

WARNHAM : 100-150 YEARS AGO

Introduction

The period 1830-40 makes a good starting point for our Warnham History. The parish records are more complete by this date and in 1841-4 we have the benefit of the tithe award map and register, showing the plan of the parish, the ownership and occupation of the land and its use. We also have a breakdown for the first time of the ten year census of 1841 (and a similar breakdown for 1871). Besides these fairly full records of the village we have voters lists of the parish, for the years 1841-59, for the Borough of New Shoreham and the Rape of Bramber, of which the village formed part. So we are in a position to know who owned the land, and who worked on it, the names of the farms, farmsteads and fields, and of the craftsmen and tradesmen of the village.

We also know from the records something of the public affairs of the parish; who took part in them; and how they went about running the parish. What we don't know is much about the personalities and the private affairs of these persons, and it would be nice to be able to build up more of a picture on the personal side from family records, if they still exist.

This is only a first survey of what we have found so far, before looking forward to the next step which will cover the last 100 years, where memory and family records of present inhabitants can help us and possibly add the flesh of reminiscence to the bare bones, and before looking backwards to the earlier settlement of the 14th and 15th century, which we believe to have grown as the forests were cleared, mostly by the iron founders.

The Conditions

The period 1830-40 was still a time of severe hardship following the Napoleonic wars, and the general unrest which had been apparent in the last half of the eighteenth century. Communications throughout the county were poor and villages were isolated even from the nearby towns. Poverty was a major consideration in every parish. Population was increasing but the price of corn fluctuated and remained generally very dear. There was much unemployment; wages remained low; agricultural workers were paid only 8/- to 9/- per week, irrespective of the cost of living, and wages were kept down partly by the Speenhamland system whereby the balance of subsistence had to be found from the local Poor Rates. In 1763, a peck loaf of bread cost 1/1 - in 1817 this rose to as much as 6/8d. in some parts, and though it gradually fell to 5/6d. and later to 3/-, it still remained out of reach of many - and labourers lived largely on potatoes and what they could grow themselves. Their situation too, had not been improved by the enclosure of the land, which seems to have happened very early in this part of Sussex, which denied the labourer his independence to provide for himself and family from his own plot of land and his cottage industries.

The Disturbances

Not surprisingly there was much ill-feeling and disturbance. The landowners were apprehensive and the magistrates applied the law vigorously.

Smuggling

Violence was not new to the County - smuggling, carried out by organised gangs had been a common problem in Sussex in the past century. In fact, this had been a major industry - Warnham is known to have played its part on the route of a well known smuggler, Saucy Elliott, who ran a load of spirits through contacts in Robin Hood Lane (Dubbins & Knight) to Friday St., Warnham, where he had a regular customer, named Freeman, who had a hiding place in the woods behind his house (Alberrys, Millenium of Facts). (Rumour still has it that there was once a

subterranean passage between the Greets and Byfleets.)

Protection Societies

These former smuggling gangs now turned their attention to other forms of crime all over the South East of England, and it was necessary to form Protection Societies in Towns and Villages. Warnham had its own Society for the Detection & Apprehension of Felons. In 1832 its membership consisted of most of the local farmers, and its Rules included a scale of awards for information leading to conviction for different types and degrees of injury. This society lasted until well on into the 1850s.

The Mobbing Year

1830 was known as the Mobbing Year, when all over the South there was an outbreak of agrarian violence, wrecking of new farm machinery, rick and farm burning, etc. By and large this does not appear to have been too bad in this area, and there was indeed some sympathy between the farmers, themselves the victims of the times, and their labourers. In Nov.1830 there was a demonstration in Horsham and the Magistrates were forced to meet the rioters - old Sir Timothy Shelley of Field Place, aged 80, was forced to go along to their meeting in Horsham Parish Church. Despite the menace, the local population behaved with restraint and a critical situation was avoided. The gangs appear to have got little change in the end.

