

CHAPTER 5 - THE WARREN FAMILY¹

The Warren family buy Stapleford Hall

As has just been noted the coming of the Warren family to Stapleford began with the purchase of the hall and its lands by Arthur Warren junior of Toton who father was one of the trustees appointed by Wm. Palmes to dispose of his Stapleford estates. Although at this time seated at Toton the Warrens hailed from Thorpe Arnold near Melton Mowbray where they claimed descent from Sir Arnold Waring (or Warin) whence comes their patronymic.

Arthur Warren jun, d.1697

There is very little information regarding the early members of this family; Arthur Warren the younger was appointed High Sheriff of Nottingham on 13th Nov. 1670 and held office until 3rd Nov. 1680. He also served as Magistrate for the period 1681 to 1688. Marriage-wise he did very well for himself, taking as his bride about the year 1676, Ann, only daughter of Sir John Borlase, Baronet of Bockmere, Bucks and who upon the death of her brother John in 1690, became sole heiress to the extensive Borlase estates;² an inheritance superior to that of the Warrens.

A Miss Warren died at Derby in 1753 aged 104 and it was claimed that she was a great aunt of John Borlase Warren; this would make her a sister to Arthur Warren, the younger.

Arthur Warren died in 1697 and was buried at Stapleford on Nov. 29th. His estates were quite extensive and comprised: Stapleford Hall and its lands, lands, tenements etc. In Toton, Chilwell, Attenborough and Barton in Notts, the manors, or lordships, of Stratton Sudley, Oxon, Little Marlow, Davers Craultons, Monken Medmenham and Ludgeshall, in Bucks. With properties, lands, advowsons etc. in those places as well as lands, tenements etc. in Wooburn, Great Wickham, Hitcham, Burnham, Grendon Glory and Bockmere, Bucks.

Arthur Warren, jun. survived by Ann, his wife, and nine children.

Ann Warren survived her husband by nearly six years and was buried at Stapleford on 21st August 1703 when the register entry unflatteringly refers to her as “old lady

¹ Note; The first seven pages of this section on the Warren family are not in RPT's hand. According to Bernard Bettinson, Ralph's friend and executor, one section was borrowed and lost and had to be rewritten, much to Ralph's annoyance. This is probably the section. It appears to have been carefully inserted into the spiral binding of Book II. It seems to have been written up from Ralph's Notes but lacks Ralph's careful polish in the final version. The punctuation is haphazard and lacks consistency in, for example, the representation of dates. However, it clearly shows Ralph's hand –particularly in the extensive use of the semi-colon.

² VCH Bucks

Warren”: she would be in her early fifties at the very most! There were nine children born of the marriage, the first of whom was their son Borlase, baptised at St. Mary’s Nottingham on 26 September 1677; then came Arnold, born 1678 (no record of his death); Arthur born 1681, died a bachelor in 1727 at Stapleford, Charles, born and died 1683; Ann born 1684, married Charles Cockayne Viscount Cullen at Melbourne Derbys on 11th July 1706 and was buried at Stapleford. 17th Jan. 1714; James, born 1686 and buried at Little Marlow in 1774; John, born 1690 and died 1733; Baldwin (a Borlase name eight generations previous) born 1694 and died 1695; and finally another daughter Elizabeth; there is no record in Stapleford Registers of the birth, any marriage or burial but her existence is confirmed by a mention in her father’s will.

Borlase Warren, 1677-1747

Borlase Warren was perhaps the most active and distinguished member of his generation and as the eldest son inherited the Stapleford and other estates. Like his father before him he was appointed High Sheriff of Nottingham, an office he held from 2nd December 1793 until 2nd December 1794. He had previously held the appointment for the short period 14th to 30th Dec. 1702 and as a Member he represented the town of Nottingham in the Parliament of 1713, 1727, 1734, and 1743.

Married Ann c.1698 and had fourteen children.

