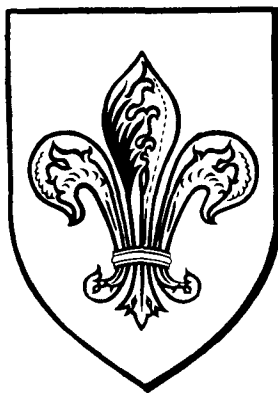


WAKEFIELD  
ITS  
HISTORY AND PEOPLE

BY

J. W. WALKER

O.B.E., F.S.A.



WAKEFIELD

THE WEST YORKSHIRE PRINTING CO. LIMITE

1934

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*J. Walker*

**Dedication**  
**To my Wife**  
**as a Token of Gratitude**  
**for much Encouragement and Help**



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## Preface

*Consider History with the beginnings of it stretching dimly into the remote time, emerging darkly out of the mysterious eternity.*

CARLYLE.

WHEN nearly sixty years ago I turned my attention to investigate the story of Wakefield I did not anticipate that I should be led to write a history of my native town, but it is to the generosity and devotion of the Wakefield Historical Society that the publication of this book is due.

The history of Wakefield has been so closely interwoven with the history of England that it is impossible to separate it from the general history of the country, but I have endeavoured not to wander into any matter unnecessary for my purpose.

The research and labour thus involved have been a great pleasure to me, and there is hardly a statement made in this book that is not founded on verifiable authority. I trust that as a result of these investigations I have succeeded in making some things clear which were before obscure, and some things certain which have hitherto been doubtful.

Abundant use has been made of the original documents in the Public Record Office, the British Museum, the Bodleian Library, and the Episcopal Registry at York, to the authorities of which I tender my thanks for their unvarying courtesy and assistance.

I have to acknowledge my indebtedness to the writings of W. S. Banks, Rev. J. H. Lupton, John Hewitt, Major Taylor, M. H. Peacock, Henry Clarkson, and also to the Council of the Yorkshire Archæological Society for permission to draw largely from papers written by me for their Journal, and for the loan of many blocks for illustrations.

To the Stewards of the Manor of Wakefield, the late Mr. Henry Chalker, and his son and successor the late Mr. Cecil Chalker, I am very deeply indebted for allowing me access to the Manor Court Rolls of Wakefield, which are an invaluable source of information relating to the life of the townsmen through many centuries.

Among those friends who have aided me in various ways my thanks are especially due to Mr. Reginald Smith, Keeper of British and Medieval Antiquities in the British Museum; Mr. Charles Clay, and Dr. Rose Graham, for reading some chapters in manuscript and for kindly criticism and suggestions which have added materially to the value of this book. Mr. H. W. Ricketts, Curator of the Leeds Museum, gave every facility for sketching the prehistoric implements from Wakefield housed under his care.

The Rev. J. Walker, Vicar of Alverthorpe, and the Rev. E. Idé Mack, Vicar of Thornes gave me much information respecting their churches. My thanks are due to Mr. H. C. Haldane for placing his information about Stanley at my service; and to many friends who have replied to my enquiries.

For permission to reproduce illustrations I am indebted to The Society of Antiquaries, The Thoresby Society, The Antiquarian Association of the British Isles, The Provost of Wakefield, Dr. Collinge, Mr. A. B. Robinson, and Messrs. Henry Young & Co., of Liverpool.

For some original illustrations I am beholden to the artistic skill of Mr. A. H. Sharp, Principal of the School of Art and Crafts, and to my youngest daughter, by whom every care has been taken to make their work not only accurate, but also as attractive as possible.

I have to thank the members of my family for help with the Indexes, which will, I hope, afford a ready means of access to all the information contained in this book.

My publishers, The West Yorkshire Printing Co. Ltd., have rendered every assistance, and I cannot speak too highly of the care that they have taken in printing this volume.

J. W. WALKER.

TWEMLOW HALL,  
HOLMES CHAPEL,  
CHESHIRE.

*May, 1934.*