

WALMLEY SCHOOLS : Notes from the minutes

by ROBERT PRITCHARD

The Warden and Society Minutes relevant to Walmley schooling from their first mention on the 21st December 1822 are being copied.

The first school mistress, a temporary appointment until the first purpose built school was finished was Mrs. Short. The building is shown on the attached map of 1811, a list of the tenants is also attached. This building was later known as Jessamine Cottage, but has been demolished; it used to stand by the garden nursery in Fox Hollies Road. The Short family lived here for a considerable number of years, they still appear on the 1871 Census but not on the 1881 Census. The first purpose built school, now known as The Old Schoolhouse, stands at the corner of Fox Hollies Road and Webster Way. The first teacher here was Sarah Ann Adams who married a local farmer, Henry Brookhouse; his father was also Henry Brookhouse, but it is not certain which of these is referred to in the minutes. The copy of the marriage entry at Holy Trinity church Sutton Coldfield is attached.

21.12.1822 (Pages 405 and 406)

Resolutions passed at a Committee meeting of the Corporation on 11 December 1822. The school, proposed to be erected in the neighbourhood of Walmley, not having been objected to by the Master (of Chancery), resolved that a portion of the Corporation property at Walmley now occupied by Henry Brookhouse is suitable for the necessary erection.

Comment: There was evidently a change to this, although no reason is given as later in the same minutes:-

Resolutions passed at a Committee meeting of the Corporation 18 December 1822. Resolved that part of the land in the occupation of Mr. Webster situate at Thimble End be the place recommended for building the Chari School upon in that Quarter.

7.9.1825 (Page 493)

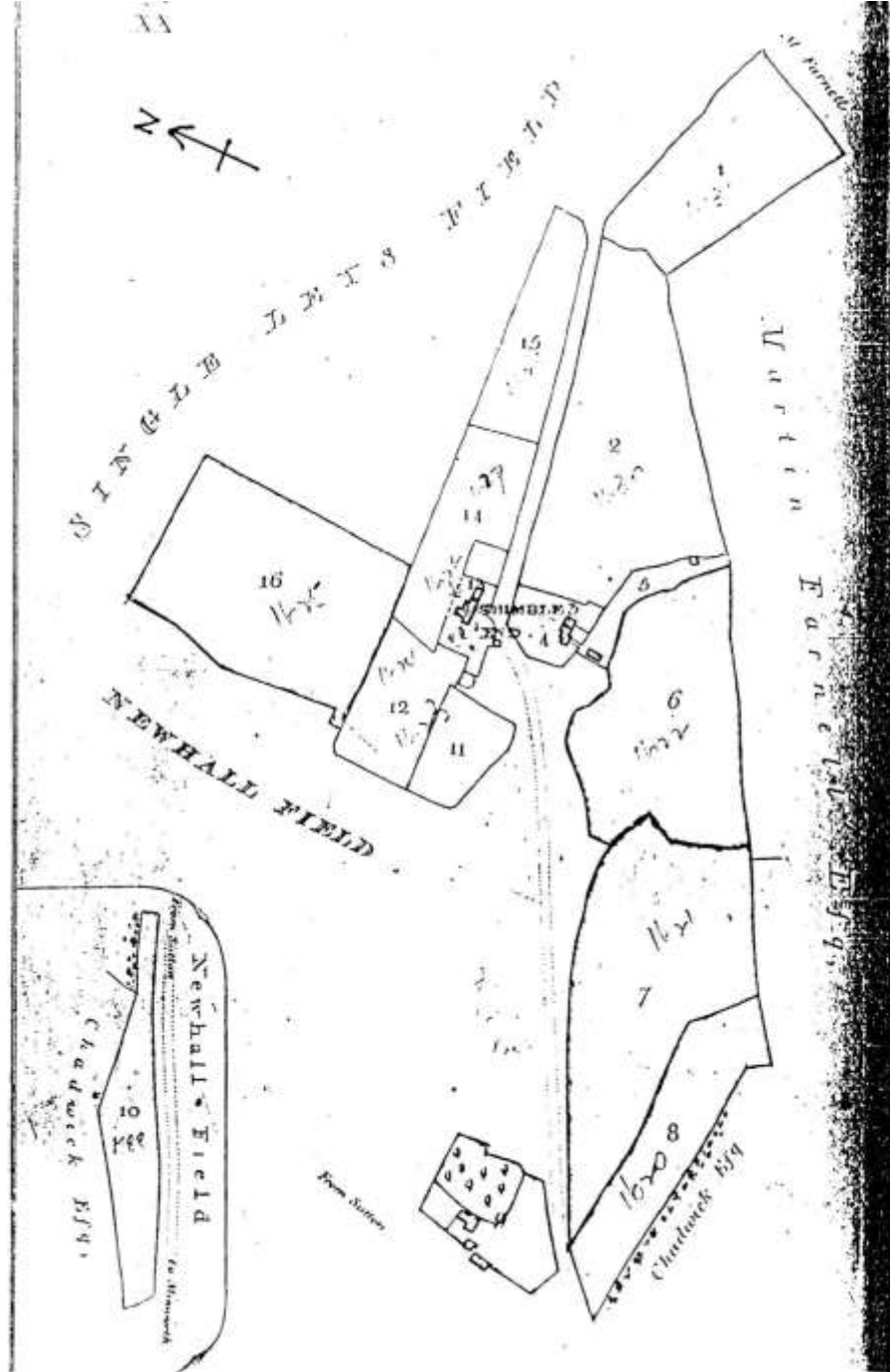
The said Committee went to look after proper places for the schools at or near Walmley and Hill or Little Sutton, and propose a small field occupied by Mr. Webster on the south-east side of Signal Hayes Field being the uppermost of the Crofts called Breedens Crofts, containing one acre, one rood and thirty-nine perches for the school at or near Walmley.