Agriculture

Most of the land round Warnham which was cut out of the forest, is wet soggy clay and not easy to cultivate and, unless drained, is not particularly suitable for cereals. The residual shaws and odd shaped fields appear to have been suitable for subsistence farming only. Ploughing was almost entirely by oxen, and the output would be sufficient for local needs only. The Sussex brand of cattle, too, were particularly suitable for working and for beef. Farms were mostly small, 20-30 acres though by this time, due to common ownership by large landowners, fewer but larger units were coming into being.

Of the 4920 acres of the parish in 1840, 2893 acres (60%) was under plough and 712 acres (20%) was pasture - (the remaining 20% being woodlands or waste, roads, etc.). There was still a small amount of common land on Broadbridge Heath and individuals had rights to graze geese or hogs to supplement their livelihood - no doubt the latter were run also in the many shaws and the woods.

Communications

Communications were still primitive. Up to 1840 all roads, except the Turnpikes, were still rutted and muddy and even up to the 1850s in winter walkers would sink into the mud up to their calves. Responsibility for roads was with the parishes through which they passed and not with the users until the Highway Act of 1835 was passed, when a Highways Board was set up with responsibility for local roads and pavements. The Turnpikes remained the responsibility even then of their own Boards and there were many complaints about the state of cross roads and junctions for which the local parishes still remained responsible. The Horsham-Dorking Turnpike had been completed in the 1750s. Apart from this communication between Warnham and Horsham was largely by footpath and the main road through the village, as now, ran across Broadbridge Heath. In 1809, a new road was authorised by Parliament, as a result of a petition, from Horsham to Alfolden, where it connected with Stane Street and the Guildford Turnpike.

In these circumstances the main roads through the village, The Street, now

School Hill and Church Street, and Friday Street, were little more than lanes with open sewers, forming part of the highway, which petered out across Broadbridge Heath, with a secondary way along Friday Street to the Manor of Slaughterford (now part of the Ends Place estate) along Strood Lane, where it joined the Horsham-Guildford Highway.

The Parish

The parish of Warnham at this time, as now, included the small Hamlets of Kingsfold and Rowhook, besides the village of Warnham. There were some 30 or more small farms, many of these based on small farmsteads dating back to the 16th century.

The pattern of the village, as seen from the map, was similar to the present with a concentration of small cottages and tenements spread either side of the Church and along The Street and at the top end of Friday Street. The majority of buildings had small crofts or orchards and gardens in which they kept their pigs. The roads for the most part were bordered with open drains which in certain places took the effluent from the privies and pigstyes. It was not until, following the Nuisance Removal Act of 1855, that in 1857 the Vestry devised a piped main drainage system and carried out the work in two months, not without protest by some inhabitants.

Up to this time epidemics of diarrhoea, fever and even cholera and diphtheria were prevalent every year (in 1856 - 70 cases). In the year 1857 this was reduced to 11 cases of diarrhoea and, subsequently, to single figures.

In 1841 the population reached 1000 (1005 in fact) for the first time - 523 males and 482 females and it remained steady about that figure until the 1880s.

Adjoining the village itself were Gardens Farm, later known as Street Farm, and Three Styles Farms, now Old Manor and Cider Mill respectively; Hollands Farm, on the present site of Hollands Way and extending behind the cottages to Friday Street, formerly known as the Manor of Hollands or Hollamps, and across the Street were the Agate Timber Works, partly on the site of the present Warnham Court Farm.

Warnham Court itself was built in 1826 by Henry Tredcroft whose father, Nathaniel, a prosperous Horsham resident, had at the beginning of the century purchased from the descendants of the Michell family what is now the central section of Warnham Park and including Daux Farm, in association with Robert Redford a Horsham butcher, whose family farmed the land.

Further to the South were Bailing Hill Farm, formerly the home of the Pilfold family, and Field Place, originally the home of the Michells, but purchased about 1760 by Edward Shelley.

