



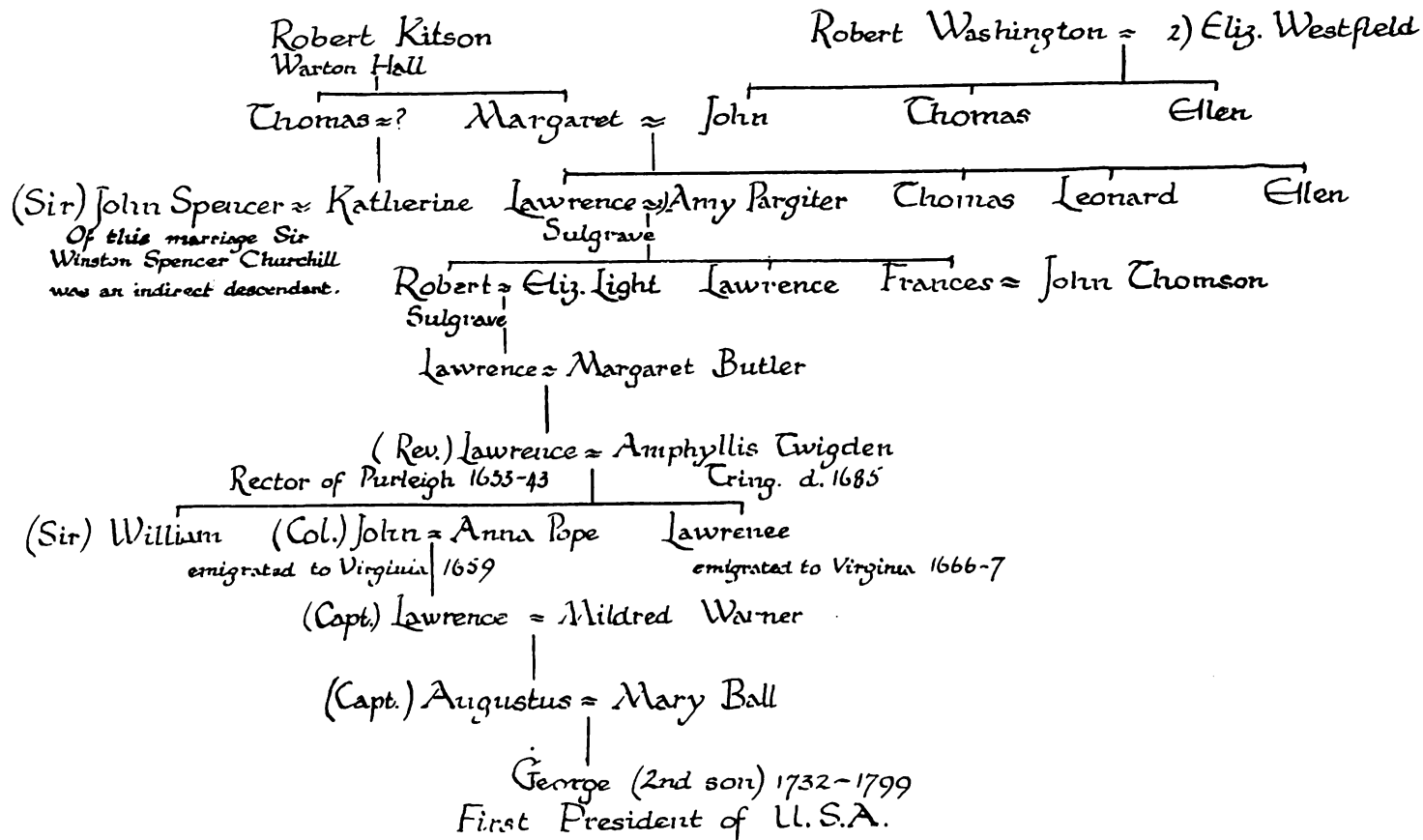
The story of  
a north Lancashire village

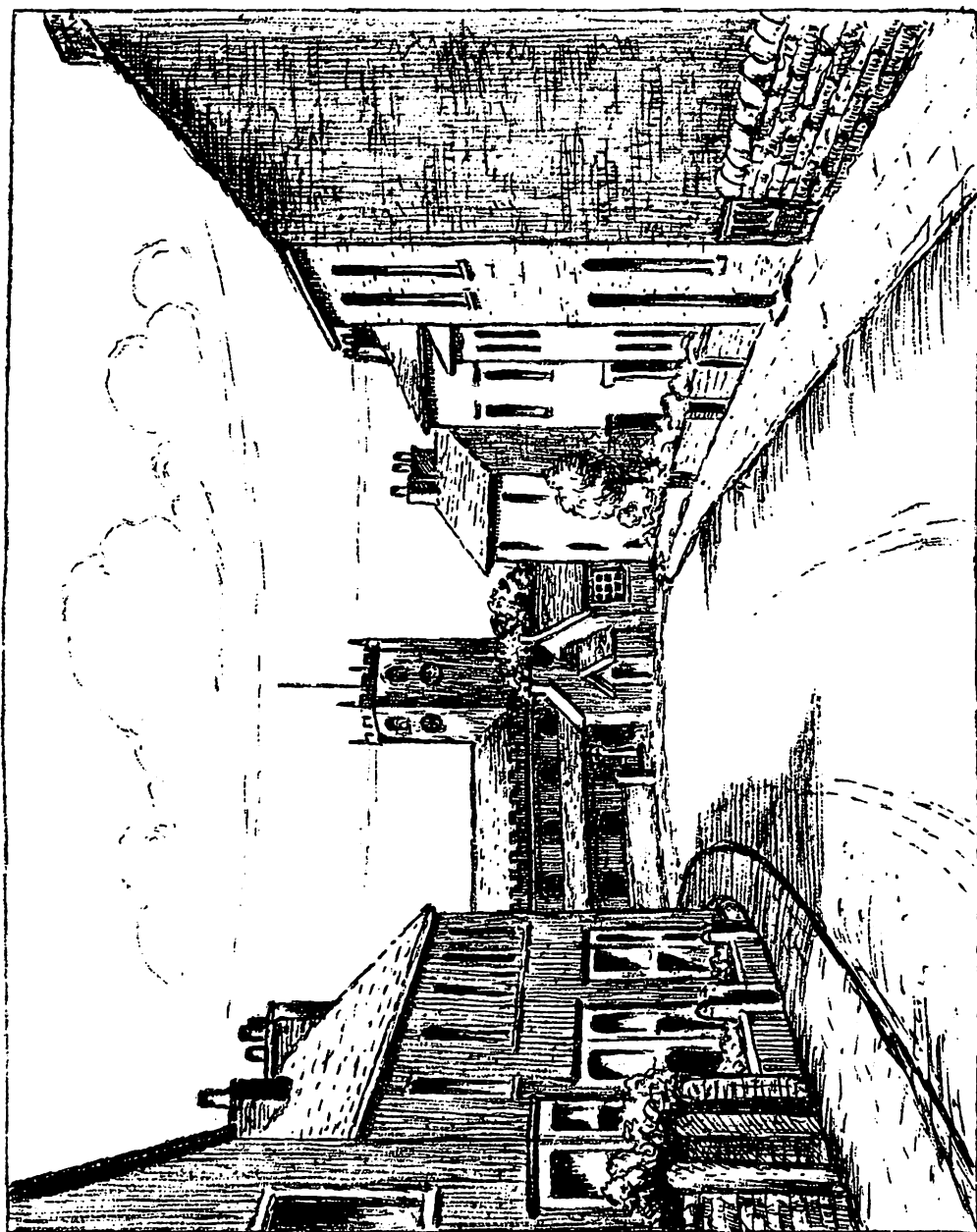


Anne H. Morley, Muriel Smalley, Lawrence W. Thornburrow

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# Descent of George Washington





L.M. Thornbutter

Watson

## FOREWORD

What is it that encourages some people to express great concern over the future of our villages? Is it perhaps that the combination of house, church, inn and workshop reminds us of our potential to be in sympathy with the laws which produce the harmony of form between flower, tree, valley and mountain?

