

WARWICK DEEPING



(George) Warwick Deeping was once a famous novelist, and it isn't hard to find his books in the second-hand trade. He wrote an almost alarming number, sometimes two or three in a year, and left several for publication after his death in 1950. The total appears to be 72. A few were filmed (*Unrest*, 1920; *Fox Farm* 1922; *Doomsday*, 1928; *Kitty*, 1929, *Sorrell and son*, 1927, remade as a talkie 1934), and *Sorrell and son* formed the basis of a TV mini-series as recently as 1984. There even appears to have been an armed trawler named after him, sunk in the Second World War.

Deeping did not live in Sussex long, though it informed some of what he wrote. His house was Green Gore, by Gate Farm in Whatlington Road, Battle; his father George had already retired to Hastings. His father and grandfather had both been medical practitioners in the area where Newark joins Lincolnshire; his great-grandfather had been described in the 1851 census as a landed proprietor, so there so there was money there. The name Warwick came from his grandmother, whose brother Richard had greatly developed the brewing firm of



Warwick and Richardson at Newark. This was an old concern but Warwick did not buy into it until 1851. Thereafter it grew fast; it lasted until 1962 when of course it was taken over by an even larger concern. It shut in 1966.

Deeping's father was practising in Prittlewell, Southend when young George was born in 1877 . George went to the Merchant Taylors School, then to Trinity College, Cambridge, and was himself destined for medicine,

[Wikimedia/commons/thumb/f/f2/Warwick_Deeping_1932.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Warwick_Deeping_1932.jpg)

moving on to the Middlesex Hospital. He practised for only one year, however, deciding to concentrate on writing, though he returned to medicine when serving with the RAMC in the 1914-18 war.

He married Maude Merrill in 1904 and they moved to Sussex, setting up a landscaping business to keep the family's accounts in balance. (There seem to have been no children.) His father had already retired to Hastings (Oaklands, St Helen's Park Road) where he would soon die; according to a report he spent much of his energies on assisting the Conservative Party in the Battle area.

Being now with only a small income, Deeping set up a landscaping business, but it was not his first love: he found publishers and began his prolific career. He had had several books published by the time of the First World War, and the war provided him with ample material for later works, particularly *Sorrell and son*, which reached a wide public and was highly regarded. But he left Sussex, preferring a much larger house in Weybridge called Eastlands, in Brooklands Lane. This house had been owned by the actor and writer Fanny Kemble (1809-93) and is now National Trust property.

Deepling died in 1950. His publications during his life were:

Uther and Igraine (1903)
Love among the ruins (1904)
The slanderers (1904)
The seven streams (1905)
Bess of the woods (1906)
The return of the petticoat (1907)
Bertrand of Brittany (1908)
Mad Barbara, also known as *These white hands* (1908)
The red saint (1909)
The rust of Rome (1910)
Fox Farm, also known as *The eyes of love* (1911)
Joan of the Tower (1911)
The lame Englishman (1910)
Sincerity, also known as *The challenge of love, the strong hand* (1912)
The house of spies (1913)
The white gate (1913)
The pride of eve (1914)
The shield of love, also known as *King behind the king* (1914)
Marriage by conquest (1915)
Unrest, also known as *Bridge of desire* (1916)
Martin Valliant (1917)
Countess Glika (1919)
Valour (1919)
Second youth, also known as *The awakening* (1919)
The prophetic marriage (1920)
The house of adventure (1921)
Lantern Lane (1921)
Orchards, also known as *The captive wife* (1922)
Apples of gold (1923)
The secret sanctuary or The saving of John Stretton (1923)
Three rooms (1924)
Suvla John (1924)
Sorrell and Son (1925)
Doomsday (1927)
Kitty (1927)
Old Pybus (1928)
Roper's Row (1929)
Exile (1930)
The Short Stories of Warwick Deepling, also known as *Stories of love, courage, and compassion* (1930)
The Ten Commandments, also known as *The Road* (1931)
Old wine and new (1932)
Smith (1932)
Two black sheep (1933)
Seven men came back (1934)
The man on the white horse (1934)

Two in a train and other stories (1935)
Sackcloth into silk, also known as *The golden cord* (1935)
No hero —this (1936)
Blind man's year (1937)
The malice of men (1938)
Fantasia, also known as *Bluewater* (1939)
The man who went back (1940)
The dark house (1941)
Corn in Egypt (1941)
I live again (1942)
Mr Gurney and Mr Slade, also known as *The cleric's secret* (1944)
The impudence of youth (1946)
Reprieve (1945)
Laughing house (1946)
Portrait of a playboy, also known as *The playboy* (1947)
Paradise Place (1949)
Old mischief (1950)

The following were published posthumously:

Time to heal (1952)
Man in chains (1953)
The Old World dies (1954)
Caroline Terrace (1955)
The serpents tooth (1956)
The Sword and the Cross (1957)
The lost stories of Warwick Deeping – Volumes I – V (2013, 2014)

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Sources

The Times, 10 February 1950.
Jacobite leaflets and pamphlets, by R G Lyde. *British Museum Quarterly*, vol. 19 (1954).
List from Wikipedia, edited
Ancestry.co.uk