To the South West was Old House Farm, part of the Manor of Slaughterford, on the present site of Ends Place.

The Administration of the Parish

Following the dissolution of the monasteries into whose hands many of the old Manors had fallen, and the consequent redistribution and break up of the old manorial courts, with their local jurisdiction by the Court Leet, a new form of local corporate jurisdiction based on the parish succeeded the Manorial system.

During the 17th and 18th century too, the jurisdiction of the Hundred Courts gave way to the County & Borough quarter sessions under Justices of the Peace.

In the Parish the local administration, both ecclesiastical and secular, devolved on the Vestry under the Vicar and Churchwardens, who were increasingly bestowed with Parish duties such as Relief of the Poor, the nomination for appointment of Constables, the maintenance of the Highway, preparation of Electoral Rolls and sundry other problems, all under the direction of the Justices of the Peace in Horsham.

The Vestries were either "Open" attended by all Ratepayers, depending on their qualification, by ownership of land, or "Closed" as an appointed or self-appointed Committee of the Officers of the Parish.

In Warnham, the role of the Hundred Court of Single Cross had been taken over by the County Quarter Sessions, and the Justices of the Peace for the Borough of Horsham.

The Vestry met regularly to deal with local administrative matters, sometimes with the Vicar, if ecclesiastical matters were involved, but otherwise without him. Meetings were often held at the Sussex Oak as until 1862 there was no suitable meeting space in the Church. (In 1862 a vote of thanks was passed to Sir Percy Shelley for allowing the South Chancel of the Church to be fitted up and used as a Vestry.)

Besides the appointments of the two Churchwardens and usually two Overseers of the Poor, sometimes with an Assistant Overseer, and an Overseer of the Highways, two or three other local farmers served on the Vestry. Most of these posts seem to have been shuffled round between a number of the tenant farmers whose names repeatedly recur in the records. Prominent amongst these are the Agates, Stephen & John, Muggerridges, Charmans, James Harding, Henry Wells and others, including the John Stanford of the day. Thus the governance of the village was in relatively few hands.

A landmark in the vestry was the appointment in 1830 of Michael Turner as Parish Clerk, in which capacity he served the Vestry and the Parish for 50 years. A cordwainer by trade he was musician, choirmaster & bell-ringer, he was widely known and respected in this part of Sussex, and he and his fiddle (now in the Church) were in demand for parties. In 1840 he was paid £10 p.a. from the Rates, and his duties included the washing of surplices, cleaning the church and providing bread for the sacrament. He retired in 1880 and died in 1887. He is commemorated in verse in Warnham Churchyard – as below.

It is notable that he was succeeded by William Charman who served for 20 years and by Harry Etherton who served for 54 years – a span of 104 years between them.

Inscription on the tomb of Michael Turner

His duty done beneath this stone,
Old Michael lies at rest,
His rustic rig, his song, his jig
Were ever of the best.

With nodding head, the choir he led
That none should start too soon
The second, too, he sang full tune
His viol* played the tune.

And when at last his age had passed,
One hundred less eleven,
With faithful cling to fiddle string
He sang himself to Heaven.

* Now displayed with his tuning fork in Warnham Church.

Another appointment at this time was that of Henry Mann in 1841 as Assistant to the Surveyors and Collector of the Rates, and in 1844 as Vestry Clerk and for the next 15 Years he seems to have been the business manager and secretary accountant and general factotum to the Vestry and the poor law administration. It seems that he was also the village Postmaster and ran a grocery business on the site of the present Warnham Stores.

The posts of Overseers of the Poor and of the Highway were by no means sinecures and the appointments clearly were not sought after. Once elected, there were penalties for refusing to take up the appointment, so it is surprising to see the same names coming forward for several turns.

The condition of the roads was always parlous and the Overseer of the Highways had an unenviable task, as the work had to be carried out as a social duty and funded, where necessary from the rates. Naturally the work undertaken was kept to a minimum.

