sup> Hussars serving in Egypt and promoted to a Captaincy on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1882 but resigned his commission on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1883.



Officers of the 10th and 18th Hussars, 1819 - Coloured lithograph from the National Army Museum, Study collection. Hussars were light cavalymen mounted on fast horses and used to fight skirmish battles and for scouting. William joined them in India in 1873.



William Warner joined the 19<sup>th</sup> Hussars as a Captain in March 1882. Here formed up in front of a pyramid at Giza, Egypt that year. During the 1882 Egyptian expedition, they fought at Tel el Kebir on 13 September 1882 as part of the Cavalry Brigade. They then pursued the defeated forces of Arabi Pasha towards Cairo.  
National Army Museum, Study collection



Capt. Warner was well known in hunting circles and during his time in the Army it is reported that he took advantage of whatever sport he could get from wherever he was quartered. He settled in Market Harborough living with his brother J.H.B Warner (until JHBs marriage in 1886) at West Langton Hall, a property his father had purchased around 1873. It was retained by the Warner's until the estate was eventually sold in 1919.

William became a Justice of the Peace and a Deputy Lieutenant for Leicestershire and replaced his brother as High Sheriff in 1898. He had hunted with various hunts before becoming Master of the Quorn Hunt from 1886 to 1893 (jointly with William Paget from 1890). Apparently, he was not an obvious choice to replace the long serving and notorious, John Manners-Sutton 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Manners (MFH 1884-1896).

However, it transpired to be a good one and a newspaper at the time reporting this also stated that "he was a nice man." This is how he was apparently, remembered by people in the village. Between him and William Paget the shift from Melton back to Meynell's Quorn country was started. During his time as Master he bought the hounds back to Quorn Hall and was the last MFH to reside at the Hall. Living there with his brother Edward during the season. He was responsible for several improvements to the hunt like a return to a subscription system and hunting the 'forest side.' At the same time though he had to contend with issues regarding the future of exclusive hunting in the Quorn Hunt country.

One being a campaign launched against fox hunting by those landowners who were against the hunt as they felt the hunts were more interested in the protection of foxes for their sport rather than their annihilation. The campaigning landowners wanted to see poisoning and shooting of foxes, so as to protect their livestock. Although, an issue in some parts of the country, it was not so much so in Charnwood, where most of the major landowners, the De Lises, Herricks, Cradocks, Farnhams, and Warners were all hunt supporters.

The second more concerning issue was known as the 'Great Inter-Hunt Row.' This was described at the time a blazing and bitter row that broke friendships and was according, to a local history report, was argued over in the pubs of Quorn. The basis of the dispute was that the Quorn Hunt believed that it had exclusive rights to hunt the Quorn country going back to the 1600's. Although other hunts did visit the Quorn country this was on an ad hoc basis agreed with the Quorn. The main

protagonist was Sir Branche Cunard of Nevill Holt Hall, Market Harborough, Leicestershire who along with others wanted to hunt the Quorn country with their own packs of hounds and have it divided into three. For some, obscure reason, a committee of Boodles a private members club in London officiated over hunting matters. The exclusive club in Pall Mall was founded in 1762 by William Petty, the Earl of Shelburne, later the Marquis of Lansdowne and Prime Minister and named after its Head Waiter, Edward Boodle. In the end a compromise was agreed when the committee ruled that the Quorn had an historic right to hunt its country, but so did others!

Like other Quorn businessmen at the time William had invested in agricultural land in Canada. Along with his brother Edward Handley he was executor to the family estates following the death of their father. He died aged 57 on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1911 at Woodhall Spa. During his time as Master Quorn Foxhounds with the Quorn he lived at Quorn Hall and was popular in the county and according to residents was well respected and liked in the village, being referred to, simply as the 'captain.' During his time at the Hall he is credited with improving the gardens which had fallen into disrepair.






William Pochin Warner in 1902 when living at West Langton Hall

### The Squirrel:

The Squirrel logo was synonymous with the Warner family although the reason is not recorded. We know that it features on the family crest and was used as part of the Cartwright and Warner branding. Appearing on the company literature, it can also be found on the properties in Quorn and Nanpantan.

Frederick Penfold was a stonemason who lived in a Quorn Hall property and is believed to have been employed by the Warner's to carry out much of their masonry work including gable motifs.

	<p>Heraldic Description for the Warner (England) Coat of Arms (Family Crest) Crest: On a mural crown a squirrel sejant cracking a nut all proper. Arms:</p> <p>A gold shield with a red bend engrailed between six red roses leaved and barbed proper. Motto and translation:</p> <p>Non nobis tantum nati (We are not born for ourselves alone).</p>
	



### Conclusion:

We started this piece by asking if we would find out just how influential the Warner family were during their time in the village, the region and further afield. Amongst other things we have seen how they were instrumental in providing improvements to Quorn Hall and the estate including the construction of new houses for employees. Significant funding was provided for improvements to the Quorn Parish Church and other churches in Charnwood. They helped to secure the Quorn Recreation Ground, in perpetuity for the use of the community, land for allotments for use of the village residents and support provided for the village workforce and families during hard times.

A village social club was funded for the village and the Quorn Hunt was supported and the hounds bought back to Quorn. Participated to community service, as Justices of the Peace, Magistrates, County Councillors, Lord Lieutenants, and prospective Members of Parliament. Gave service in the military.

Internationally, in service of the government, in the Straights, Africa and Australia. With John holding the various positions including Secretary to the Commissioners. Naming a railway junction town in South Australia after Quorn. The promotion of a federation of former British Empire nations being the basis of today's Commonwealth of nations.

Having heard of just some of these achievements, like me you may have come to agree that the family did not receive the recognition that they should have done.



Tucked away behind a tree at the east end of St Bartholomew's United Church is the Warner family vault. The only visible epitaph to the Warner family and their time at Quorn Hall.



The vault at the North End of St Bartholomews Church contains John, Charlotte, and their parents Edward and Marianne (Marian) Warner



Dennis Marchant

27 July 2024