

AIRMAN'S EPIC DEED

DEATH OF R A J WARNEFORD V.C. BRINGS REUNION

ROMANCE OF FAMILY WITH HISTORIC RECORD

The glorious deed of "Warneford V.C." in destroying single-handed a monster Zeppelin last June (writes the Glasgow "Weekly Mail" of June 24), has had dramatic results and one of the most interesting of the war memorials will be that erected in the Warneford Chapel in Highworth Church. A kinsman, the Rev. H. L. Warneford, rector of Foxley, has communicated with members of the Warneford family all over the world to enable them to participate in a family memorial, and in all 58 Warnefords have subscribed, contributions coming from the British Isles, France, Italy, India, New Zealand, Canada, and Antigua. It took many months to reach all the relatives and many of them were not aware of the existence of other members of the family, and those abroad who had got out of touch with the home branch were delighted to renew acquaintance with kinsfolk they thought no longer existed. The famous exploit of the young airman has brought about a reunion of the old family. It is the intention of the Rev. H. L. Warneford to publish a family history. The earliest known ancestor was Paul Warneford, historian, born 745 at Cividale, in the Friuli, Lombardy. He was secretary to King Didier. After the conquest of Lombardy by Charlemagne he took the side of the deposed King, and endeavoured to restore the old regime.

Charlemagne however won him over to his side and appointed him instructor of Greek to his daughter. One of the later Warnefords, Launcelott, married Susan Paulett daughter of the first Marquis of Winchester. Warneford Place, Wilts. now the residence of Sir Frederick Banbury, was the family seat for over 700 years. The last Warneford to live there was Canon Warneford, whose eldest surviving son is the rector of Foxley. The mansion was given to an ancestor by King John in 1210 for a pony which His Majesty admired. To Lady Margaret Elizabeth Wetherall Warneford who died in 1861, belongs the doubtful honour of having been the most generous member of the family. So generous was she that she left all the wealth of the Warnefords to strangers or charities. Her ladyship left £45,000 for widows and orphans of clergymen of the diocese of Gloucester, and £30,000 for building and repairing churches in the same diocese. Dr. Samuel Wilson Warneford, the founder of Warneford Clergy Charity and Ecclesiastical Trust, expended £200,000 in philanthropy during his life time. He and his niece, Lady Wetherall Warneford, gave between them £380,000 to Charities and persons outside the family. A few weeks ago the estate of "Warneford V.C." was proved at £39 4/-!

("Kalgoorlie Western Argus" Tuesday 5th September 1916 p2)

Memorial to Lieutenant R A J Warneford.

"In the Warneford Chapel, of Highworth Church, Wilts, there was unveiled and dedicated on August 21st a memorial tablet, subscribed for by members of the Warneford family throughout the world, as a tribute to the late Sub-Lieut.R. A. J. Wameford, V.C., R.N. The tablet was unveiled by Mrs. Maude Nightingale and dedicated by the Rev. H. L. Warneford.

Flightglobal Archive 30th Aug 1917

There has been unveiled and dedicated in Warneford Chapel, Highworth Church, Wilts, a memorial tablet, the family tribute to the late Flight Sub-Lieutenant Reginald Alexander John Warneford V.C. R.N. Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, the first to destroy a Zeppelin in an air encounter who had associations with Exmouth.

Western Times 23rd Aug 1917

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