Another appointment was that of the Parish Constables. This like the Overseers was an elective appointment of historic importance, succeeding the Tithingman of Manorial days. His responsibility was to the Justices of the Peace but did not become a statutory or paid appointment until the Parish Constables Act of 1842. So far as the village was concerned the main task would have been in connection with the apprehension, custody and removal of vagrants to their place of settlement, and it seems that until 1842 this duty had been adequately carried out by the Overseers of the Poor. After that date 10 names were put forward each year to the Justices for selection and four were appointed.

So far as we know there was no lock-up in the village (an optional requirement for villages, formerly provided by the Lord of the Manor, or more generally later by subscription or levy on the rates).

There were however the usual stocks, which until quite recently were outside the Village Hall, and probably also a whipping post, a popular method of dealing with vagrants even at that time.

The Work House was in the village until about 1834 when it was replaced by the Horsham Union under the Poor Law Amendment Act, was situated on the site of the present butchers shop and the cottages, 7-21 Church Street. It consisted of three buildings with its garden and orchard where the poor were put to work.

Poor Law Administration

The major concern of the Vestry was with the administration of the Poor Law, which at this time was in a state of flux as a result of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834.

Prior to this each parish was responsible for its own poor, and outdoor relief for the able-bodied poor was also available, even if some of the employment was pretty unconstructive. But the fear remained that unnecessary burdens would fall on the parish from vagrancy and a major problem was the settlement of paupers back in their own original parish. The Warnham records contain a number of orders from the Justices for the removal of paupers from Warnham to their original place of birth or settlement and, conversely, the removal from other parishes to Warnham. Most of these came from, or went to, the neighbouring parishes in Sussex and Surrey. In one case, in 1811, this led to litigation with Slinfold.

Another concern was the annual arrangement for children of paupers between the ages of about 10 and 14 years to be boarded out with local residents. In the years from 1824-40 an average of 20 children were boarded out with local yeoman farmers or craftsmen, and in some cases with those from other parishes as far afield as Abinger and Dorking. The parish paid anything from 6d. up to 3/- per week and provided clothes and the cost of repairing shoes. The guardians were

responsible for washing and repair of clothes.

At a later age, apprenticeships of poor children of both sexes, up to the age of 21 years, or marriage in the case of the girls, were entered into by the parish. The "Master" was responsible for providing "sufficient meat, drink and apparel, lodging, washing and other thought necessary for an apprentice". No payment was provided for and at the end of the apprenticeship, the Master had to provide "Double apparel of all sorts, good and new, that is to say, a good new suit for the Holy Days and another for working days". Trades included carpenter, Joiner, tailor, cordwainer, husbandry and, in the case of the girls, housewifery.

The cost of poor relief in the parish between the years 1816 and 1834 varied between £594 (1816) and 1301 and 1324 in 1818 and 1819, settling down thereafter to an average about £900. 1832 & 33 were bad years when it exceeded £1100.

The Poor Law Amendment Act brought changes, many of them for the worse as it no longer became possible to provide outdoor work and wages for the able-bodied. The main provision was the formation of regional Unions under a Board of Guardians and the abolition of the individual work houses. The conditions in the Union Work Houses were to be made deliberately unpleasant in order to deter anything that smacked of slacking. The Warnham Work House and its land was subsequently sold but not before it had become the scene of a near riot when, in December 1835, it was decided to remove some orphan children from Warnham to the Work House at Shipley. This place had a bad reputation, later shown to be fully deserved, and there were fears that the children would be sent on to factories in the North. A mob led by the women of Warnham assembled in Horsham to protest and the Guardians and the Magistrates were threatened and chased from Normandy up the Causeway to the King's Head Hotel where carriage windows were broken. Troops were brought up to Horsham from Brighton, and the Duke of Richmond, Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, himself presided over the Magistrates and refused to rescind the order. Special Constables were reluctantly sworn in, and the following week when the Poor Law Officers came to Warnham to remove the children, they were man-handled and prevented from doing so until the following day, when accompanied by a detachment of Dragoons with drawn swords. Later a full scale scandal broke out in Horsham over the treatment of children at Shipley, but the Magistrates persisted and sent a poor old man called Mills to gaol for trying to protect his grandchildren who had been in the Warnham workhouse.

