

= Rowland Egerton @-@ Warburton =

Rowland Eyles Egerton @-@ Warburton DL (14 September 1804 ? 6 December 1891) was a landowner from the Egerton family in Cheshire , England . He was a devout Anglican in the high church tradition and a local benefactor . He paid for the restoration of his parish church and for the building of two new churches in villages on his estates . He also built cottages and farm buildings in the villages .

Through his mother 's line he inherited the Arley and Warburton estates in Cheshire . He is best remembered for rebuilding Arley Hall and its chapel dedicated to St Mary , and for helping to create the picturesque appearance of the village of Great Budworth . He and his wife designed extensive new formal gardens to the southeast of the hall , which included one of the earliest herbaceous borders in Britain . The hall and gardens are still owned by his family , but are open to the public .

Egerton @-@ Warburton 's main hobby was hunting . He was a keen member , and later the president , of the nearby Tarporley Hunt Club . He also wrote poetry , the subject matter of which reflected his interests in hunting and in the countryside . Some of his rhymes are to be found on signposts in the grounds of the hall .

= = Early life = =

He was born Rowland Egerton in 1804 at Norley Bank , Norley , Cheshire , the eldest son of Rev. Rowland Egerton BA and his wife , Emma . His father was the seventh son of Philip Egerton who became the 9th baronet of Egerton and Oulton on the death of his elder brother in 1825 . His maternal grandmother (also called Emma) was the youngest sister of Sir Peter Warburton , 5th baronet of Arley , who had no children . Sir Peter died in 1813 and in his will he left the estates of Warburton and Arley to Rowland junior , who was at that time still a minor . His father added the name " Warburton " by royal licence in the same year . Egerton @-@ Warburton was educated at Eton College , and although he was admitted to Corpus Christi College , Oxford in 1823 , there is no evidence that he was awarded a degree . After his time in Oxford he went on a Grand Tour , and returned to the life of a squire at Arley Hall , having gained control of the estates on achieving his age of majority in 1825 .

= = Landowner and benefactor = =

Egerton @-@ Warburton managed the Arley estate from 1825 until his death in 1891 . During this time the estate was profitable and he was able to enjoy a larger income than his predecessors . He was a high church Anglican and a supporter of the Oxford Movement , having been influenced by Keble , Pusey and Newman . He regularly attended choral Matins in the chapel at Arley Hall , and on hunt days he wore his hunting colours . He took little interest in politics , in which respect he is regarded as having been " passive " .

In the 1850s he paid for the restoration of his local parish church of St Mary and All Saints at Great Budworth , where he encouraged a more Anglo @-@ Catholic style of worship . He paid for the building of new churches in two villages on his estates . In the village of Warburton he paid for the new church of St Werburgh . This was built in 1883 ? 85 to a design by John Douglas of Chester , at which time Egerton @-@ Warburton 's nephew , Rev. Geoffrey Egerton @-@ Warburton , was the incumbent . This church replaced the old church in Warburton , also dedicated to St Werburgh , as the parish church . The old church still exists on another site in the village . In the village of Appleton Thorn , 3 @.@ 3 miles (5 km) to the north of Arley Hall , he paid for St Cross church , which was built in 1886 ? 87 to a design by Edmund Kirby of Liverpool .

Egerton @-@ Warburton also paid for the construction of secular buildings in villages on his estates , many of which were designed by John Douglas . In Great Budworth he had a " campaign to restore the village and render it picturesque in Victorian eyes " . He restored many of the cottages in the village and built new ones to blend with them . In 1875 the George and Dragon , a simple three @-@ bay Georgian inn in the village , was remodelled by adding ribbed chimneys , moulded brick

mullions , an elliptical @-@ headed doorway and a steep pyramid @-@ shaped turret . The village has changed little since then and it remains " one of Cheshire 's most charming villages " . In 1873 he paid for the building of a cottage in Arley Green and founded Arley School in the village . In Warburton , he paid for a school in 1871 ? 72 , a church hall in 1889 , and a post office in 1893 . Features in the style of Douglas were added to the timber @-@ framed Bent Farm , which stands opposite the new church , in 1880 . He also built the public road from Arley Hall to Appleton Thorn .

= = Fox hunter and poet = =

Egerton @-@ Warburton was a keen fox hunter and rode with the Tarporley Hunt Club , of which he became a member in 1825 and its president in 1838 . When he retired from hunting in 1873 , he was made an honorary member of the club . His friend , the Bishop of Oxford , Samuel Wilberforce , described him as being " equally at home in the hunting field and the parish church " . He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Cheshire in 1825 , was an officer in the Royal Cheshire Militia and in the Cheshire Yeomanry , served as a Justice of the Peace , and was High Sheriff of Cheshire for 1833 .

His poetry , usually on the subjects of hunting and country life , was light @-@ hearted and popular . In 1834 he published his Hunting Songs , which ran to eight editions . Titles of the songs include " A Good Merry Gallop for Me ! " and " Farmer Dobbin " . His nine @-@ stanza poem " Quaesitum meritis " is considered to be his best work . He created signposts on his estate with rhyming inscriptions , some of which are still present . He also published more serious documents about the cattle plague of 1747 ? 49 . Lord Halifax referred to him as " a perfect combination , a good churchman , a good landlord , a keen sportsman , and a man of literary tastes " . In his 1885 book Hunting , the Duke of Beaufort described Warburton as ' that Homer of the hunting @-@ field ' .