Protectionists are often accused of being old-fashioned and attempting to live in the past. I am convinced, however, that this is not the only motive for their concern, and that the ultimate reason is more fundamental.

In a typical English village we see an expression of human endeavour which adds to the overall quality of the landscape, and doesn't constitute an imposition. The village is a representation of the quality of life enjoyed by our forbears. Some will say that social conditions were very bad in those far-off days, and much reform was needed. How then do we relate this to our present position when we "have never had it so good", and yet our countryside is cluttered with litter, our rivers polluted with filth, and the landscape inundated with alien shapes and noise!

Maybe our villages are representative of a way of life which allowed "quality" to emerge rather than "standard", and this despite economic disadvantages. In the final assessment I think this is what the protectionist argument is all about. Old villages such as Warton are synonymous with a quality of man-made environment for which we all hunger. Perhaps the more subtle function of our villages is to remind architects, planners and the public at large that it is possible to solve the community equation in terms of the present day needs of society relative to the materials and technology available. To do this we must get our priorities right.

This booklet, with its account of a small society growing according to its own needs and in harmony with its own environment, will make a significant contribution to the appreciation of Warton as a village which, today more than ever, can help to make or mar the landscape of which it is a part.

Stanley Jeeves

The Council for the Protection of  
Rural England  
(Lancashire Branch)

## From Caves to Cottages

As you approach Warton from the south your attention is attracted to the limestone outcrop referred to by local people as "the Crag". With simple dignity it has raised its head above the low-lying marshy lands for thousands of years. The scar on its face has been inflicted by our own age to supply the ever-growing demands of modern civilisation.

Over two thousand years ago primitive man made his home in the caves of the Crag, and lived by hunting and fishing. The reindeer was one source of his food. In the first century A.D., when the Roman legions marched northwards, they passed him by.

About the same time the Brigantes, spreading from the east of the country, found this fine site and built a strong fortification to the north-west of the summit. Hundreds of years later, from the summit itself beacons flared when messages had to be flashed across the country. From this vantage point the men of those times looked out over Morecambe Bay across to Black Combe and to the panorama of the Lakeland hills and mountains, eastward to the Pennines and Ingleborough, and finally to the south over the Lancashire plain — a view that is still an inspiration to both local people and visitors. It is perhaps at its most beautiful on a crisp winter day when the Lakeland mountains, covered with snow, stand out against a clear blue sky.

Because of the limestone nature of the Crag the rain water drains through it and appears again as fresh water springs in the land around the foot of the Crag, hence the low-lying land was very boggy. Early man, however, realised that the southern slopes of the Crag were an ideal site for his little settlement. The slopes were dry; they were protected by the sea to the south and west, by marshy lands to the south and east and by the bastion of the Crag to the north; the springs gave him an unfailing supply of fresh water.

During the ninth and tenth centuries, when the Vikings from Ireland and the Isle of Man were raiding the west coast and settling in many places in Cumberland, they do not appear to have come to live in Warton, though local tradition has it that they sailed their shallow draft boats up the river Keer to a dock at Dock Acres, in a field close to the A.6 road. Today gravel from this site is being removed for new motor roads.

When Christianity spread to these parts the first church was built on the rising ground and dedicated to Saint Oswald, the martyred Christian king of Northumbria.

With the Norman Conquest the feudal system was established and Warton was regarded as part of the Barony of Kendal. In 1199 John of Anjou, later to become King John, granted to his friend Gilbert Fitz-Reinfride, Lord of Warton and Carnford, Sheriff of Lancaster 1206-1217, and Steward to King Henry III, a charter for a market to be held every Wednesday in Warton; with the exception of that at Preston, this was the first market to be granted in Lancashire.

From the thirteenth century Warton grew in importance. Probably the first stone church was built at the beginning of the fourteenth century and also the Old Rectory, the home of the de Thweng family who were the patrons of the church at that time. Nearby, at Dock Acres as far as is known, there was a still larger residence, the castle of Moorholme, owned by the Barons of Kendal. All signs of this have now disappeared, but before the site was completely excavated much pre-1400 A.D. pottery was found. A branch of the Washington family from County Durham came to live in this area in the middle of the thirteenth century, and by the fifteenth century were numbered among the wealthy landowners of the North of England. At the same time the Kitsons were living at Warton Hall.

During the next hundred and fifty years the village life, revolving round the Church, the Rectory, the Hall and the market place, must have presented a lively scene; the peasants lived in their mud and wattle huts clustered round these buildings. It is not difficult to imagine the Lords from the Rectory, the wealthy Kitsons and Washingtons, and the Middletons from Leighton Hall riding along the rough stony lanes on horseback; sometimes they travelled farther afield, either on business bent or to fight for their King. Meanwhile the humbler folk laboured in their fields and homes, and on feast days, casting care aside, entered into the fun and sport of the day.

The Rectory, however, had a stormy and unhappy history. No one family remained long in possession of it. After the Reformation, in 1547 King Edward VI granted the benefice to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral, who thereby became Rectors of Warton. So early in the seventeenth century Warton became a village without the beneficent help of a noble family living in the Manor nearby, and thus it has continued during the succeeding centuries up to this present day. At the same time the fortunes of the landowners of the area were well established, and the standard of living for the farmers, yeomen and tradesmen was improving. Stone-built houses took the place of less substantial, less comfortable living quarters, and in the next hundred years Main Street began to take on its present appearance.

### **Some Points of Interest**

(Please note that the numbers in the margins refer to the sites numbered on the map)

Today a visitor to Warton, travelling through Carnforth, enters the parish when he crosses the river Keer at Millhead. In the name "Millhead" he encounters the first reminder of earlier days, for on the Keer at this point stood the water-mill which ground the corn grown locally, and which once belonged to the Washington family.

Mill Lane is bounded by an attractive row of trees, and where the Westbourne Estate now stands older Wartonians can remember magnificent beech trees and, in the spring, wild daffodils. Town End is marked by a cluster of farms and cottages, which were well separated from the main village until, during the last eighty years, the houses were built that now link them.

#### **1—The Weir**

The name of this green area of common land is often confusing to newcomers, who do not realise that it is a version of "Ware", the name of a once quite large stretch of water from which Warton, "the settlement by the Ware" got its name. Two hundred years ago there was still enough water here and in the adjoining fields for "abundance of eels to breed therein", and within living memory water for household use was taken daily from the spring to some of the nearby houses. A stone trough once filled by this spring water, still remains on the Weir, but modern drainage schemes have diverted the water elsewhere, and the old trough, to which cattle and work horses used to come daily from Warton Hall Farm has been filled in.

When Warton Hall Farm was owned by Messrs. E. and J. Whinnerah, in the early years of this century, the Weir was the scene of very colourful activity on the last day of March each year. There were thirty to forty shire stallions kept at the farm, and on this day they were beautifully groomed and decked out with coloured ribbons and cockades. Then,

under the eye of Jossey Fryer, the head groom, they were paraded on the Weir for the benefit of visiting deputations from Shire Horse Societies all over the country. The great barn, now demolished to make way for Church Hill Avenue, was set out with tables, and hospitality was offered to the visitors both there and in the house. Among the crowd went a familiar local figure of those days, the dwarf Teddy Pennington, selling peanuts, for the spectacle on the Weir drew many more people than those who were directly concerned with the hiring of stallions. When the animals went off on their travels, each was accompanied by a groom until the return to the farm.

Nowadays the Weir is the centre of ceremonies when the Sports Queen is crowned on the day of the Children's Sports, and so there is upheld a long tradition of festivities on the village green.

