

John Carruthers, a travelling catechist of the early Presbyterian Church, used sometimes to lodge at the Warnica Inn on his northern travels, and has left brief notices of these visits in his *Retrospect*. On a journey northward in 1832 he writes in his journal :

Wednesday, 25th July.—Lodged for the night at Warnica's Inn, a Dane from Copenhagen ; he speaks English in a tolerable way—has a good address, and no doubt has often administered to the necessity and comfort of the weary traveller in the forest, with or without pay. More of my kind host next journey.

On his return south from the military post at Penetanguishene, where he had been, he writes :

Monday, 6th August.—Took my course south to Lake Simcoe, then rounded Kempenfeldt Bay—and night coming on, I had again to lodge at Warnica's Inn.

Returning from a second visit to Penetanguishene in the following spring, Carruthers writes :

Wednesday, 20th March, 1833.—Crossed Kempenfeldt Bay into the Township of Innisfil, and delivered an exhortation at Warnica's Inn. His wife was very sick and not likely to recover. Our prayers were earnest in her behalf.

Mrs. Warnica did recover on that occasion. Sir Richard H. Bonnycastle, in his book, *The Canadas* in 1841, makes a casual reference to Warnica's Inn. Speaking of the Main road he says: "The road goes along the waterside of Kempenfeldt Bay ; and, indeed, you travel through the water, in some seasons, to Varneek's tavern, four miles ; then to Clement's, ten miles." Bonnycastle made this journey in July, 1835. No doubt many such references to the Warnica Inn occur in the writings of early travellers through Innisfil.

The little log house which they had built upon their first arrival in Innisfil and which they had used as an Inn for travellers was soon succeeded by a larger hewed log-house. The latter was built in the fall of 1831 near the site of the large house at Painswick, lately occupied by Dr. Armstrong. To help his father in its erection George came from Thornhill and spent two weeks at the old homestead. This second inn was at the fork of the Main Road, the site having been chosen where travel along both branches would pass it. Here the old man unfortunately fell into tipping and drinking habits, and got into financial difficulties. For a debt he owed, he conveyed in 1835 his interest in the farm, to William C. Ross, a wine and spirit merchant of Toronto for £500 (so the deed asserts) and never appears to have acquired any interest in the property afterwards. He was then compelled to leave the house by being sheriffed out at a time when his wife lay sick in bed, whom notwithstanding her feeble condition the sheriff's officers carried out in the bed into the public highway. The debt which he owed is said by descendents of the family to have been about \$250—an amount much less than the value of the property. A man from Toronto, either the creditor or one who had bought the farm, came and by a stroke of policy persuaded John, the eldest son, to sign over his claim, and henceforth all proprietorship of the farm was at an end so far as the Warnicas were concerned. In those days the laws of entail gave a claim upon the estate to the eldest son, and thus John's signature was a necessary step before the farm passed out of their hands.