About 1698 he married Ann, daughter of Sir John Harpur of Calke Hall, Derbyshire. Theirs was a very large family of fourteen children, the eldest of whom was John Borlase baptised at Elvaston Derbys on 20th November 1699. He entered Magdalen College Oxford 1718; then came Arthur baptised and buried at Elvaston in 1700; Arnold baptised and buried 1701 also at Elvaston (these three Elvaston entries give rise to much speculation: There is nothing to indicate that the Warrens owned any property there, and with Stapleford and Elvaston being reasonably close together one cannot see much point in having two households in such close proximity. One explanation could be-and this is pure conjecture-that during those 20 months or so Borlase was engaged in rebuilding Stapleford Hall and so took a house temporarily at Elvaston to be nearer to the scene of operation and so enable him to keep an eye on things more so than if he were at Stretton Audley. Then followed daughter Ann baptised and buried at Stretton Audley 1702: the fourth child was another daughter Ann also baptised at Stretton Audley in 1703. She married her cousin germain Charles Cockayne, 5th Viscount Cullen on 18th April 1732 at Stapleford at which time she was described as “a very beautiful young lady”. She died in 1754 and was buried at Rushton Northamptonshire. The next child of Borlase and Ann was a second Arthur born 1704 and who entered Christchurch, Oxford 1722, he died in 1769 and was buried at Stapleford; Then came a second Arnold, born 1795; a lawyer, he lived in the City of York but was buried at Stapleford in 1767; then there was Charles born 1707, he entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge in 1726 and took his BA degree 1729-30 and MA in 1734, he was Rector of Grimoldby Lincs in 1733 and

later Rector of Ludgershall, Bucks; until he died unmarried in 1748. Then came Katherine, born 1711 died 1712; James born 1713. He too entered Emmanuel College Cambridge in 1731 and took his LL. B degree in 1739; he was Rector of Stratton Audley and of Ludgershall in 1748 in succession to his brother. He was buried at Stapleford 1773. His sister Frances was baptised January 1714, lived at York and died a spinster there in 1784 and was by her express wish buried at Stapleford. Another daughter Dorothy, was baptised and buried in January 1715; Elizabeth baptised December 1715; she too lived at York and was buried at Stapleford 1794; and lastly Mary born 1717, died unmarried at Risley 1783 and buried at Stapleford.

Death of Borlase Warren in 1747 and will

Borlase Warren died in 1747 and was buried at Stapleford on May 15th. His will reveals much. It would appear that he had quite an attachment for a certain Hannah Towle, daughter of Samuel Towle tailor of Stapleford and Frances his wife. She was also sister to John Towle who referred in his will (1741) to Borlase Warren “my master” and appointed him an executor thereof, Hannah, with Borlase’s son Arnold, was an overseer and trustee of Borlase’s will. He left her an annuity of £20, annuities of £20 to each of her children, John, Ann, Frances, Hannah, James Towle commonly known by the surname Norford, with £200 for each at twenty one years of age. A further annuity of £20 was to be paid to Hannah if Borlase’s widow or his heir should turn her out of the house and lands she enjoyed at Toton. She had powers of Distress should the need arise, but this was never used as it is apparent that she continued on good terms with the Warren family, for, by her will, made in 1757 (she died in 1759) she appointed John Borlase Warren and William Chappel to be her trustees and executors.

The Towle’s association with the Warrens was not confined to Hannah. Her brother John we have seen (as well as being a man of property himself) was in Borlase’s employ and when John Borlase Warren succeeded his father, so did John Towle’s son John (when old enough) enter in the service of that family. John Borlase Warren paid a Doctor Smeeton’s bill of £2-00-0 for attending John Towle (Feb.1758) and soon after paid John Towle £10-0-0 (no reason for this payment is given). In December 1757 John Towle married Rachel Staley who was a housemaid to the Warrens.(Incidentally her wages were £3-0-0 a year, paid yearly) Ann, widow of Borlase was buried at Stapleford 3rd. April 1752.

John Borlase Warren 1699-1768

John Borlase Warren inherited the family estates and like his father and grandfather before him held the appointment of High Sheriff of Nottingham. His term of office was from 14 Jan. 1751 until 12th Jan. 1752.

With two generations of many bachelor sons John Borlase no doubt woke up to the fact that something has to be done to secure a continuance of the family and on

November 14th 1752 at what was rather an advanced age for marriage, particularly in those days, he married Bridge Rossell at Risley. Three children were born of the union, the first was the son destined to fame, John Borlase, born at Stapleford on September 2nd 1753 and baptised there on October 5th the same year.