## **2—Warton Hall Farm and Warton Hall**

There are now three separate dwellings where in former times there was only one. When what is known as the Hall was separated from the farm, probably in Victorian times, its height was raised and it was given a false frontage; from the rear of the house the long line of the earlier roof is readily seen stretching the whole length of the building. The farm section escaped these Victorian "improvements" and is now scheduled as a building of historical and architectural merit.

In the yard beside the farm, but recently filled in, is the site of the "churn-walk", when horse power was used to cope with the labour of churning butter. The dairy was half underground; on the yard overlooked by the window was the circle of the "walk". A long radial wooden shaft was attached to a central hub on a vertical spindle which linked with a cogged wheel on a shaft that passed underground into the dairy, where it rotated a wide-flanged wheel on the wall. A belt on this wheel was connected to its fellow on the churn, which was then turned over and over as the horse moved around the churn-walk pulling the outside shaft after it. When Boxer had this duty, he walked round unsupervised until Mrs. Whinnerah called to him from the window to stop — remote control in days not so mechanically minded as our own!

John Lucas, writing his "History of the Parish of Warton" in the first half of the eighteenth century, describes Warton Hall as "a neat House" and "a pleasant habitation, formerly the seat of the Kitsons, a family which flourished here in great Repute for many Generations". They were noted for their wealth in the sixteenth century, and in the seventeenth a Thomas Kitson, Gent., of Warton, paid the large fine of £390 to the Protectorate because he was a Royalist. The family's marriage connections are even more interesting. A certain Margaret Kitson married John Washington; her brother Thomas, born at Warton Hall in 1485, went to Hengrave in Sussex, where the mansion he built is ample evidence of family prosperity. Thomas's daughter, Katherine, married a Sir John Spencer, and it was from his link with this family that Sir Winston Spencer Churchill received his name.

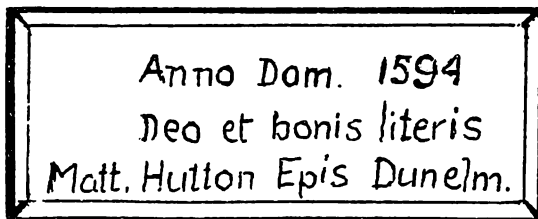
## **3—The Shovel Inn — once known as "The Malt Shovel"**

This is another building more venerable than its appearance now suggests; after the decay of the Old Rectory it housed the meetings of the Manor Court, or Court Leet. Here the Wartonians came to settle the agricultural policies of the open fields and the common pasture, to deal out petty justice, and to carry through business about ownership and transfer of land that would in our own times be transacted in a lawyer's office. Did the mail coach stop here before it went on up the Old Coach Road to Leighton? Judging from old maps, the main coach route north to Kendal and beyond lay through Warton until 1792.



#### 4—School House, 78 Main Street

This low cottage, with its porch and lower mullioned windows, is obviously another seventeenth century building although it has no date stone. It has a roomy interior with a curved oak staircase and oak floors upstairs, and panelling that its one-time owner acquired when the church was restored in 1892 and the tall box pews were removed. There is still stabling for horses under the same roof. In former days Grammar School boys who could not return home each day were boarded at this cottage — hence its name.



#### 5—Bishop Hutton Grammar School and The Hospital of Jesus —

##### The Alms Houses

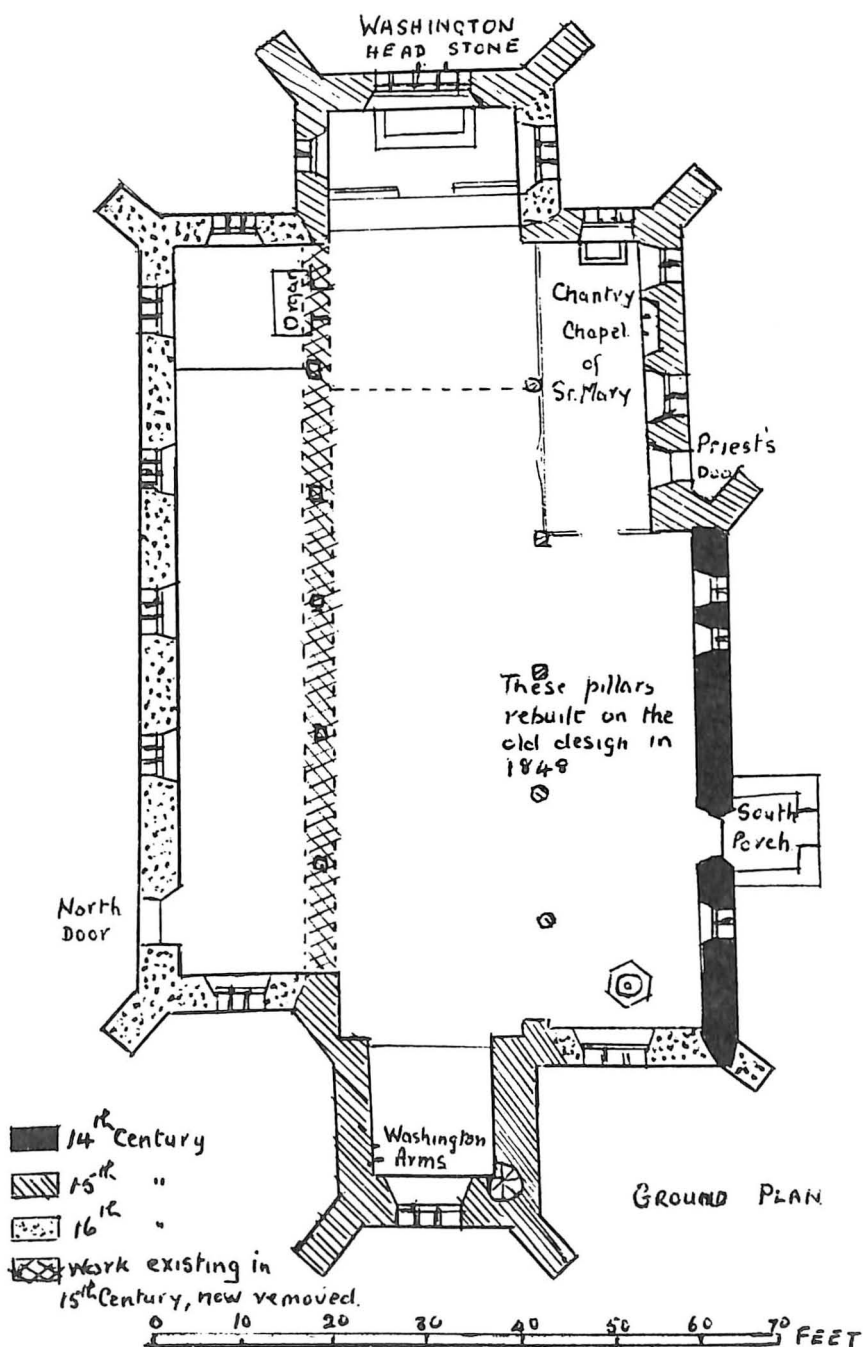
The school building in Main Street was erected in 1902 to rehouse the scholars from Cross Bank, where the **Grammar School** stood, which was converted into two cottages. The old inscription stone was incorporated in the new school and still tells passers-by that Matthew Hutton, Bishop of Durham, had this building erected in 1594 'For God and good education.'

Matthew Hutton, who finally became Archbishop of York, was the son of humble parents living in Hutton (now Priest Hutton) and was given his first lessons privately at Warton. The outstanding ability of this young boy was brought to the notice of a wealthy Yorkshireman, who first sent him to Ripon College and then to Cambridge. When he was Bishop of Durham, Queen Elizabeth I granted a charter to him for the founding of a free Grammar School, and a 'hospital' for six elderly men, to be known as the Hospital of Jesus, in the village where he had received his early education. The original charter, written in Latin on sheepskin parchment, has some fine illuminated lettering and is a very valuable document. Unfortunately it has lost its most precious accompaniment — the Queen's seal. It is now in the care of the Church. The Headmaster has in his school an original oil painting of Archbishop Hutton painted during the reign of James I and given to the school by a member of the Hutton family during the last century.