The formation of the Horsham Union and the appointment of a Board of Guardians, on which the parish was represented, did not relieve the parish of its responsibility of helping the poor, and the rates still had to be paid.

In 1842 the vestry borrowed money, to be repaid on the rates over 4 years to help defray the expenses of poor persons having settlements in the parish and wishing to emigrate. 7 families, (8 men, 7 women and 15 children), paupers, deported in February and April of that year for the Port Philip district of Australia at a cost to the parish of £133.

The Church

The Church was the centre of village life. The Church of St. Margaret, though in existence before 1200 A.D., dates mainly from the 14th Century, from which the north wall of the North aisle, the Caryll Chapel and part of the chancel walls part of the north and south arcades remain. The Tower and South Chapel were added in the sixteenth century, (part of which was the bequest of £40 of Richard Michell of Field Place in 1524). In 1816 there were complaints from the Rural Dean about the state of the Churchyard walls, and in 1833 about the state of the pews and part of the woodwork and plaster. As a result partial repairs were carried out by the vestry in the 1830s. Further restoration took place in 1847 and 1848 when the nave was lengthened by 16-feet in a Western

direction, necessitating the rebuilding of the West wall. The south aisle and the roof of the north aisle were rebuilt; a singing gallery over the chancel arch and a gallery pew over the north aisle were removed. A new western gallery was erected and the church was re-pewed, but the final reconstruction was not completed until 1887 at the expense of Mr. C.T. Lucas, when the chancel was extended Eastwards, the west porch built and other major work, including the gift of several windows by members of the family. (A brochure giving more details of the Church of St. Margaret is available on sale in the Church.)

The Vicars

The Vicars from 1805–1839 and from 1839–1881 respectively were the Rev. Evan Edwards and the Rev. James Wood. At various times, but not continuously they appointed Curates to assist them. The latter, as we can see from notices in 1842 and 1850, was concerned for the proper observance of the Lord's day, the first setting out the resolve of the Rural Deanery to ensure a stricter observance in their respective parishes and laying down a code of conduct for parishioners, "Shopkeepers & Dealers", "Gentry, Farmers, and others from whom the Labouring Classes derive their means of subsistence", being requested to pay them on Fridays and not on Saturday night or Sunday as previously and to co-operate with the Churchwardens "in preventing or dispersing idle or noisy persons lounging about the streets and thoroughfares, especially in the approaches to the Church, on the Lord's Day"; the Churchwardens were reminded of their duty "to visit more frequently than is commonly done, the Public Houses and Beer Shops in their parish during the hours of Divine service", etc.

The other notice from the Churchwardens in 1850 refers to complaints of "the assemblage of many idle & disorderly persons on Sundays who molest and otherwise annoy females passing along the Highways of this Parish, and who also play at marbles and other unlawful games thereon, to the great Nuisance of the Public" and threatening punishment with the utmost severity of the Law.

The Manor and the Lands

The Lordship of the Manor of Warnham & Denn remained in name in the possession of J.W. Commerell Esq. of Strood, who was also High Sheriff of Sussex from 1803. Strood itself is outside the parish, and he owned very little land in Warnham (55 acres only) together with a nominal title to a number of wastes beside roads and shaws. In 1840 the largest landowner in the Parish was John Tschudi Broadwood, who owned extensive properties over the Surrey border and in the parish of Rusper, with 1271 acres, mainly in the North and Eastern sector of the parish extending down from Kingsfold on the East side of the highway as far South as Westons farm, and including Den, Tickford, Shiremark, Brooklands, Stone, Marches, Durfold, Cox's and Westons Farms.