The second child was a daughter, Frances, (a god-daughter of Frances Warren of York) born 1754. On September 9th 1779 at Risley she married Augustus Parkyns, a grandson of Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunney, Notts. By whom she had issue of Augustus, (of Trowell) who died aged 24 in December 1810 and was buried in the middle aisle of Stapleford Church; and two daughters Frances Bridget, and Caroline Mary.

The third child was another son, Arnold, baptised January 1757, he continued the family tradition and remained a bachelor, he lived at Stapleford and died here in August 1829. A year after he was born there is this note in the Household Accounts “Paid Sarah Atkin for a Quarter Nursing Master Arnold, due then £2:12;0”

At Stapleford on 9th November 1758 a Benjamin Price Withers of Westbury, Bucks, married an Ann Warren, otherwise Fox. In his will John Borlase Warren discharges a bond for £1000 on Benjamin. A Hannah Fox had been employed at the Hall, possibly as housekeeper.

John Wilkinson, John Borlase Warren’s steward died in 1765 and was buried at Stapleford but whether or not he was a member of the Wilkinsons resident here in that century is not certain.

John Borlase Warren died in 1768 and was buried at Stapleford on 10th August. His widow married Graham Chappell, curate of Orston, at Stapleford on 1st Feb. 1764 and died at Orston on 1st May 1785.

John Borlase Warren 1753-1822

Whereas his forebears had served their country in capacities of public usefulness, John Borlase Warren the younger served both county and country to the utmost of his great ability. It is said that as a boy he was intended for the church but had a strong passion for naval life. He began his education at Bicester and later attended Winchester school. He was admitted a fellow commoner of Emmanuel College Cambridge in 1769 and remained there until March 1771 when his name was entered as an A.3 in the Books of the Guardship “Marlborough” in the Medway. In 1772 he was rated a midshipman on the sloop “Alderney” but for the next 18 months alternated between service on this ship and Emmanuel College where in 1773 he graduated as B.A. proceeding to the MA degree in 1776. In the General Election of 1774, at the age of 21, he offered himself as a candidate and was elected MP for Marlow which he represented until 1784.

Baronetcy restored 1775

On June 1st 1775 the Baronetcy of the Borlase family was restored in his person and although he had been christened John Borlase, now appears to have considered “Borlase” as a surname along with that of Warren. His obsession with the continuance after his death of the name Borlase Warren is most pronounced. Inheritance of his estates, after the death of his daughter, was conditional upon that person assuming the additional surname of Borlase Warren. His armorial bearings gave emphasis to this for they comprised equally those of Borlase and Warren and were: Quarterly, 1st and 4th chequy Or and Azure, on a canton Gules a lion rampant Argent for Warren; 2nd and 3rd Ermine, on a bend Sable two arms issuing from the clouds proper, rendering a horseshoe Or for Borlase. For a crest: On a chapeau Gules turned up Ermine a wyvern Argent wings expanded chequy Or and Gules. The Motto: “Leo de Juda est robur nostrum”. “The lion of Judah is our strength”. Later on he was granted the distinction of Supporters (wyverns) to these arms.

Rejoins Navy

In 1776 he bought Lundy island and a yacht in which he amused himself in the Bristol Channel but with the imminence of war he sold his yacht and rejoined the Navy. One of his first acts was to visit the Fleet and King’s Bench prisons and set at liberty, at his own expenses, all the naval officers confined there for debt. In 1777 when our North American Colonies were rebelling, he was sent out there in the frigate “Venus” and then onwards he served in the ships “Nonsuch” the “Victory”, the “Merlin”, the “Ariadne” and the “Winchelsea”, An interesting item in the log book of the “Ariadne” records the custom the prevailing in the navy of celebrating the Restoration of King Charles II by a salute of 17 guns on 31st May. A book was written many years ago about the life of Stapleford’s famous Admiral but here it is only possible to recount a few highlights of his career which, incidentally can be found reflected to a degree in C.S.Forester’s Hornblower novels. At the peace he was put on half pay but at the outbreak of war in 1793 he was appointed to the “Flora” of 36 guns employed in the Protection of British Shipping.