The hospital, which has been rebuilt more than once, was originally meant to house six poor men to each of whom the charity gave an annual stipend of £3-6-8 and a plot of land (unfortunately too far up the Coach Road for convenient working). They were, in return, to help in keeping the Church yard tidy, to obey the rules of the hospital and to say prayers in their own chapel. In later years the terms were altered so that three poor men and their wives could be accommodated; if the husband died first the wife could not remain in occupation. This edict was in force up to the time that the most recent buildings, three cottages, were abandoned after the death of Mr. William Bolton, the last resident, in 1965.



# CHURCH OF ST OSWALD WARTON



The building of 1902 is still in use, but it seems unlikely to serve its purpose for as long as its predecessor on Cross Bank. Already (1971) the first phase of a new building in Back Lane is occupied by the younger children.

## 6—The Church

This is the mother church of a once much bigger parish. Silverdale, a long rough four miles away, had its own chapel, with a curate paid by the Vicar of Warton, as early as the seventeenth century, but the churches of Carnforth, Borwick and Yealand are of much more recent date.

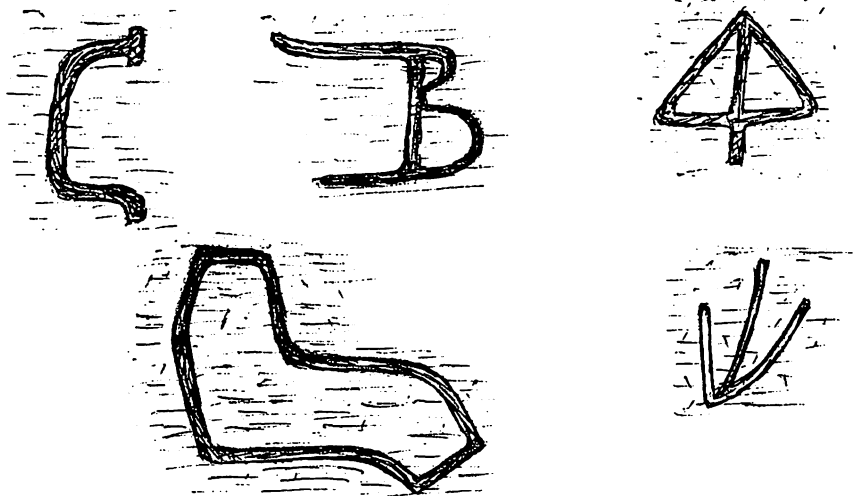
Warton Church is dedicated to St. Oswald, the second Christian King of the ancient kingdom of Northumbria, who became a convert on the island of Iona, and in 650 A.D. was murdered by the heathen King Penda of Mercia. The first recorded holder of the benefice was William the Chaplain, appointed by William de Lancaster as rector, an office he held between 1180 and 1189, more than a hundred years before any part of the present building was erected.

As it now stands the church has a chancel, with a south chapel; the nave is clerestoried, with north and south aisles, and has a south porch, and a west tower. Because of the slope on which the church is built the north door is 2' 2" above the floor of the nave, and the south door 1' 2" below it. The dressed stonework of the church is, rather surprisingly, of local origin (it is freestone and not limestone) and came from a quarry near Cote Stones which, after being long hidden, was uncovered in the early eighteenth century by violent tides after the Kent channel moved southwards.

The oldest part of the church, the south aisle wall, dates from the fourteenth century, and probably indicates for us the length of the mediaeval church, which would thus be about 56' as against the present 105'. There are two fourteenth century windows to be seen in the south wall.

Before the Reformation the Lady Chapel was a Chantry chapel, founded so that masses could be said for the person making the endowment, in this case a member of the wealthy Croft family. Such endowments, however, had to cease when the church was no longer under the rule of Rome. In the Lady Chapel are the sedilia, seats let into the wall which were used by the clergy while the Creed and the Gloria were sung. In those mediaeval days the parish priest might be accompanied by a chantry priest, or by a deacon who read the Gospel and a sub-deacon who read the Epistle.

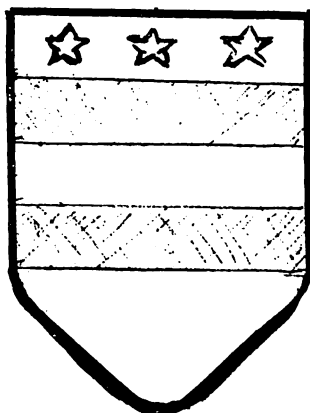
The present north aisle dates from the sixteenth century, and is separated from the nave and chancel by an arcade of six pointed arches. The opening nearest the chancel seems to have been cut through the thickness of the fifteenth century wall, and the arch is less wide than that on the corresponding south side. Several mason's marks can be found on these pillars. The north porch is modern, but over it is an old stone bearing the arms of the Croft family.



MASON'S MARKS. on the  
CHURCH PILLARS.

The unadorned barrel font is older than the present building. Sir Robert Bindloss, of Borwick Hall; Sir George Middleton, of Leighton Hall, and Nathaniel West were responsible for the re-lining of the font in 1661 with elaborately wrought lead work, on which their initials appear. That was more than three hundred years ago, but the font had already been in use for five hundred years before it was refurbished.

Most visitors to the church wish to see the Washington coat-of-arms, once set outside in the north wall of the tower. Some time after Lucas described it (he wrote his "History" between 1710 and 1744) it was covered with plaster, and revealed again in 1885 when the covering fell away. It was protected by a pane of glass, but as this proved ineffective the stone was removed in 1955, and so is now on the inside wall of the tower. The three mullets and the two bars are said to have inspired the design of the American flag.



