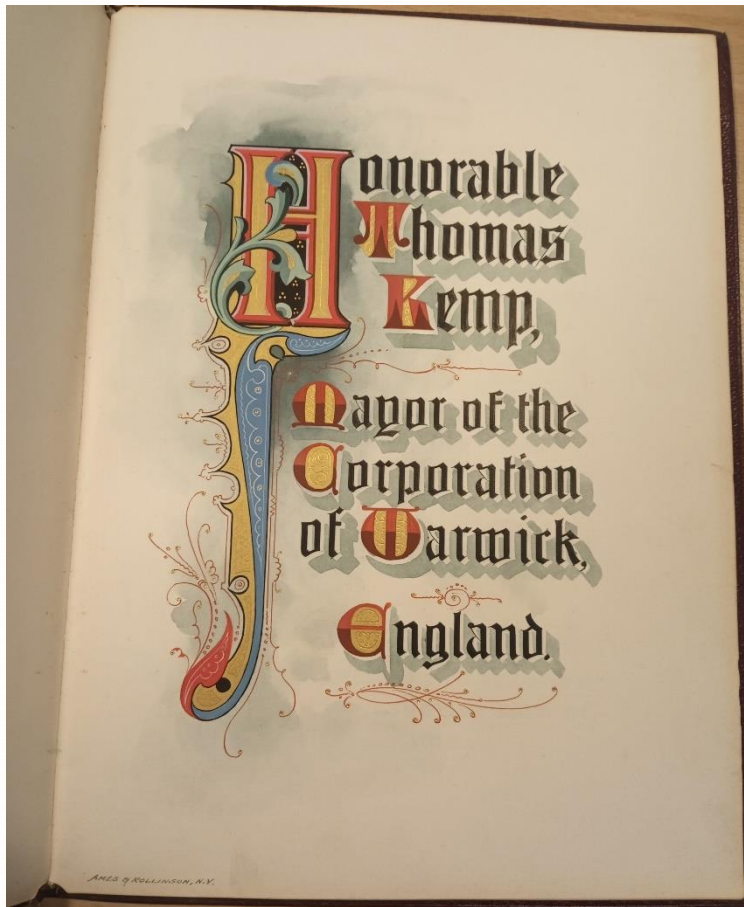


**Illuminated address of greeting and congratulations by the village of Warwick, New York,
USA, 1906, CR1618/WA1/7**

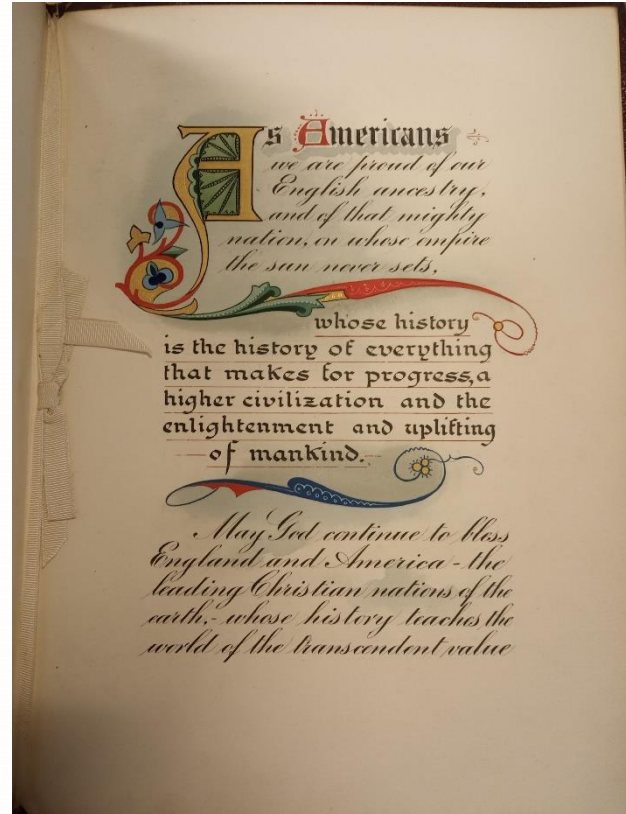
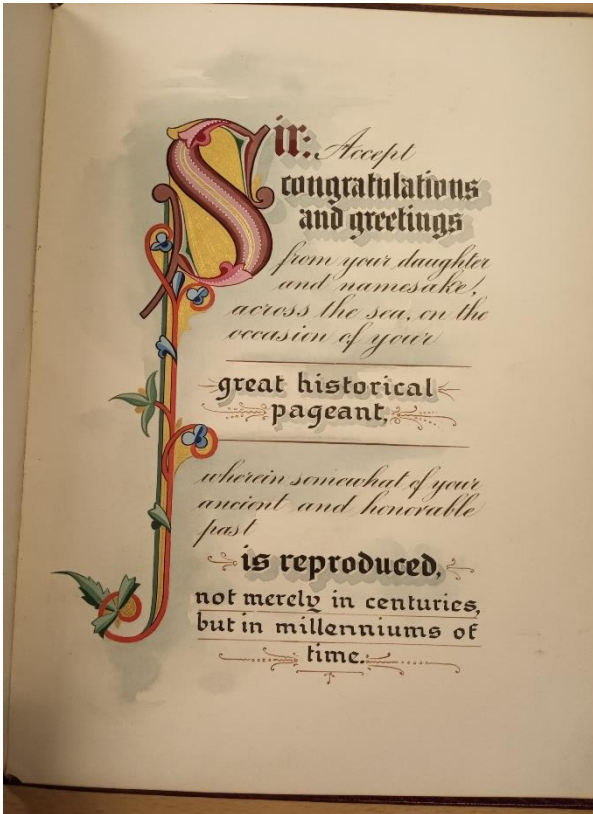
August's Document of the Month is this illuminated address to the town of Warwick. It was created to mark the 1906 Warwick pageant. A transcript of all the pages has been provided separately.