Given command of a frigate squadron-made a Knight of the Bath

Early in 1793 he was ordered to take command of a frigate squadron on the French coast and specially to look for a squadron of French frigates which had done much damage to English trade. On St. George’s day of that year, he fell in with these and captured three out of four enemy ships. For this he was made a Knight of the Bath. The following August he drove the French 36 gun frigate “Volontaire” on to the Penmarks along with two 18 gun corvettes one of which got off, but the other, and the frigate, were totally destroyed. In the spring of 1795 he moved to the 44 gun frigate “Pomone” (one of the ships captured on St. George’s Day ’94) and was ordered to convey and support an expedition of French Royalists to Quiberon Bay.

Troops were safely landed on 27th June but after early successes were defeated by republican forces. On 7th Oct. 1794 he was unanimously voted the freedom of the town of Nottingham at a Common Hall but was not sworn in until Tuesday before 6th February 1796.

In 1796 he was directed to attend more particularly to the enemy's coasting trade and during the year he destroyed, captured or re-captured no fewer than 220 sail, 37 of which were armed vessels including the 36-gun frigate "Andromache". For this service he was presented by the Patriotic Fund with a sword of the value of 100 guineas.

1797 saw him appointed to the 74-gun ship "Canada", one of the Channel Fleet under the command of Viscount Bridport, and during the mutiny in spring of that year was happily at sea with a detached squadron.

He was still in the "Canada" in Sept. 1798 when he received intelligence from Keats of the sailing of a French expedition, carrying some 5000 troops, which it was intended to land on the west coast of Ireland where-in Killala Bay-an advanced body of some 1100 men under General Humbert had already been put shore. John Borlase Warren immediately followed with 3 ships of the line, 5 powerful frigates and some smaller vessels. On 12th October he brought them to action capturing the "Hoche" of 74 guns and 3 frigates; the rest fled but 3 more were captured a few days later. Sir John's conduct of the affair was highly commendable and he received the thanks of both the English and Irish Parliaments. A gold medal was struck and awarded to him and his companions to commemorate the occasion.

Nominated Rear Admiral of the Blue-1799

On 14th Feb. 1799 he was nominated Rear Admiral of the Blue and in July hoisted his flag on the "Téméraire" in which he continued throughout the year off Brest or detached into the Bay of Biscay or off Ferrol. Still on the "Téméraire", he joined the Channel Fleet in 1800 and on 11th June, while stationed off the coast of France, the ships of his squadron made a successful night attack on a convoy which had taken shelter under the fort within the Penmarks while some of his lighter vessels chased the enemy's ships into the Quimpas Rover were a landing was effected and the batteries stormed and blown up.

Appointed Rear Admiral of the White-1801

In Jan 1st 1801 he was appointed Rear Admiral of the White and send off into the Mediterranean where for the most part he was in charge of the western basin while Keith was co-operating with the Army in Egypt. On his return to this country Sir John threw succour into Port Ferrajo thus enabling the garrison to make a successful sortie against its besiegers.

With the end of the war the Admiral returned to Stapleford. He had represented Nottingham in Parliament in 1796 and was again elected and sat until the dissolution in 1806. He was also a magistrate for many years.

Sir John, now a Privy Councillor sent as Ambassador to Russia.

The Peace of Amiens was signed in 1802 and Sir John, now a Privy Counsellor, was selected as an Ambassador and sent to Russia where he resided in St. Petersburg and took part in several important negotiations. He presented his credentials on October 10th 1802 and his appointment lasted until November 4th 1804, the date on which he presented his letters of Recall. This move was not without its opponents: in December 1802 a member of Parliament, -with what seems to be a touch of sour grapes-made some allusions to the sending of an Admiral as ambassador to Russia, to which the Chancellor replied that no man could have been found more qualified in every respect for such a mission than Sir John Borlase Warren.³ All this was very grand, but Lady Warren declared that it was a life she was unaccustomed to lead, and it was with a heavy heart-they had just lost their daughter Diana-when she accompanied her husband on this diplomatic mission.