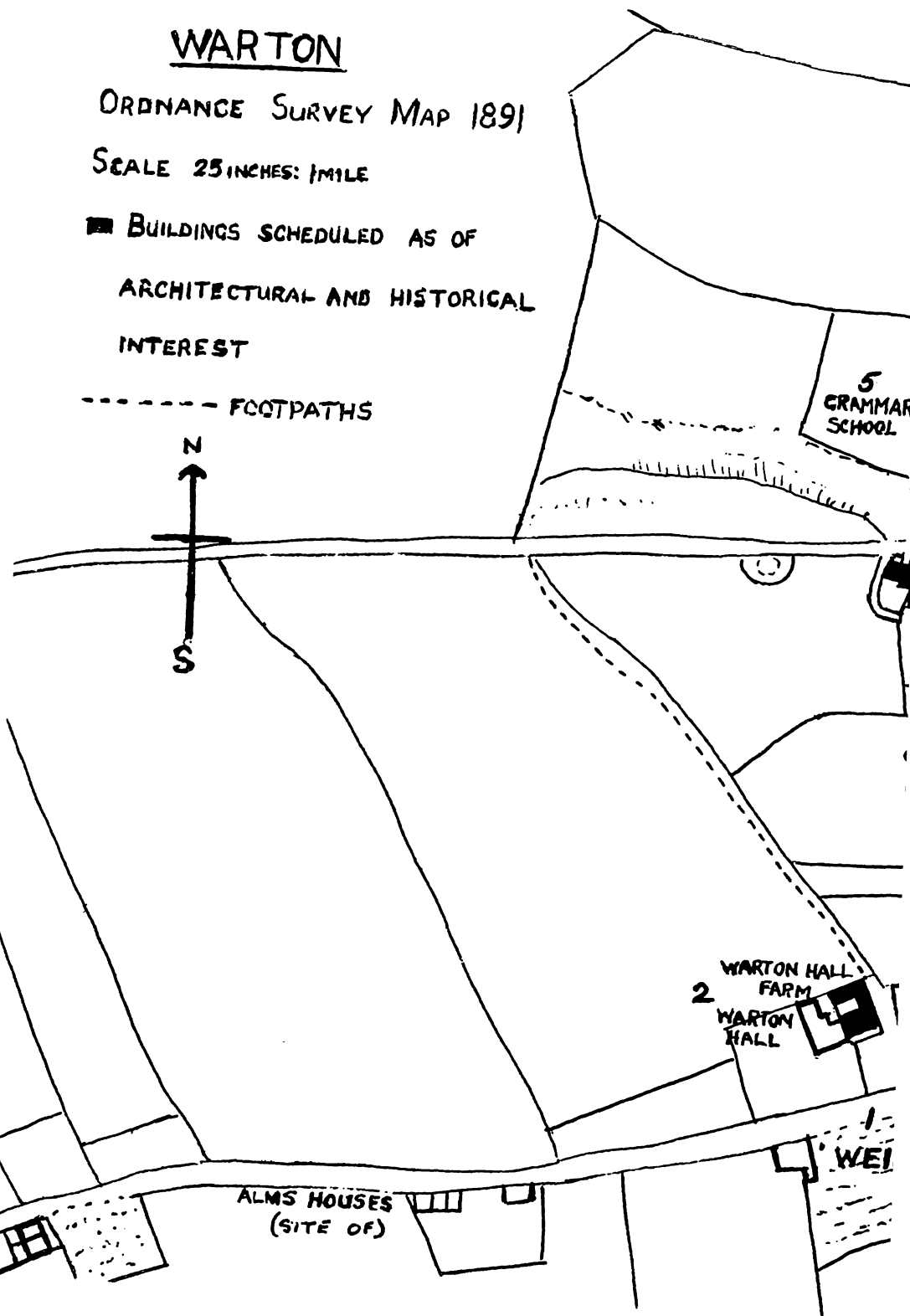
# WARTON

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1891

SCALE 25 INCHES: 1 MILE

■ BUILDINGS SCHEDULED AS OF  
ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL  
INTEREST

--- FOOTPATHS

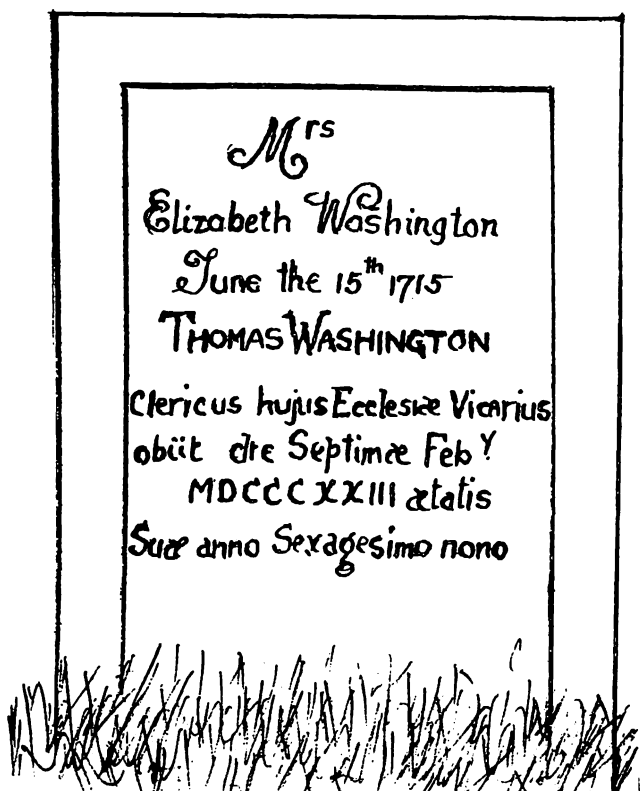




BASED UPON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP OF 1891  
WITH THE SANCTION OF THE CONTROLLER  
OF HM STATIONERY OFFICE,  
PLOWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED.

The tower itself belongs to the period of the fifteenth century rebuilding, when the whole church took more or less its present shape, except possibly for the north aisle. The tower was built by Robert Washington, who died in 1483, and whose forbears had been land owners in the parish since the thirteenth century. Now, almost five centuries later, the American flag flies from this tower on Independence Day, a reminder that one of Robert Washington's descendants became the first President of a great country that, in 1483, had not yet been discovered by the western world.

The "Stars and Stripes" was first presented to Warton Church by American soldiers. Billeted in this country, they had come to see Washington House, the coat-of-arms, and the headstone against the east wall of the Church commemorating Mrs. Elizabeth Washington and her nephew, the Rev. Thomas Washington, one-time Vicar of this parish. Then a few years ago, when visitors from San Diego were being shown the church, the Vicar commented that the flag was not up-to-date in its number of stars now that Alaska and Hawaii had joined the Confederation. On their return home, these kind friends obtained from a Senator a new flag which had been flown from the Capitol Building, Washington, on 11th May, 1966, so this is now seen on the flagstaff of Warton Church Tower every 4th July.





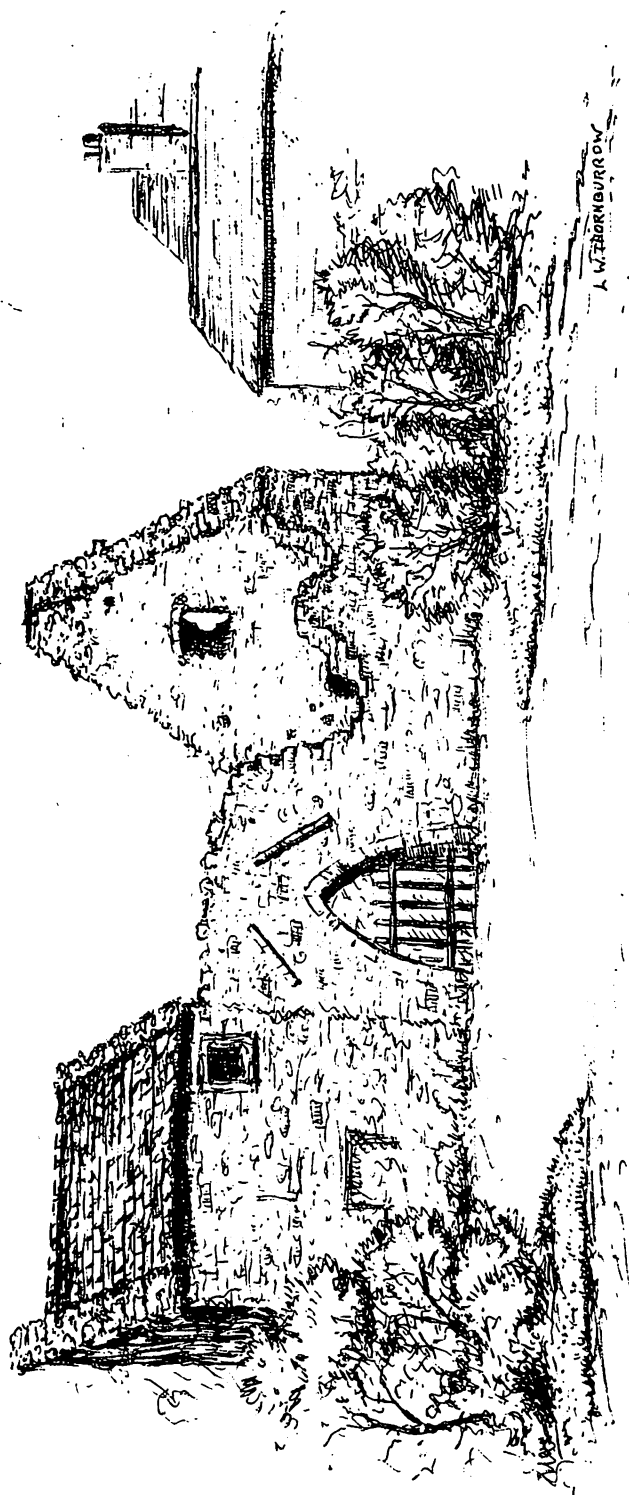
In the belfry is a ring of three bells, the oldest inscribed "R.B. anno dom. 1578."