21.1 1.1825 (Page 507)

Also on the like recommendation that the temporary school at Hill and Little Sutton shall begin with 25 boys and 25 girls and that the school at Walmley with 10 boys and 10 girls, each to be increased if accommodation can be found. That a Mistress be appointed temporarily for the Walmley School and that her salary be at the rate of £15 per annum.

26.1 1.1825 (Page 511)

That the boys and girls for the temporary schools are to be elected at the next meeting of the fifth of December.



Tenants	No.	Parcels	Capacities			Rate	Yearly value		
			A	R	P		£	s	d.
Mr Webster	1	Croft	1	1	39		3	5	
	2	d.	2	3	27		6	2	
	3	House & garden			25		2	10	
	4	d. d.			20		2	10	
	5	Foredrift hovel & pigstie	1	1				6	
			4	3	38		14	11	
Francis Henshaw	10	Meadow	2	2	8		5	7	
Penelope Smith	6	Meadow - car to page 2	2	0	50				
Abraham Jones	7	Meadow	2	2	38		6	17	
	8	d.	1		35		3	1	
	9	House barn cowhouse orchard garden & croft		3	8		6		
			4	3	1		15	18	
Thomas Short	10	Croft near Newhall gate	3	21			1	17	
	11	Meadow	1	30			1		
	12	d.	2	37			1	14	
	13	House cowhouse hovel garden and orchard	1	8			3	5	
	14	Croft	3	20			1	19	
	15	d.	3	8			1	16	

Extract from an early 19th century survey of Corporation lands. Fox Hollies Road is shown as a track across the commons (New Hall Field), Jessamine Cottage is no. 13, and the school was built on the Croft, no. 1.

5.1 2.1825 (Page 513)

Resolved that for the better electing of children to the schools, the following Notice be read in the Church and stuck upon the Church doors. "The inhabitants of this Parish who have not yet applied and who wish their children to be admitted to the Charity Schools are to give the names and ages of all their children at the Town Hall on Tuesday next ten o'clock". That in the next notice to the members it be particularly stated that the adjournment is for the purpose of electing children into the schools.

Comment: The Church mentioned is Holy Trinity, Sutton, as Sutton Coldfield was a single parish at this date.

14.1 2.1825 (Page 515)

At this meeting, lists of applications for the children to the Charity Schools are produced and Resolved that the same be submitted to the Committee for carrying the order of Court for the application of the increased Revenue into effect and that Mr. Charles Cooper and Mr. Joseph Clarke be added to such committee and that the said Committee Report the names of such children they recommend be elected to the Charity Schools.