Appointed as Vice-Admiral 1805

When the war with France was renewed, he again took to active service. He was made Vice-Admiral on 9th Nov. 1805 and in the following year had command of a small squadron in western waters, with his flag in the "Foudroyant", where on March 13th he fell in with and captured the French 74-gun ship "Marengo" and the frigate "Belle Poule" homeward from the East Indies.

Appointed as Admiral 1810

He was promoted to the rank of Admiral on 31st July 1810 and early in 1813 was appointed Commander-in Chief of the North American Station from which he was relieved in the Spring of the following year. He never served again and spent his retirement-he was then 61-between his houses and estates. In 1822 he was on a visit to Sir Richard Keats at Greenwich Hospital (of which Sir John was a Governor), when he was taken ill and died there on February 27th. ⁴ So came to an end a life well spent, a full life and an exemplary one. He was a figure of which Stapleford should be justly proud and should not forget him as, alas, National Histories have chosen so to do. His body was not brought to the place of his birth for burial, but was interred, on his directions, in a vault in the church of Stratton Audley.

Sir John Borlase Warren had received many high honours and appointments during his lifetime amongst them Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath; Admiral; Doctor of Civil Law; Master of Arts; Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; Groom

³ Dodsleys Year Book for 1803 pp 54 & 55

⁴ Taken from Notts. Worthies and Dictionary of Nat. Biography Vol XX

of the Bedchamber to H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence; Privy Counsellor; Justice of the Peace; Order of the Crescent of the Ottoman Empire; Knight of the Guelphic Order; Knight of St. Catherine.

A contemporary writer said of him: “Few officers ever more perfectly enjoyed the support and attachment of all who served under the. His kind and benevolent heart endeared him to his friends; his affable and polished manners graced every society into which he entered and his character stood so high that he was universally esteemed”.⁵ Another description ran: “In his person he was above middle size, with a pleasant countenance and a good figure, and had much the air and appearance of a man of rank and fashion”⁶ Another contemporary quote ran: “with all that urbanity and politeness that distinguished him.”

Personal life

On 13th December 1780 Sir John Borlase Warren married Caroline Clavering, third daughter of General Sir John Clavering K B., of Axwell, Co. Durham, at St. George’s, Hanover Square. Five children were born of this union. George John Borlase, born 12th August 1782 at Little Marlow: killed 8th March 1801 whilst leading his troops into action after the landing at Aboukir, Egypt. The second child was a daughter, Frances Marion, baptised 9th May 1784 at Stapleford; then came Caroline Diana, born and died August 1786; another son William Henry, baptised 14th February 1788 at Stapleford and died an infant. Lastly, Diana Martha Clavering, born 17th February 1790 at Stapleford and buried at Stratton Audley in 1802.

Debts

Sir John had inherited lands etc. at Toton, estates at Little Marlow, Ludgershall, Medmenham and Stratton Audley as well as at Stapleford, but by 1789 he was very much in debt. The marriage settlement, signed just a week before his wedding day, reveals him-therein described as of Little Marlow-with the estates encumbered to the amount of some £18,000 and more from previous marriage settlements (his father’s and grandfather’s) and £55,000 in mortgages. His Trustees had instructions to take steps to settle these debts etc. and it is to his credit that although his wife brought a very good dowry, Sir John did not attempt to use it for the purpose of clearing his debts, although totally insufficient it would have been.⁷

Despite what seem to be ever present financial difficulties during the early part of his life he managed to surmount them and by the time of his death his estates were principally intact and sound, although a month before his demise he complained of the difficulty of gathering in the rents and this fact protracted the payment of some

⁵ Nottingham Journal 1822

⁶ Dictionary of Nat. Biography XV .

⁷ M5383/1-15.

of his legacies. His estates appear to have comprised a farm and lands at Toton-for his own use and therefore supplying most of the needs of his household at Stapleford; Stapleford Hall and its lands, a house and lands at Stratton Audley, -some of the foregoing had even been added-to in later years-and a Town House in Upper Grosvenor Street. The Little Marlow estates had been sold in 1781 to help pay his debts and the manor of Ludgershall was parted with in 1784⁸ His interest in Medmenham had also long gone.

