

Servants at Quorn Hall 1906

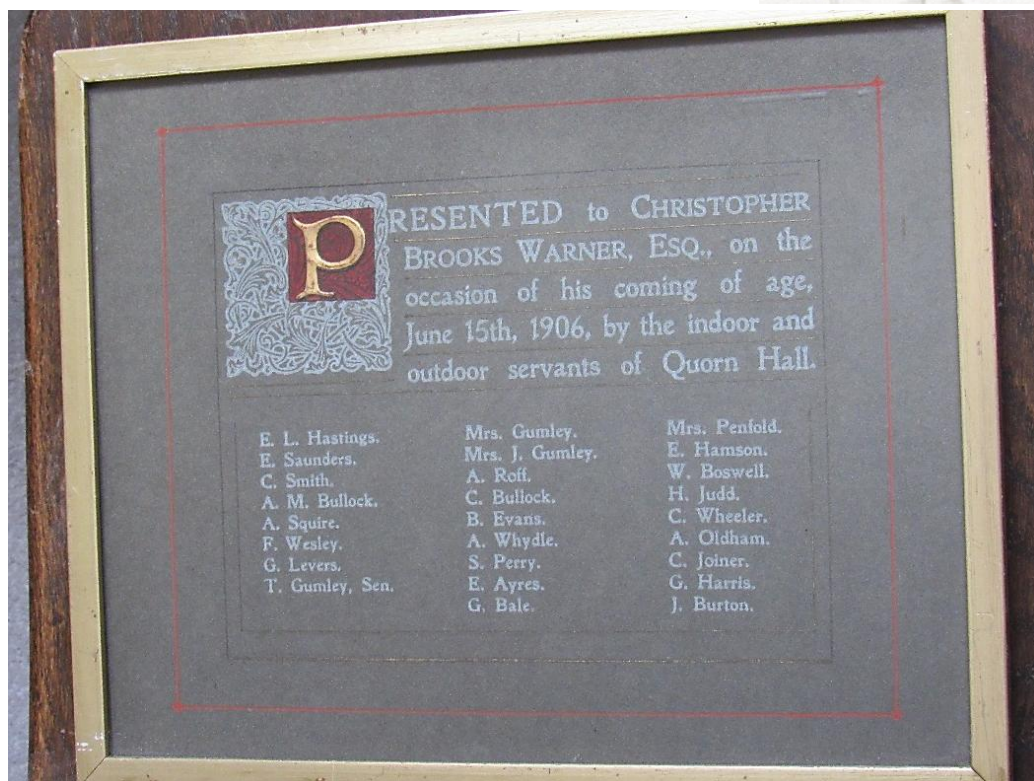
The framed presentation certificate below, which is believed to have accompanied a smoking related gift, was given to Christopher Brooks Warner (right) of Quorn Hall by the servants in 1906, when he attained the age of 21. It contains 26 names and says:



Presented to Christopher Brooks Warner, Esq., on the occasion of his coming of age, June 15th, 1906, by the indoor and outdoor servants of Quorn Hall.

E L Hastings
E Saunders
C Smith
A M Bullock
A Squire
F Wesley
G Levers
T Gumley, Sen

Mrs Gumley
Mrs J Gumley
A Roff
C Bullock
B Evans
A Whydle
S Perry
E Ayres
G Bale



Mrs Penfold
E Hamson
W Boswell
H Judd
C Wheeler
A Oldham
C Joiner
G Harris
J Burton

Right: The silver cigarette box, which is believed to have been the gift that accompanied the certificate. It bears the monogram CBW (Christopher Brooks Warner), the date June 15th 1906 and is topped by a squirrel, which is part of the Warner family crest.



A Closer Look at the Servants

It is evident that the servants are not listed alphabetically, and it would appear they are probably ordered by seniority.

At the time of the census returns in both 1901 and 1911, ie either side of 1906, the Warner family were in residence at Quorn Hall.

COLUMN 1

E L Hastings – Ernest Lewis Hastings, the butler. Ernest was born in Kingstone, Kent in 1870. In 1891 he is recorded as the butler at Kepwick Park, the Warner family's other home, when he was only

21. In 1901 he was married with a daughter and living on Freehold Street in Quorn, but by 1911 the family had moved to what is now 7 Meynell Road, which was one of the Quorn Hall Cottages owned by the Warner family. Although the Warners left Quorn Hall in 1919, he continued as their butler and is still recorded as working for them in 1921. It seems likely that he is the older of the two men on the photographs on page 5.

E Saunders – Elizabeth Saunders, housekeeper. Elizabeth was born in Eaton Socon in Bedfordshire (now Cambridgeshire) in 1859 and was 42 on the 1901 census when she was the live-in housekeeper at Quorn Hall, having previously worked for the family as a housemaid when the Warners lived at Nanpantan Hall. She would have had a very similar status to the butler within the servants' hierarchy, albeit with different duties. In most households the housekeeper would have been addressed as Mrs, despite their marital status. Elizabeth married in 1910 and relinquished her position.

