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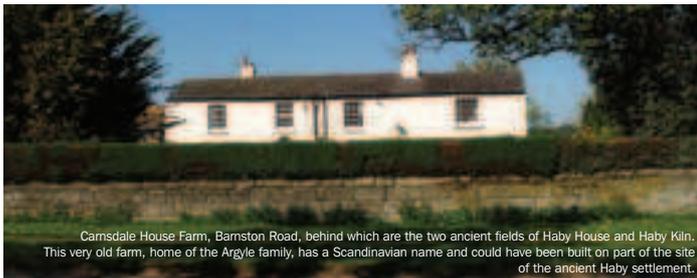
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Carnsdale House Farm, Barnston Road, behind which are the two ancient fields of Haby House and Haby Kiln. This very old farm, home of the Argye family, has a Scandinavian name and could have been built on part of the site of the ancient Haby settlement.

village and Haby, thought to mean high village. Some evidence of the settlement of Warmby is to be found on Bryant's 1831 map of Wirral which shows the bottom end of Broad Lane, from Target Road onward marked as Warmby Lane, which peters out in the general direction of Thurstaston shore fields. Also, the 1901 census of Heswall lists a dwelling in Warmby Road inhabited by the family of one George Matthias, a master mariner born in Tranmere (the family still live there). So the name Warmby was still in use into the 20th century. There are two pieces of land beyond the end of Warmby Lane where Heswall ends and Thurstaston begins, both with Scandinavian names: Tinkers Dale and an adjacent field called Stromby Hay. Tinkers Dale is believed to have originally been called Steinkells Dale and Stromby comes from the Norse, 'straumbyr', a farm or village by the stream. Did a Viking called Steinkell live in a settlement or farm by the stream? Was the farm or settlement part of a village called Warmby? Or, because over the years locals could not relate to the word Stienkells and called it Tinkers, similarly, could Warmby Lane have once been Straumbly Lane? In Barnston, there are a number of fields with Norse names: one is Napps Field on Napps Hill behind the houses of Napps Way. Napp comes from the Norse word 'Knapp', meaning sloping land or crest of a hill. At the



Looking towards Heswall and Napps Hill, behind Napps Way, as seen from land farmed by Carlton Paynter of Beech Farm, Barnston. This hill was probably farmed by Vikings from the lost settlement of Haby.

bottom of the hill, where the land levels out are two fields called Haby Kiln and Haby House, behind Carnsdale House Farm on Barnston Road. Both the 'lost' Norse settlements of Haby and Warmby could have been destroyed in 1070 when William the Conquerors Norman troops devastated the North of England for revolting against him. Norman soldiers marauded through Wirral all the way down to Meols, plundering and burning villages as they went and attacking more on their way back. Eleven manors were burnt and completely destroyed, or 'laid waste' as is recorded in the Domesday Book and many others were ravaged. They also attacked Chester, where they burned 205 houses. A Norse poet wrote: "Cold heart and bloody hand now rule the English land." Landican, which included Arroe and Woodchurch, was laid waste, as was Barnston which included Pensby. Some of the ravaged villages were Gayton, Thingwall, Greasby, Caldly and Thurstaston (which included lrbly). Gayton was recorded as being worth only two shillings (10p) after the Norman attack. A few Wirral villages escaped retribution, one being Heswall, probably hidden from view and bypassed.

Over the centuries, the Scandinavians and Anglo-Saxons in Wirral intermarried, creating a community with its own customs and dialect. The Anglo-Saxons counted in fives, tens and twenties, whereas the Scandinavians counted in sixes and twelves, which we still use to count eggs. Eventually, the Anglo-Norse language spoken in Wirral and other Norse areas of Northern England died out. However, a large number of Scandinavian words and a few sayings have been absorbed into the English language. In Ireland the Vikings imposed a poll or head tax on their Irish subjects; those who failed to pay had their noses sliced open. From this punishment the saying has come over the sea to us 'to pay through the nose', meaning to pay a high price. Sometimes Viking warriors flew into a fighting frenzy and tore off their 'sarks' (shirts) and went into battle bare chested; they were called 'bersarks', giving us the phrase 'to go berserk'. When the Vikings steered their longships to our shores they used a large oar called a 'stearboard' fixed to the right-hand side of their ships, from this stearboard we get starboard, the right-hand side of a ship. When they landed and settled, they built their byrs or villages, which had certain rules or laws, from these we get 'by-laws' and their paths became 'by-ways'. The word law is Norse, meaning something 'fixed', a rule that is laid down, from this we get the saying, 'to lay down the law'. One local dialect word which has been lost is 'Ayne'. When my dad farmed in Thingwall during the 1920s, some old locals called the brook which flows through Barnston Dale, the 'Ayne' (it eventually becomes the River Fender). Ayne is Norse sounding, but I don't know what it means. The name is kept alive by a house in Storeton Lane called The Ayne Croft which backs onto the Dale.