Will of Sir John Borlase Warren

A man with a great sense of family and one who paid great attention to detail, by his will he created trusts in terms as complicated as and reflecting those contained in his marriage settlement, to provide for almost every contingency. Sufficient for this history is the fact that after certain bequests and annuities, Stapleford Hall and its lands together with the farm etc. at Toton were to go to his widow for life, the remainder to Frances Maria after whose death her estates, as well as those of Lady Caroline-should she outlive her daughter-which she did-were to go to Sir John's only grandson George John Venables Vernon and afterwards to George John's second son (the first being well provided for as heir to the Vernon estates) and so on. Inheritance of the estate was not quite plain sailing as a proviso required that upon whomsoever they should devolve, whether it be his grandson, great-grandson or even husband of a great-granddaughter, that person must take and use the additional surnames of Borlase Warren before his own. (His grandson got away with one of them.)

Lady Caroline Warren

Lady Caroline Warren outlived her family and died quietly at Stapleford Hall on December 21st 1839 in the 80th year of her age and was buried by the side of her husband at Stratton Audley. A remarkable and kind lady, her will, made only a few weeks before her death, testifies to an alert and retentive mind. She did much for Stapleford and her beneficences include the re-building of what was the old vicarage and building and endowing of St. John's school as well as a similar, but smaller, one at Toton. When Captain Sleigh entertained some of the villagers to a tea on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Coronation, Lady Warren held a party in a booth on from of the Hall for over 200(?) children of the National School.

Stapleford Hall and Estate

Sir John had rebuilt the Hall about the year 1797 and although there is nothing to show what it looked like before then, there are photographs taken c1900 which give a good idea of its appearance during the 19th century. In the absence of any plan or detailed description of the interior one can only glimpse its layout from chance

⁸ VCH Bucks.

references in account books, sale catalogues etc. and the author's memory of the place in a semi-ruinous state. We know that there was a spacious entrance hall on the south side, with a stone staircase with wrought iron banisters on three sides; a drawing room with windows reaching to the floor; library with painted ceiling; study; large dining room; breakfast room; kitchen, store-room and the usual offices. Upstairs there were six best bed-rooms-including a "pink room" and a "wite room". Twelve servants' rooms over these and nine attics. When the copper and glass conservatory was added c1800 the main entrance was changed and an addition in the shape of a large porch was built on the north side, but this in no way enhanced the means of egress as, having entered the house by way of this "porch" one had to pass through the drawing room (which, by the way had two iron columns (painted) to support the ceiling) in order to reach the original entrance hall and staircase. (A great sacrifice indeed in order to accommodate a mere conservatory however "grand" and desirable) The dwelling houses adjoining the Hall on the west side were added sometime in the 19th century and were not part of the new Hall.

It is worth repeating what Throsby wrote when he visited Stapleford late in the 18th century. "Stapleford Hall has lately been rebuilt by Sir John Borlase Warren and in an unfinished state. It is at present adorned with no field beauties of attraction, but the young plantations around are a pleasing indication of what may be." He concluded with the prophetic words "His active and great services will be remembered in the pages of national history among the achievements of British heroes when his stately home shall be crumbled in dust."

The young plantations of Throsby's time grew into beautiful parkland with a magnificent avenue of lime trees leading from the lodge gates up to the forecourt on the north side of the Hall. (Many of these limes which had survived the onslaught of 1901 were soon to be needlessly felled to make way for "Towle's Avenue" ("Warren Avenue." A solitary lime tree of the avenue was allowed to remain, a reminder to people for many years of the beauty which Stapleford so infected with "foreigners" – had irrevocably lost. In 1948 this one tree, too, was wantonly felled by the woman who had brought the house with this tree in the garden; she died very soon afterwards. What did someone say? It takes a hundred slow years to growth a beautiful tree, but any fool can cut it down in a few minutes.")

Frances Maria Warren marries into the Vernon family-1802

On 25th August 1802, at Stapleford, Frances Maria Warren married George Charles Sedley, son of Henry Venables Vernon who had assumed the name of Sedley by Royal Licence dated 19th March 1779; when this gentleman succeeded to the peerage 18th June 1813, he discontinued the name Sedley and resumed his patronymic. George Charles Sedley became 4th Baron Vernon of Kinderton in the County Palatine of Chester in 1829.