C Smith – Possibly the cook. This person is difficult to be certain about as Smith is such a common name and therefore difficult to trace. On the 1901 census for Quorn Hall the cook is Florence C J Smith, but she is not there in 1911. Florence Cecile Jane Smith was baptised in Cambridge on 7th June 1870 and worked as cook for various families, at least up until 1921. She never married and died in 1945 in Devon.

A M Bullock – Alice Mary Bullock, live-in lady's maid. Born Smeeton Westerby, Leicestershire in 1872, Alice was 28 on the 1901 census in Quorn. By 1911 she was living back in the family home in Smeeton as a dressmaker and died unmarried in 1927 aged 55.

A Squire - Archibald Squire, gardener. This is believed to be Archibald Squire who was born in Woodhouse in 1851. On the 1901 census he is living on Soar Side (small cottages on Soar Road), but by 1911, the records indicate that he is living at 33 Meynell Road, also called the Gardener's Cottage. As early as 1881, Archibald is recorded as living at 'Warners Lodge' as a gardener and he died in 1914, so it is assumed that he worked for the Warners most of his life.

F Wesley – Frederick Wesley, coachman. In 1911 Frederick, a local man, born in Woodhouse in 1864 was the Warner's coachman, having previously been a groom. Several of the longer serving servants changed their residences between 1901 and 1911 and this was partly due to the Quorn Hunt having left Quorn by the 1906 season. In 1911 Frederick and his family seem to have been living in what used to be the Huntsman's House, now Huntsman's Cottage, 11 Meynell Road.

G Levers – in 1911 George Levers, chauffeur lived at what is now 5 Meynell Road, a cottage owned by the Warners. He was aged 37, born in Loughborough and married with two daughters; one aged 10 years and the other a baby of one month.

T Gumley, Sen – In 1911 there is a Thomas Gumley living at 1 Meynell Road, a cottage owned by the Warners. He was a widower, aged 69, born in Leicester in approximately 1842 and listed as a Farm Foreman. By 1921 he had retired and he died in 1929 aged 88.

COLUMN 2

Mrs Gumley – Believed to be Mary Gumley, the wife of Thomas Gumley senior, although no occupation is recorded for her on the 1901 census. She died of heart disease in 1907 aged 71.

Mrs J Gumley - Believed to be Margaret A Gumley, the wife of James Gumley. As was normal in those days, married women would often be recorded or addressed with their husband's forename or initial. A practice which has largely died out.

A Roff – This is the most perplexing entry. There is no 'Roff' on the Quorn census returns for 1901 or 1911, but over the years, nine postcards have been collected that originally came from the same collection, addressed to 'Miss Roff' and having a Quorn connection, all between these dates. Despite the unusual surname and Miss Roff's forenames - Miss E Bernice Roff, who it has to be assumed was related to A Roff – and extensive research, neither A Roff nor Miss E Bernice Roff can be traced. **See Appendix One on page 4.**

C Bullock – Not traced, despite researching connections with Alice Mary Bullock. Alice had a younger sister called Constance, but there is no evidence to indicate that she was ever in service.

B Evans – Not traced

A Whydle – Believed likely to be Arthur Whydle, born in Lincolnshire in about 1886, who although he was not working for the Warners in either 1901 or 1911, he was recorded as a live-in footman and valet respectively, for different households. With such an uncommon name he is very likely to be the correct person. Arthur served in WW1 and died shortly after the war ended, on 7th December 1918 in a military hospital in Hounslow, during the Spanish Flu epidemic. He is recorded as a war death.

S Perry - Not traced

E Ayres - Not traced

G Bale – Believed to be George Bale, a gardener, who was living on Freehold Street in both 1901 and 1911. However after this, he and his wife Ann moved to Rookery Cottages (now part of no 34) on Meynell Road, which were owned by the Warners. It was here that George died in 1915 aged 69. Ann continued to live in the cottage. Two years later in 1917, their son Frank was killed in WW1

COLUMN 3

Mrs Penfold – Selina Penfold was the married daughter of Thomas Gumley senior and worked in the dairy. Her and her husband, a well-known local stone mason, and children lived with Thomas Gumley.

E Hamson – Not traced

W Boswell – Not traced

H Judd – Henry Judd, who was a groom in 1901 and a gardener in 1911. He was a local man, born in Quorn in 1874. He and his wife, Elizabeth Jane first lived on Freehold Street, but by 1911 had moved to one of the Warner cottages on Meynell Road (now no 9)

C Wheeler – Charles Wheeler, groom. Charles appears on the 1911 census living in one of the Quorn Hall cottages, now 3 Meynell Road, with his wife Mary and their 6 year old daughter Rose. Rose had been born in Quorn, so they had lived here at least since 1905.

A Oldham – Arthur Oldham, stableman. Born in Loughborough in 1882. On the 1901 census he is recorded s a groom and in 1911 as a stableman. He was single and lived over the stables.

C Joiner – Charles Joiner was a gardener living on Freehold Street in 1901, with his wife Elizabeth. They had five children although one died in infancy. Sadly in 1910 Charles died aged only 41. One of their sons, Frank, died in battle in France in 1917.