He also wrote a couplet as an epitaph for the headstone of Copenhagen , the war horse ridden at the Battle of Waterloo by Arthur Wellesley , 1st Duke of Wellington . The couplet , " God 's humbler instrument , though meaner clay , should share the glory of that glorious day , " was written at the request of the 2nd Duke , when he erected a tombstone for his father 's famous horse on his grave at Strathfield Saye . The first Duke would have approved of the choice of poet , since he , like Egerton @-@ Warburton , was a keen sportsman , and in fact , the Duke had often hunted on Copenhagen when the two of them were in the Peninsula .

= = Rebuilding of Arley Hall = =

When Egerton @-@ Warburton took over the estate , the hall was " dilapidated and swarming with rats " , and so he decided to replace it completely . He took great interest in the design of the new house and chapel , and his ideas reflected respectively his artistic and his religious values . In respect of the house , he was influenced by the spirit of the Romantic movement . He also wanted the new house to reflect his ancient lineage : " to suggest something of the pity of the Middle Ages as well as the grandeur of Elizabethan England " . He therefore rejected the neoclassical style of architecture , which was fashionable at the time , and chose instead to build a house in what is now known as Jacobethan style . He also wanted it to incorporate modern technology and materials in its construction , and he did not want it to be too expensive . He commissioned a young local architect , George Latham from Nantwich , and worked closely with him in the design . Latham suggested that the final cost would be in the region of £ 5 @,@ 000 ? 6 @,@ 000 (£ 400 thousand ? £ 480 thousand today) . It was agreed that every architectural feature of the house should have an exact model in an existing Elizabethan building . Egerton @-@ Warburton and Latham travelled together and visited such buildings to study these features .

The first phase of building started in 1832 , and the east , north and west wings of the old house were demolished . Most of the new building in this phase consisted of servants ' quarters and utility rooms . A drawing room , grand staircase and hall were built but they were left unfinished . Modern plumbing was fitted , the structure of the house was raised on arches to reduce the effect of damp , and the spaces under the arches were ventilated and warmed by a patent device . This phase was

completed in 1835 at a cost of about £ 13 @, @ 000 (£ 1 @. @ 15 million today) . Egerton @-@ Warburton then took a break , partly to raise the money needed for the completion of the house , and also to work on the designs of the remaining rooms . The second and final phase was built between 1840 and 1845 . The south front was demolished and the building , much of which is present today , was finished . The final cost of the house came to about £ 30 @, @ 000 (£ 2 @. @ 68 million today) .

In designing the chapel , he again broke away from the classical style of architecture . Having been influenced by the Oxford Movement , he decided that it should be designed in Gothic style . He commissioned the nationally famous architect Anthony Salvin to design a Gothic Revival chapel , which was completed and consecrated in 1845 . In 1856 ? 57 , a north aisle and porch were added to a design by George Street .

When Egerton @-@ Warburton took over the estate , the gardens were mainly to the east of the hall , but with his wife , Mary , he designed new gardens . These were developed to the southwest of the hall between 1840 and 1860 . They implemented their designs apparently without any professional help , and the present gardens are largely the result of their planning . The herbaceous border was one of the first of its type to have been created in England . Items they planted which are still present include the yew finials in the herbaceous border , which were planted in 1856 , and the holly oak cylinders in the Ilex Walk , which were also planted in the 1850s .

= = Family and later life = =

Egerton @-@ Warburton was the eldest child of ten ; he had four brothers and five sisters . His younger brother , James Francis , who was born in 1807 , graduated MA and became the rector of Warburton . Henry William was born in 1808 , and became a major in the 47th (Lancashire) Regiment of Foot . Peter , born in 1813 , worked with the East India Company before moving to Australia , where he achieved some notoriety as an explorer . The youngest brother , George Edward was born in 1819 . He also emigrated and established a farm in Western Australia . Egerton @-@ Warburton 's sisters were Emma (born 1805) , Frances Mary (1809) , Maria Sybilla (1812) , Charlotte (1815) , and Sophia (1816) .

On 7 April 1831 Egerton @-@ Warburton married Mary Brooke , the eldest daughter of Sir Richard Brooke , 6th baronet of Norton Priory . They had three children , Mary Alice , Piers (later MP for Mid Cheshire) , and Mary . His wife died in 1881 and his younger daughter and her family moved in to live with him . By 1874 he was suffering from glaucoma , and soon afterwards became blind . He continued to take walks , led on a leather strap by his gardener . He had a path , Furlong Walk , constructed from the terrace at the hall with wire to guide him . His health began to fail from 1888 and he died in 1891 at the age of 87 . He was buried in the family vault at Great Budworth church . His estate amounted to a little over £ 51 @, @ 670 (£ 5 @. @ 09 million today) .