The church in Warton was one of the richest in the diocese of York; in Pope Nicholas's taxation of c.1291 its revenues valued at £66 13s. 4d. per annum, and its taxes, at £26 13s. 4d., were the highest in the diocese. No doubt this was a reason for the quarrels about the advowson\* that occurred in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries between on the one hand the holders of manorial rights in this part of the barony of Kendal, the Thwengs and the Lumleys, and on the other the King, who as Duke of Lancaster more than once asserted his right to the wardship of the heirs. In 1473 John Harrington of Lancaster, with others, set fire to the Rectory house when legal officers, John Lawrence, John Bolton and others, were inside. Early in the reign of Henry VIII another John Lawrence, who had inherited the advowson and was contesting the King's claims, sent John Whittington, Gent., John Thomson, John Gurnell, Richard Croft and about eighty servants and tenants "in defensible array and harness" to seize the grain in the Rectory barns and to appropriate the revenues. After this exploit they used the church tower as a fortress and roasted their meat in the church, refusing for some time to give admission to the curate. But there is no evidence of further opposition when in 1547 the Crown assumed the whole right of advowson, and gave the rectory to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester. A vicar was then appointed to Warton, who had a house, half an acre of glebe, and was allowed £18 per annum. By 1650 this had become £20, while the tithes were worth £227. By the time of the Restoration the vicar had £80, from which he made an allowance of £5 to the curate of Silverdale.

The Reformation, as we have seen, brought its changes; the historian Lucas believes that much valuable church silver must then have been removed. He also tells us that from the time of the Reformation until Archbishop Laud had authority in the reign of Charles I, the communion table had been in the body of the church, but it was then removed to the east and enclosed by rails "to secure it from the rude approach of dogs, etc." These rails were broken down by "the factious party," but at the Restoration the table was set up as before, and the rails replaced in 1699.

Restorations of the building have done away with a south-east chantry, and also with what was described as a fine rood loft, to which a flight of stone steps led from the north of the chancel. Before the Reformation the Rood (an image of Christ crucified, with figures of the Virgin Mary and St. John) was an important feature of the church, and usually was fixed on a rood beam or on the screen which separated the nave from the chancel. Above this screen was sometimes a loft. In Warton Church, as described by Lucas, this rood-loft was on the north side of the chancel, above the vestry. Apparently it had escaped the zeal of the Reformers and the Parliamentary soldiers, for in the eighteenth century it held seats for parishioners. The old pews are also gone, inscribed with initials of well-known families who worshipped here, though one of the present pews has nine coats-of-arms on the back, formerly in Sir George Middleton's pew and originally on the old rood-screen. His brass monument is still on the pillar above this seat. The west door, through which the rush-bearing procession came on the Sunday nearest to the first of August, is now partly bricked up, and in the 1892 restoration many old gravestones were removed from the floor of the church and sold for paving stones. One of these was the stone of Nathaniel West, benefactor of 1661. Many windows were then renewed, and the roof reconstructed.

\* Advowson: the right to receive tithes and to appoint a priest to take charge of church services, etc.



Not all the craftsmanship that enhances the church is ancient. During the years 1968-1969 the whole building was repaired, cleaned and decorated, and its furnishings enriched by many generous gifts, which included the silver candle sticks, made to match the silver Memorial Cross, and the Processional Cross. Both of these were designed and executed by the Metallurgy Department of the Chorley Training College. The Altar kneeler, in five pieces, is the handiwork of the ladies of the church, and represents 4,500 hours of work. In cross-stitch it embodies the coats-of-arms of York, Worcester, Chester, Manchester and Blackburn.

The Lady Chapel was completely renovated and re-furnished with a new altar and fifteen chairs. The latter, memorial gifts from families in the congregation, were made by Robt. Thompson's Craftsmen Ltd., Kilburn, York. The trademark of their work is a little mouse, which is carved on every piece of furniture that they make. One of their pupils now works independently, and has chosen a squirrel for his trade mark. The chest at the back of the church is his work.

## **7—The Rectory ruins**

Here is a building that is of special interest to the historian. Built in the early years of the fourteenth century, during the time of the Scottish raids, when many of the neighbouring pele towers were built, this is nevertheless a building that shows no sign of fortification. It was built of local stone by the de Thweng family. Marmaduke de Thweng married an heiress, Isobel de Ros, great grand-daughter of Gilbert Fitz Reinfride. Her dowry included Kendal, Warton, Helsington, Kerneford and six other towns. At the time it was built the Rectory was a Manor holding its own court of justice. Marmaduke de Thweng also held the coveted advowson of the church, valued by Pope Nicholas in 1291 as one of the richest in the diocese of York. As patron he appointed Galvan de Thweng to be Rector, a position he held from 1304 to 1316, and in 1342 his son Robert became Rector.

This fine building consists of a ground floor hall at the north end of which are two opposing exits, to east and west. In this end wall are three more doorways, those leading to buttery and pantry being on either side of a through passage to the kitchen. Above these service quarters is the principal private room for the family; here can be seen the stone jambs of a great fireplace. In the south gable there is a vesica-shaped window, at the dais end of the hall where the lord and his family and distinguished guests dined. There is also a doorway leading westwards which was once connected by a penthouse to a detached two-storey building now incorporated in the present vicarage, and traditionally known as the chapel.

This, then, is a description of the simplest form of "end-hall house"—a type that was to be the ancestor of the great houses of mediaeval and Tudor times.

Mr. R. Gilyard-Beer, O.B.E., M.A., F.S.A., Assistant Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, writes: "Examples of this type that have not suffered considerable alteration and additions through continual use are distinctly rare in any part of the country, and virtually unknown in the north-west. Not only is Warton remarkably complete, but it has no alterations that obscure the direct simplicity of its plan and arrangements and make it a text-book example of uncommon value."

Against the northern gable of the Rectory there was a small cottage built at a later date, but still very old. It was occupied long after the Rectory was deserted. It consisted of one living-room from which a ladder led up to a wooden platform covering part of the ground floor to

make a half-loft for sleeping accommodation. Exploratory work on this cottage brought to light a cruck truss. Crucks were split halves of tree trunks or boughs possessing a natural curve. The two halves were fitted together on the ground, and the resulting arch was then raised into position as one of two or more such supports to form the skeleton of the building. This system became established at the beginning of the fourteenth century, and proved so satisfactory that for small cottages it continued to be used as late as the nineteenth century. It had the advantage of freeing the interior of obstructing vertical posts which had previously been required to support the centres of the inclined rafters. The crucks from this cottage were preserved when the building was demolished.

As mentioned in the introduction the Rectory had a stormy history. The Kings of England coveted the rich income of the Church, especially when they were waging war with Scotland. From the time when the second generation of the de Thwengs died without male issue, in 1342, the Kings asserted a right to the wardship of the heirs, but there were other claimants to this right and rivalry and conflict ensued. There was no lasting peace until Edward VI granted the benefice to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral, who then became the Rectors of Warton and remained so for many years. By 1602 we find that the courts were being held in the building that is now known as the Shovel Inn, and by 1721 John Lucas, the historian of Warton, refers to the Rectory as a ruin. At present the building is being preserved by the Ministry of Public Building and Works, and even at the time of writing foundations of further buildings are being discovered on the site.\*

### **8—The Black Bull Inn**

Little seems to be known of this inn in spite of its age and prominent position, except that in 1825 it was known as The Bull's Head. On the door jambs are hooks once used by riders to secure their horses while they sought refreshment. The mounting steps disappeared when the barn was demolished a few years ago.