Next largest was Richard Clemson Barnett, who lived mainly in London, but he owned 969 acres in the North West and Central part of the parish, including Ends Place (Old House Farm), Cradles, Bitchetts and Charmans, Bookers (Maltmayes) and Hill Farms, and West House Farm (now Westbrook Hall). These farms and the estate were later (about 1885) bought by Mr. Edward Farmer, who lived at Charmans Farm. This estate had earlier been part of the Manor of Slaughterford. At the turn of the end of the 18th century it had belonged to Matthew & Sarah Napper (who are commemorated in the Church). The Old House, as it was called, had been built about 1660 and was virtually a village in itself with its own stables, bakery brewery, slaughterhouses, forge, laundry, kennels etc., and 1000 acres of land including crops of hops and flax from which its own linen was woven. Unfortunately most of the estate had to be sold off in 1810 by their Son, Dendy Napper, to pay off debts, and in 1830 the house and buildings were swept by fire and destroyed.

Also owning land in this area was Thomas Barnett (relationship unknown) who farmed part of the land round West House Farm and owned also Joanland,

Tanners, Sands and Three Styles (Cider Mill) farms, a total of 233 acres.

But the landlords who were to influence the life of the village most were in the Southern part of the Parish - Sir Timothy Shelley, of Field Place, owning also Scotts Farm, Swans, Bailing Hill, and land on the West side of the village including what is now Old Manor and the village green, extending to the Council House estate, then known as Gardens or Street Farm, as well as Rookwood, Warnham Place and Warnham Mill, with a total of 665 acres, but it was Henry Tredcroft who, in 1826, started to build Warnham Court and Warnham Park, with its deer herd, and the Warnham Court estate, who was to have most influence on the parish. By 1844 this estate was 374 acres and included, at this stage, Geerings, Daux, also the land which now forms part of Warnham Lodge including Benland Farm. This was only the nucleus of the estate which under the Lucas family was to extend to over 1500 acres by the beginning of the next century, when it would include most of the Shelley land and, also, an estate of 254 acres, Broomhouse, Roberts and Randalls farms which, in 1840, were in the ownership of and farmed by John Wood.

None of the major land-owners seem to have played any direct part in the governance of the village before 1840, leaving it apparently to the tenant farmers, but they were always generous in subscribing to the new work in the church and in improvements to the amenities and the land. Agriculture was the main industry and the life of the village went on round this and in support of it. As mentioned above 3/5 of the land in use was arable and 1/5 grazing in 1840. Consequently the craftsmen in the village were mainly concerned with the support of agriculture and included 2 wheelwrights (Richard Craggs & Stephen Sprinks), 3 blacksmiths (Michael Charman & Thomas Redford & an apprentice), 2 farriers, 1 lathcleaver and a sawyer. There were no less than 10 carpenters and 5 bricklayers in the parish foreshadowing a considerable activity in new building about this time. Thomas Hogsflesh seems to have been the major builder. But the second largest employer in the village at this time was Agates Timber Works, founded in 1823 by Stephen Agate, whose family were also small landowners, and owned also a number of properties in the village. The business moved to Horsham about 1860, no doubt because of access to the railway. This loss was compensated round about the same time by the advent of the brickworks. The tradesmen, too, included craftsmen - 2 tailors and 11 cordwainers or shoemakers and their apprentices. The parish ran to 3 grocers. At that time shops did not have many ready-made goods, or such things as tinned foods for sale. They too were usually craftsmen themselves and sold locally produced goods; their shops were also their homes - consequently there was Henry Mann, grocer and also postmaster, probably located where the Warnham stores now are, and later taken over by the Cokelers, and Ann Agate, later succeeded by John Agate, her son, (and brother of Stephen Agate, founder of the timber merchanting business in Warnham), who ran a grocery probably at what is now King's Head Cottage. A third grocer, at Kingsfold, was James Flint. There was a butcher (Francis Poltock in 1841), but the butchers, as now, seem to have changed fairly frequently.