G Harris – George Harris, gardener. George was born in Barrow upon Soar in 1844, but had lived most of his working life in Quorn, living on Nursery Lane with his wife Harriet and their children. It is possible he worked for the Warner family as early as the 1880s. The 1921 census shows that he carried on working for the new owners of Quorn Hall, despite being widowed and aged 77. He died in 1929 aged 85.

J Burton - Not traced

Roff Connections

- 1) **Postcard 42** - A picture of Rawlins Grammar School, Quorn, postmarked January 1904
 - a) To Miss E Roff, 45 Abington St, Northampton
Dear B, We are going on Monday hope to hear from you soon have you heard from B. I have not. Love from Nance, Stay House, Kepwick, Northallerton, Yorkshire.
 - b) Stay House was on the Kepwick estate, owned by the Warner family.
 - c) 45 Abington Street in Northampton, was at this time occupied by a surgeon called William Rae. He had five servants, so it is reasonable to assume that 'Miss Roff' was in service there, but she obviously had connections with 'Nance' who (it is reasonably assumed) worked for the Warners.

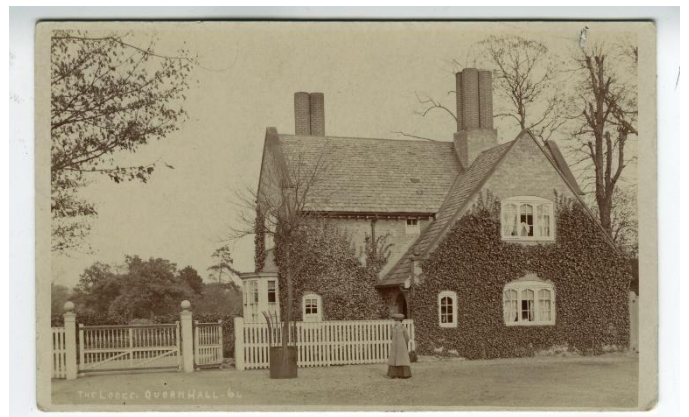
- 2) **Postcard 80** – Quorn Hall, postmarked November, possibly 1904
 - a) To Miss Roff, Stay House, Kepwick, Northallerton, Yorkshire.
Thanks for PC of this morning, it is enough to please you today. I expect you will be glad to get back here again, best love from Gert

- 3) **Postcard 82** – Quorn Hall, a traditional view from the river. Postmarked 1904
 - a) To Miss E Roff, 45 Abington Road, Northampton
Dear Bernice I have received the parcel safe, am very pleased indeed with it. I will write you a letter soon, best love from Nance

- 4) **Postcard 212** – The Manor Hotel opposite the GCR Station
 - a) To: Miss Roff, Hardingstone Vicarage, Northampton
Dear Bernice, Many thanks for parcel, am very pleased with it. Hope you will have a nice time on ???. I will write letter after we get to Yorkshire. Kindest love Nance
 - b) The date on this postcard is illegible, but it does say 'Compliments of the season'.
 - c) The Hardingstone vicar at this time was Nathaniel Thomas Hughes who lived with his wife and children and four servants.

- 5) **Postcard 213** – Wood Lane, colour washed postcard, postmarked October 7th 1904
 - a) To: Miss Roff, 45 Abington St, Northampton
Dear Bernice, Received parcel alright, am very pleased indeed with them, will write letter tomorrow, hope you are well, kindest love from Nance

- 6) **Postcard 215** – Quorn Lodge, off Meynell Road, postmarked March 1905
 - a) To Miss Roff, Quorn Hall.
Dear Roffsey, One more for your collection. I expect you know this hope you will like it, love from Patchey



- 7) **Postcard 216** – Quorn Hall, eight servants, under a small thatched shelter. Unposted.
- Part of a set of three postcards with the same eight servants. All unposted and acquired as part of the 'Miss Roff' collection.
 - On the front of this postcard it says 'Photo Shuttlewood Quorn 6'.
 - Judging by their dress they are indoor servants.
 - It seems likely that the older of the two men on the photographs is Ernest Lewis Hastings, the butler.
 - The following photographs of the eight servants seem to have been taken on the same day.



William Shuttlewood was the photographer and the village chemist. He was only in Quorn from 1905 to 1909. Usually his photographs were of exceptional quality, but when enlarged these three have not got the sharpness of his typical photographs.

- 8) **Postcard 217** – Quorn Hall, eight servants, at Quorn Hall with a wooded background. On the front it says 'Photo Shuttlewood Quorn' This was acquired as part of the 'Miss Roff' collection.



- 9) **Postcard 218** - Quorn Hall, the same eight servants, next to Quorn Hall.
- On the front it says 'Photo Shuttlewood Quorn 5' This was acquired as part of the 'Miss Roff' collection.
 - As stated previously, the older of the two men is almost certainly Ernest Lewis Hastings. It therefore seems likely that the lady standing next to him is Elizabeth Saunders, the housekeeper.