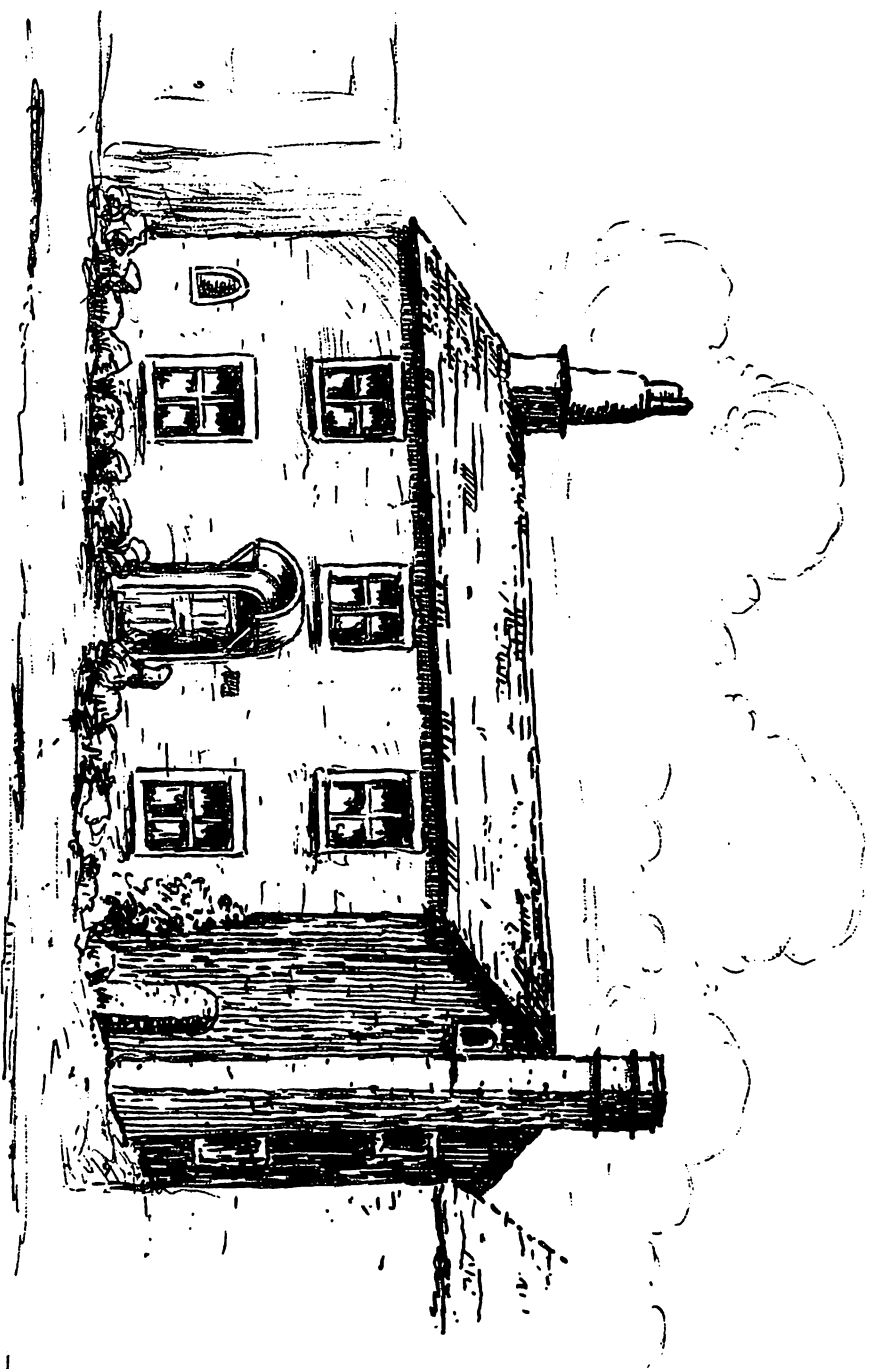
### **9—Windsor House**

Across the road from the church is Windsor House. Its trim exterior at most times of the year gay with flowers, hardly suggests that this was in the last century, the Red Lion Inn. Inside are the just discernable marks of the structure of the bar counter; there is also a large cellar, which seems to have had direct access to the street. The addition probably in the last century, of spacious new kitchen premises has reduced the size of the courtyard at the rear, where there is still a coach house and stabling for three horses. Sometime between 1881 and 1886 the Red Lion ceased to function as an inn and became a private house. The malthouse in Back Lane, now the Village Hall, was kept independently by a maltster.

### **10—Washington House**

At the top of the hill, and opposite the Post Office, is Washington House. There were many members of the Washington family in the district, and as early documents dealing with village houses refer to them only as "a message" it is not possible to say which branch of the family first came to live on this site. We know that the place was rebuilt in the

\* The Rectory will be opened to the public in 1976.