There were two Inns, the Sussex Oak (George Mitchell) and the Wheatsheaf at Kingsfold (William Charman), whilst Mary Ireland kept a beer shop, probably at what is now the Greets Inn.

The next 50 years

During the next 50 years a number of outside changes occurred which were to affect life in the village considerably, but made little change in its outward form. The principal influence was the building of railways. That was at its peak about 1844 and the Horsham-Three Bridges Railway opened in 1848 but, it was not until 1867, that the Horsham-Leatherhead line, serving Warnham, was completed. This then immediately widened the market for agricultural produce, particularly milk, and also for the brickworks which had been opened on the West side of the present line about 1850. They moved to the other side and greatly expanded in 1890.

Another influence was the introduction of the penny post in 1840 which must have opened up communications considerably, though movement was still difficult and depended entirely on horses, but with improving designs of horse carriage for local movement.

Developments

As the next 50 years went on some changes in the shops of the village naturally occurred, principally through the development of the Warnham Court estate and towards the end of the period, with the events at Warnham Lodge, which are strictly speaking outside our period. The plan of the village and its outlying farms remained much as it was, but it was the personalities that changed.

Henry Tredcroft died in 1844, but the estate, then about 360 acres, was managed on behalf of his son Edward, a minor, until 1855 when it was sold to Sir John Henry Pelly. The latter however died in 1865, and it was bought by Mr. C.T. Lucas. Various improvements were made to Warnham Court and the farm was modernised. In the next 10 years Rookwood, Warnham Place and Warnham Mill Farms were bought from the Shelleys and Broomhouse, Chantry & Roberts Farms were brought from William Wood. Various minor additions, purchases of cottages and smaller areas of land were added in the 1880s.

At the same time Mr. Lucas took an active interest in the village making generous contributions in the building of a new Vicarage, and the new National School. The old one which had been built in 1846, on land by Knob Hill, could not accommodate the influx of new students required under the 1870 Education Act and, in any case, was uneconomic to repair. In 1886-7 he paid for major alterations in the Church.

In 1862 Mr. William Norris Franklyn of Northlands took over and built on to Benland Farm, adding a new wing of pseudo-Elizabethan style to which Sir Henry Harben later added when he arrived about 1890.

Sir Henry Pelly's main contribution to the village was the part he played in introducing and bringing about the drainage of the village, already mentioned. He also made some fairly important alterations at Warnham Court.

By 1875 then, there was a new National School and a new Vicarage. In Church Street, the 8 terraced cottages Nos. 7-21 had been built on the site of the old Workhouse and Agates timberworks, and on the other side of the road there had been the first stage of construction by the Cokelers behind Warnham Stores, including the warehouse. The former was now the Post Office. The row of cottages, Nos. 36-50 Church St. had now been completed, and Nos. 56 & 58 had been built on, more or less as now and was known as The Cross.

In 1892 Sir Henry Harben built and donated the old Village Hall, on land provided by Mr. Lucas, adjacent to Hollands Way (on the old Hollands Farm). He also built the three houses, The Red House, Holland House (Haisthorpe) and Tanners for leaving to persons who would be of benefit to the Parish.

By 1875, also, the farm buildings at Warnham Court had been expanded and there was a gas works with a single gasometer for lighting of the Court and, later, the Church as well, with a second gasometer.

In Friday St. there had been some extensions Nos. 6-16, alongside the former tenement. Nos. 60-62 & 64 on the site of a further tenement and a new row of houses 33-39 on the South side, Nos. 55 & 57 also on the site of the earlier cottages.

Some personalities too had changed. The Rev. James Wood was succeeded in 1881 by Rev. C.F. Oretton who, in turn, was replaced by Rev. R. Bowcott in 1882.