Illuminated address page 1, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1618/WA1/7

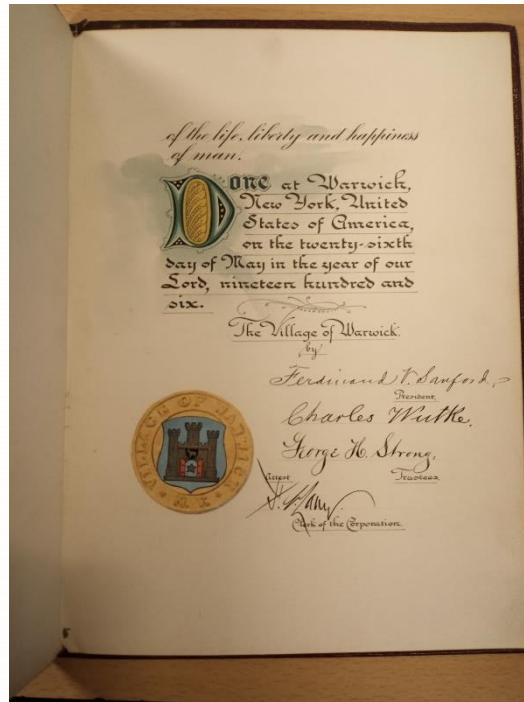
Addressed to the Mayor of Warwick, Thomas Kemp, the address sends congratulations and greetings from the village of Warwick in the United States of America to commemorate and congratulate the town on the occasion of its "great historical pageant, wherein somewhat of your ancient and honourable past is reproduced, not merely in centuries, but in millenniums of time."¹

¹ Illuminated address to the town of Warwick, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1618/WA1/7.



Illuminated address pages 2 and 3, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1618/WA1/7

It is signed by F.V. Sanford, G.H. Strong, Charles Wutke and F.C. Cary (the President, Trustees and Clerk of the Village of Warwick respectively) and includes the village's new seal.



Illuminated address page 4, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1618/WA1/7

Enclosed with the address is a letter from Sanford to Kemp explaining the original will be hand delivered by him personally at the pageant, which he was due to attend, and was most looking forward to.

The four-page hand illuminated address talks of Americans being proud of their English ancestry, of which some was being represented at the pageant.

Warwick Pageant of 1906

There have been a number of pageants in Warwick over the years, but the Warwick Pageant which this document is referring to is the first one which took place. The pageant occurred between the 2nd and 7th July 1906 in the grounds of Warwick Castle. The pageant was a spectacle of performances of the history of England from AD 40 to 1694. It was organised and conducted by Louis N. Parker.

Almost everything used for the pageant was made locally. Focus was made on Warwick's history and patriotism throughout. Scenes on display during the spectacle included Shakespeare, Guy of Warwick, the Earls of Warwick, and religion. Notably however, no

mention was made of the English Civil War or the Reformation.² A detailed account of the pageant and the performances can be found on the Historical Pageants website.³

Paid admission was available for the dress rehearsal (members of the press and photographers were also invited to this performance). Preliminary performances were also staged the week before for schoolchildren and the poor.

According to the Historical Pageants website, there were 2,000 performers who took part in the pageant, including horses. The total audience over the entire pageant numbered 44,000 people.

The profits from the pageant were used to purchase what is now known as Pageant House and its gardens in Jury Street, Warwick.⁴

The pageant was well reported in the press, both in the lead up and the aftermath of the pageant. There are many references in both the local press, and national press in publications such as *The Stage*. Reports can be found both in the local newspapers held at the Record Office, and online using the British Newspaper Archive website⁵. You can also find other records and photographs relating to the pageant in our collections, the catalogue for which can be found online at Warwickshire's Past Unlocked.⁶

The Kenilworth Advertiser on 31st March 1906 talked about the preparations by the town for the pageant, including the creating of objects such as the head of the Dun Cow and Queen Elizabeth's throne amongst others:

"Warwick is evidently sparing no pains to make the pageant the success which it deserves to be. It is a pleasure to read about what is being done."⁷

The 1906 pageant was hailed as an enormous success. Almost all the performances sold out. Further pageants took place in the town in later years, the most recent being in 1996.⁸

² Our Warwickshire, *The Warwick Pageant of 1906: Pageant Week*, <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/article/warwick-pageant-1906-pageant-week>

³ <https://historicalpageants.ac.uk/pageants/1234/> (accessed 13/07/2023).

⁴ Angela Bartie, Linda Fleming, Mark Freeman, Tom Hulme, Alex Hutton, Paul Readman, 'The Warwick Pageant', *The Redress of the Past*, <http://www.historicalpageants.ac.uk/pageants/1234/>

⁵ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

⁶ <https://archivesunlocked.warwickshire.gov.uk/calmview/>

⁷ Kenilworth Advertiser, 31st March 1906, page 6. Accessed via the British Newspaper Archive <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/BL/0003066/19060331/108/0006?browse=False> (13/07/2023).

⁸ Our Warwickshire, *The Warwick Pageant of 1906: Legacy* <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/article/warwick-pageant-1906-legacy> (accessed 13/07/2023).