As time went on, Frances Maria became a very wealthy woman, for as well as her paternal inheritance she had the great good fortune to inherit Poynton Hall and estates in Cheshire on the death of Elizabeth Harriett, Dowager Viscountess Bulkeley in February 1826 and then took the surname Warren only, by Royal Licence dated 26th June 1826 in compliance with the Viscountess's will. That lady had mistakenly-though fortunately for Frances Maria-assumed that she and Frances Maria shared a common Warren ancestor. Frances Maria did not enjoy her inheritance for very long, she died at Poynton Hall on 17th September 1837 and was buried at Sudbury.

George John Vernon b1803 succeeds to the Barony in 1835

The only child of George Charles and Frances Maria was a son, George John, born at Stapleford Hall on 22nd June 1803; he succeeded to the Barony in 1835. Upon his mother's death, he having inherited her portion of the Warren estates, took for himself by Royal Licence dated 14th October 1837, but not for existing issue, the name of Warren.

Stapleford Estate sold

It is doubtful whether he or his family ever took up residence at the Hall; by 1856 the Hall and certain of its lands were let at rent to T. Bigsby Chamberlain and five years previously a Mary Beresford, widow, and her daughter Georgina Agnes, were living there with a staff of eight.

In 1855 upon the intended and afterwards accomplished marriage of George John's second son, William John Borlase Warren Venables Vernon, the Stapleford, Toton and Stratton Audley, with joint consent of both father and son were vested in Trustees for the purpose of disposing of the same. As a result, the Stapleford and Toton estates (Stratton Audley no longer concerns this history) were publicly offered for sale in April 1856. The Stapleford estate then totalled some 140 acres, but it appears that not all of it was sold on this occasion. Much went to divers purchasers, but for some reason the Hall and its immediate lands plus Grays' Paddock and Brookes Yard (opposite the "Old Cross" Inn), were not parted with until 14th March 1862 when the purchaser was Charles Ichabod Wright of Bramcote; he paid £10,500 for them. At this time, they covered an area of 86 acres 0 roods 16 perches.

Later owners-the Wrights, the Elmores and Albert Ball

The Hall and its Park continued with the Wrights until 1893 when in April of that year it was sold to a Margaret Elmore of Nottingham, wife of an electro metallurgist, for £13,256. Going down! She bought 82 acres 1 rood and 32 perches the difference being due to the selling of Brookes Yard, the "Warren Arms" (with extra land), Grays Paddock, outbuildings etc. and cottages opposite that particular inn, during the ownership of Charles Ichabod Wright.

Stapleford Hall did not remain long with the Elmores-the impression one gets is that they bit off more than they could chew-and in January of 1901 they sold out to Albert Ball (one of, what Stapleford knew as, the “Forty Thieves”) for £12,500, except the timber which had been sold to W & Edwin Marshall of Lenton if cut and carried away before 8th January 1902. The Elmores had sold off small lots at various times i.e., the site for the Primitive Methodist Chapel (now demolished) and some 34 other lots. The area bought by Ball was 77 acres 3roods 34 perches. The Park was then immediately cut up and sold in small lots; the Hall itself with 2 acres 2 roods 36 perches was sold in May 1902 to Frank Towle of Nottingham, surveyor. Thomas Towle of Stapleford, father of this Frank, must have rented the place or had some sort of understanding with Frank for he had the idea of making the Hall a centre for recreation and of administration for Stapleford, but was eventually thwarted in his plans-to the very great loss of this community. The building later passed into the hands of Richard Blankly Burrows and then to his son, William, of Habrough, Lincoln. In 1935 the knell was rung when it was sold for demolition to enable more streets and houses-as if Stapleford hadn’t enough already-to be erected in a fast-growing urban area. So passed a visible link spanning at least 700 years of Stapleford’s history.⁹

⁹ Ed-Book III follows with page 94. The pages covering the Warren family in the original manuscript must have been numbered 76 to 93 i.e. 18 pages. When this was rewritten they were condensed into 14 pages-hence the missing 4 pages.