Michael Turner gave up his Parish Clerkship to William Charman in 1880.

There were now 4 grocers. In 1875 William Tanner gave place to Frederick Freeman, as Postmaster at the present post office stores. In 1876 the Cokelers were established as Lindfield & Potter, in 1887 as Lindfield & Co., and in 1890 or thereabouts, as Lindfield & Luff. There were only two shoemakers, John Charman and Henry Farley, by this time compared with the 11 formerly. Michael Charman was still one of the two blacksmiths, and Martin Branch was one of the wheelwrights, where Woods of Horsham now is.

Warnham still only had one Pub, the Sussex Oak, and the Wheatsheaf at Kingsfold and one beerseller (William Abraham, successor to Richard Charman) probably at Greets.

As mentioned earlier, Agates Timber Works had moved to Horsham, but it seems that part of the business was still run for some time at Street Farm, by Stephen Agate's sons, John and Stephen.

It was probably in its social life that the village had changed most. The records show accounts for a Warnham Benefit Society, covering sickness insurance contributions & payments from 1843-1873 & for various Charities, as well as a Clothing Club, Parish & Schools Lending Library. Besides, there are accounts for a number of Church Funds - Churchyard, Choir & Organ Account, School Accounts, etc.

A notable event in the life of the village was the arrival in Warnham about 1876 of a community of the Christian Dependents Group founded by John Sirgood in Loxwood (1850). This religious movement was evangelistic in nature and despite austerities in its practice was a joyful religion and did good within the limits of its resources. The Group, known as the Cokelers, sought to practice community of goods and worked to run a business on co-operative lines. In Warnham they set up first as Lindfield & Potter, later Lindfield & Co., and then Lindfield & Luff. This was not just a shop, but an emporium. They sold practically everything - as grocers, bakers, drapers, laundry, hardware (with their own brand of Lindfield & Luff china) and furniture, including antiques. At its peak they employed some 36 staff out of a movement of some 100-200 people. The movement did not countenance marriage, with a view to serving God more fully, but once the evangelistic leadership was removed, it failed to appeal to the younger generation, and has thus withered away.

No account of Warnham can be complete without reference to its church bells and bell ringers, but this is a story on its own, as is an account of its various orchestras and bands at various times during the past 150 years. The traditions of Michael Turner have been maintained by his successors over the years and Warnham has a deserved reputation for its bells.

Another activity for which Warnham has been well known is in its cricket and its cricketers, but this is mostly outside our present period and should be the subject of much further research. Unfortunately records are few, and we must depend particularly on memories and hearsay.

SOME RELEVANT DATES.

1755 Horsham - Leatherhead Road turnpiked.
1809 Horsham connected to Guildford Turnpike at Alfolden.
1792-1822 Growing anti-Jacobin influence in face of growing poverty and distress.
1815 Corn Laws.
1811-12 Luddite obstruction.
1820 Beginnings of Warnham Court Estate.
Combination Act - anti-Union.
1824/5 Unions became legal with restrictions.
1829 Catholic Emancipation Act.
1830 Riots and Rick burning in Sussex.
1831 First Reform Bill.
1834 Poor Law Amendment Act.
1835 Municipal Reform Act.
1836 Commutation of Tithes Act.
1840 Introduction of penny post.
1845 General Enclosure Act.
1846 Repeal of Corn Laws.
1848 Horsham - Three Bridges Railway Line opened.
Public Health Act.
1850 Warnham brickworks opened - West side of Railway line.
1867 Reform Act extending Franchise in Towns.
Horsham - Leatherhead Railway opened.
1870 Education Act.
1872 Opening of new school - new Vicarage.
1884 Reform Act, extending franchise to all householders.
1888 Local Government Act - County Councils established.
1890 Brickworks moved to other side of railway.
1892 Opening of Village Hall and Library.
1894 Parish Councils Act.