

History of Warlies Park House

Part One, 1519 – 1826

Little is known of Warlies prior to 1519 except that it belonged to the Abbots of Waltham before the Dissolution.

The will of Elizabeth Hyll of Warlies (widow of John Hyll, citizen and draper of London) in 1519 stated "I wyll and bequeath that according to the surrender which I have made ynto the hands of Thomas Knyght that all my lands and tenements with all other appurtenances called Werleys, set and lying within the hamlet of Upshyre in the parish of Waltham Holy Cross" The present buildings are much later than those mentioned above although Warlies does contain the remains of the 16th Century dwelling within its structure.

Samuel Foxe (1562-1629) was the son of John Foxe, the author of Foxes Book of Martyrs. After some years at Oxford and travelling around Europe Samuel was appointed in 1587 to be in charge of the Royal Palace of Havering.

By 1594 he had obtained possession of Warlies. The house and grounds were held by "copyhold of tenure" of the Lord of the Manor of Waltham.

Samuel died in 1629 and left Warlies to his wife Anne, who died four months later and so Warlies was passed to their son Dr. Thomas Foxe (1591-1662).

Thomas went to Magdalen College Oxford and became a surgeon. On succession to Warlies he started to expand the estate. Land and cottages in Upshire were bought and added to his father's copyhold.

He and his wife Anne, had an only daughter, Alice. When he died in 1662, Warlies passed to Alice's husband, Sir Richard Willys (1615-1690).

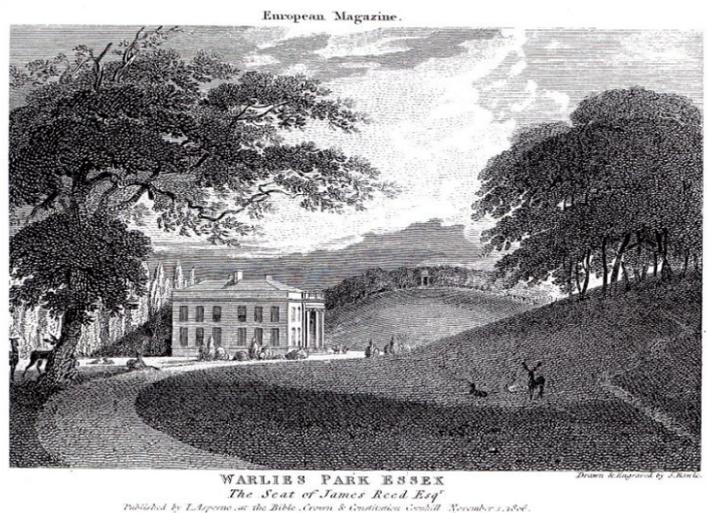
Sir Richard remained at Warlies until his death and the estate passed to his son, Sir Thomas Foxe-Willys. However the latter was described as being "bereft of his wits" and died unmarried in 1701. Sir Richard's other child, Anne Foxe-Willys, had married Christopher Davenport (1655-1713) and it was he who inherited Warlies. On his death the estate amounting to just over 180 acres passed to his unmarried daughter, Frances.

In 1718 she married Richard Morgan (d 1740) and in 1720 he "was admitted to Warlies under his own name". In the following 20 years he added a further 110 acres to the estate and "greatly improved the mansion at Warlies". He also designed a landscape park with classical rotunda and obelisks. He erected the small temple in the park in 1737 and built the fine ceilings which have been preserved to this day.

Frances was "readmitted" to the copyhold tenancy on the death of her husband and continued to enjoy the estate until her death in 1761. It then passed to her only near surviving relation, Julia Carter (d 1768).

Seven years later, Julia passed away and left Warlies to one of her daughters, Martha Catherine Carter (1762-1815) who was only six at the time. Martha also inherited lands and other riches from her Willys and Spillman grandparents. However, after a series of misfortunes and tragedies she died childless in Bath having lost Warlies and most of her inheritances by her fortune-hunting cousin and husband, Sir John Aubrey. In fact Sir John sold Warlies for £11,500 in 1787 to Walter Urquart.

Walter converted the copyhold tenure to freehold ownership in 1799 by paying a fine of £3420 to the Lord of the Manor. When he sold it to James Reed in 1801 the estate consisted of 397 acres and two roods of land.



Warlies as it was in 1806. The house was essentially rectangular prior to the Buxton additions.

The magazine that published this engraving said "the genius of the present proprietor of this delightful spot has been displayed by a number of judicious plantations in the park, by building a tasteful farmhouse, and by making such other alterations as assimilate with the grand features of the country".

The estate had grown to 500 acres when James sold Warlies to William Banbury in 1814.

William died in 1850 and his widow, Margaret, sold Warlies to Sir Edward North Buxton 2nd Baronet in 1851.