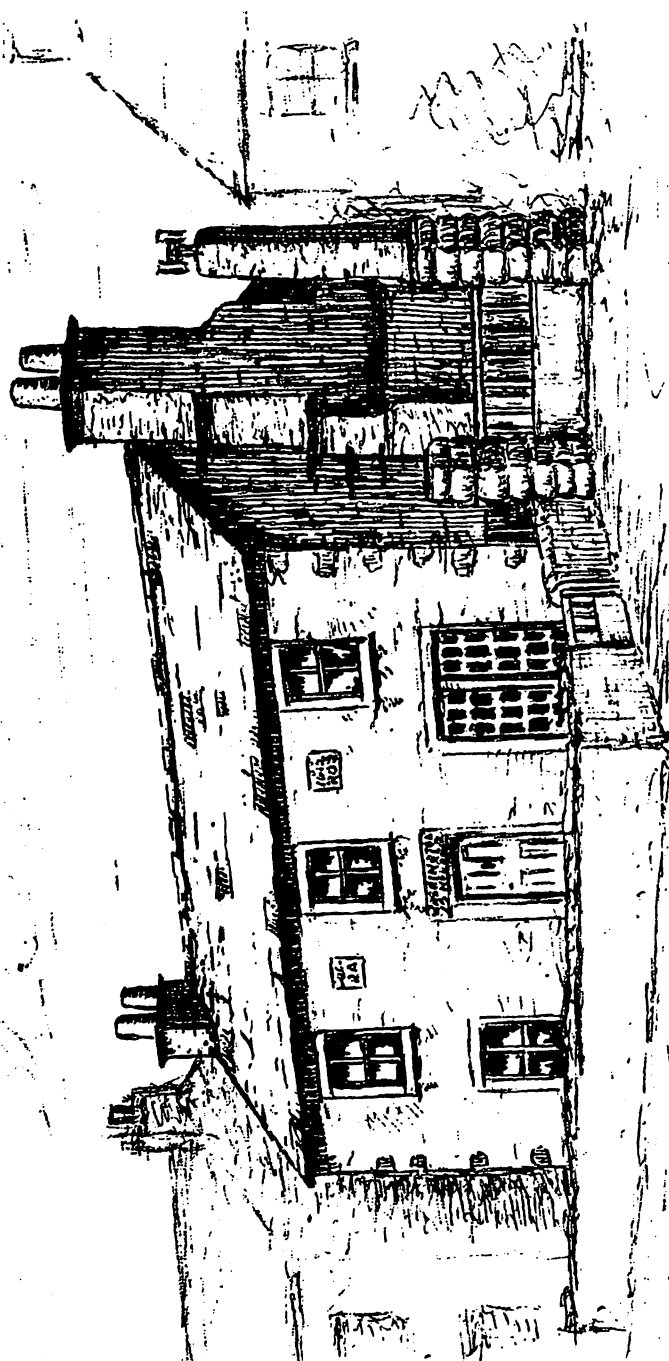


WINDSOR HOUSE WARTON

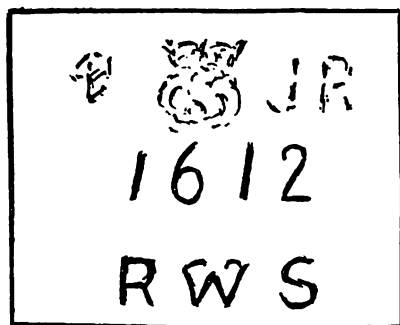
J. W. THORNBURGH

L. W. THORNBURROW

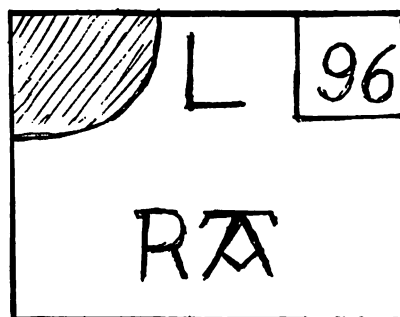
WASHINGTON HOUSE WARTON



late eighteenth century, when a new stone fireplace was installed and some of the old, wide hearth place built up; at that date, too, the 1612 date stone of the earlier house was placed in the new front; the initials R W S, according to Mr. T. Pape, may refer to Robert or Richard Washington and his wife. It seems likely that before 1612 there was a house on this site — perhaps the great corbelled chimney stack was part of it. Since the last rebuilding the house has been occupied by only two families until the present owners came into possession in 1966. With imagination and care they are seeking to restore as much as possible of its old atmosphere and appearance; the large rooms suggest that here lived yeoman farmers in comfort but not luxury. An interesting reminder of the housekeeping of other days is the bread oven built into the wall, with an outlet into the chimney, an amenity introduced in the sixteenth century.



Top left-hand corner: indecipherable  
 Middle: Rose surmounted by crown  
 Top right-hand: J.R. James Rex



Interpretation  
 unknown

### Back Lane

The name "Back Lane" is almost as old as the road itself, and is found in most linear-type villages and in many towns, a memorial to days when they too were only large enough to have a main street and one other. Though the cottages here are not so old as some of those on Main Street, their present-day counterparts — for here is a fairly large area of modern development — give them by contrast an air of settled

antiquity.

Houses apart, Back Lane was important, both as a cattle route to the pastures behind the village and as the way to Senset Well. The stretch of road that now links Main Street to the north end of Back Lane is comparatively modern, and did not exist when Yates compiled his map in 1789. "Senset" is a corruption of "St. Oswald", and probably the ever-flowing water in this well was thought to have more virtue than that from less sanctified sources. Back Lane was also the way by which parishioners from Tewitfield, Borwick and Priest Hutton came to Warton church.

### Main Street

When we consider such events as the granting of a market charter in 1199, and the appointment of a chaplain to the church in 1180, it is clear that the present buildings of Main Street must be the successors to earlier dwellings. These no doubt were flimsier erections, possibly of turf, wood, or "wattle and daub", and it may be that their foundations were those large stones to be seen still at the base of some of the present houses. Some of these stones have been cemented to match the rendering of the wall above them, as at the side of Windsor House, but they are clearly to be seen at numbers 121, 172, 174 and 180. After the middle of the sixteenth century there began a general rebuilding in permanent materials, and this process, taking place rather later in the north of the country than in the south and midlands, explains why we see no date stones earlier than the seventeenth century in Warton. Local builders used local stone, probably taken from the old quarry behind Cross Bank, and much of it was in the form of irregular rubble. Two walls were built and the space between was filled with small waste stones to make a finished structure often more than two feet thick. To make this more weather-proof a rendering was used of lime and sand, perhaps pebble-dashed; as a similar finish is often used to cover modern brickwork the age of these buildings is not so immediately apparent as with some types of construction.

Interesting interior details come to light in conversations with residents. Here is a stone stair-case (no. 108); here a salt-cupboard, a small recess built into a wall near the fireplace and just large enough to contain—and keep dry—a block of salt such as every household possessed in pre-package days (no. 63); here an interior wall made of wattle and daub and still serving its purpose (no. 95).

At the entrance to Croftlands and Newcroft, at the east end of the village, is no. 137, sometimes known as "Tudor House". It is a building of pleasing proportions and appearance, with some mullioned windows and a stout buttress at one corner, and probably dates from the seventeenth century. Before Croftlands was built, this house faced a garden that stretched to the boundary wall of the nearby Briar Cottage, but as a road had to be made to the new estate, the peaceful old lawn and orchard vanished. The present garden is a charming example of what can be done when the gardener co-operates with the terrain instead of trying to alter it. Along both sides of Main Street, in Back Lane, and on Cross Bank (now called Holly Bank) are stone barns and other farm buildings to stress the activities that not long ago dominated the village. Their numbers are fewer than they were; it does not need a long memory to recall the barns of the Shovel Inn, Warton Hall Farm, the Black Bull Inn, and the coach house, harness room and hay-loft of Dawson's Buildings. Those that are left add character and charm to the village. At the side of "Church View", opposite Washington House, is a range that leads the eye delightfully to the fields and Crag beyond the gate. In the barn \* at the junction of Main Street and Borwick Lane, Billy Dawson in the early years of this century kept his farm cart and the hay for his animals;

\* Now converted into two dwellings.



this same cart was regularly used to trundle luggage to and from Carnforth in days when Warton was outside the area for railway collection and delivery. Some of these old buildings are now used as workshops by local craftsmen, and one has a gateway where the cultivation of flower pots adds to the attractiveness of Main Street.

Between Warton Hall Farmhouse and Boon Town the Main Street, together with much of Back Lane and Holly Bank, has been designated a Conservation Area since 1974. It is interesting to realise that in this Main Street there are no fewer than 32 houses scheduled as buildings of special architectural and historical interest. On the west side of the street these include nos. 57 (Warton Hall Farm), 61, 63, 65, 67, 71 (The Black Bull, Hotel) and 115 including outbuilding; on the east side The Rectory Ruins, 78 and outbuildings (School House), 98 (Windsor House—the old Red Lion Inn), 100 to 118, 130 (Washington House) and 154 to 174. This is an inheritance which the village should surely cherish.

# Descent of the last Washingtons of Warton

John de Wessington = Joan Croft

John = ?

Robert = ?

John

Robert = ?

Tuwhitfield. d. 1483

John = ?

Robert = 1) Eliz. Westfield

= 2) Jane Whittington = 3) Agnes Bateman  
of Borwick

Amy Whetell = Robert

John = Margaret Kitson Thomas Ellen

Robert = ? Miles

Anthony Matthew Eliz.

5 sons 3 daughters

Lawrence = Amy Pargiter  
Sulgrave 1584

Leonard = Eliz. Croft

Lawrence = Alice Godsalf

Eliz. = ? Richardson

John = Agnes Johnson  
1586-1610

Mary  
1595-

Anna  
1597-1671

Robert  
1600-

Brigget  
1603-

Lawrence = Mary Croft  
~1670 ~1675

Alice  
1617-

Leonard = Eliz. Croft  
1619-1699

Ellen = Roger Barker

John = Ellen Hinde  
1640-  
Holborn

Robert = Eleanor Barker  
1643  
of Chwalte End

Leonard = Susanna?  
1645-

(Rev.) Lawrence = Eliz. Baines

1685-1768. Vicar of O. Wyresdale

(Rev.) Robert = Rebecca?  
Burton in Wirral ~1771

Ellen  
1712-1795

Matthew  
1718-1729

Matthew

Thomas

~1795 Master, Lancaster G. School  
died in Jersey, Ch. Is.

1755-1823. Vicar of Warton

# WARTON

The Story of a North Lancashire Village

by

Anne H. Morley and Muriel Smalley,  
with pen and ink sketches by Lawrence W. Thornburrow.

Produced for the Warton Village Society.

Any profits from the sale of this booklet will be given to village projects.

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The O.S. map, 1891, is reproduced by kind permission of H.M. Stationery Office.

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