Comment: No lists of children can be traced.

24.1 2.1 825 (Page 516)

Proposed and agreed that the lists now produced by the Committee of girls and boys to be elected to the Charity Schools be adopted and signed by the Warden and that the children are elected accordingly. That the Sargeants forthwith give notice to the parents of the children who are elected to the Charity Schools of their election and that they are to attend at the places for the School on the twenty third day of January next.

24.12.1825 (Page 517)

That the wife of Thomas Short be appointed to the temporary School for Beyond the Wood to educate in her own house at a salary after the rate of fifteen pounds per annum, also to commence on the said twenty third day of January. That the school masters and school mistresses enter into agreements with the Warden containing the terms of their engagement to be approved of by the Corporation.

That Mr. Clarke have the goodness to do what is necessary for the better accommodation of the school at Mrs. Shorts.

That if any plan can be adopted for the erecting of a gallery for the Charity schools, the Corporation recommend such gallery to be erected in their chancel.

20.2.1826 (Pages 520 & 521)

At this meeting the proposed agreements with the school masters and school mistresses were produced, altered and approved and ordered to be copied and signed.

That the rules and regulations at the schools now approved of be adopted and printed by the Committee.

That the dress for the boys be blue cloth jacket and trousers, with shirt, stockings woollen cap and shoes.

That the dress for the girls be a blue cotton frock, straw bonnet and blue ribbon, and shoes and stockings.

That the stockings for both boys and girls be blue.

That the tailors and shoemakers to be employed in providing or making the clothing for the children be Master workmen resident in this parish. That the committee be requested to provide the clothing for the children already elected to the schools.

13.3. 1826 (Page 524)

Resolved on reading the committee report as to the schools dated 7th March 1826 that the girls have cloaks in addition to their other clothing.

1.5.1826 (Pages 532 and 533)

That the Warden attach the Corporate seal to the Power of Attorney for receiving the allowances for clothing the school children, salaries, etc. That Mr. Holbeche build the school for Beyond the Wood and Walmley ... and that contracts be prepared for their respectively building the same.

31.5.1826 (Page 535)

That the present draft agreement for building the school at Beyond the Wood and Walmley be approved and entered into. That the trees now felled for the building the schools and Alms Houses be forthwith sold by auction by Mr. Solomon Smith and the invoices applied for the purposes of building the same schools and Almshouses.

18.12.1826 (Pages 556 & 557)

Also for the sum of £67 18s 0d.

For the like extras of the School Beyond the Wood and Walmley according to estimate No. 3.

That the posts and rails arising from the fall of timber in the park for the building the schools and Almshouses be paid for by the Warden and remain the property of the Corporation.

9.2.1827 (Page 567)

That notice be given next Sunday on the church door of a meeting to be held here on Tuesday the sixth day of March for the purpose of filling the vacancies in the Corporation Schools and of electing a School Mistress to the School of Beyond the Wood and Walmley quarter and that all applications must be made to the School Committee at the Moot Hall on Monday the fifth day of March at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

6.2.1827 Page 569)

At this meeting it was resolved that the election of children to the schools be postponed to a further meeting, certain of the Members having undertaken in the mean time to obtain full lists of all persons in the parish whose children may be objects under consideration to be elected to the schools.

That Sarah Ann Adams daughter of Jane Adams of Maney, shopkeeper is elected to the school at Beyond the Wood on a proper agreement being entered into as the Corporation may approve of.

14.3.1827 (Page 572)

That the committee for the management of the schools be requested to

fill up the vacancies and proper number of boys and girls to attend the said schools and that the whole of the children to be newly elected be forthwith clothed.

That the remainder of the field on which the school Beyond the Wood and Walmley is built after deducting the site thereof and the garden be let to the School Mistress or to any other persons under an agreement at a fair annual value by the Committee of that school.

1.5.1829 (Page 577)

That the intended agreements with the Corporation School Masters and Mistresses be submitted to the School Committee for their settling and then reported to the Corporation.

21.5.1828 (Page 601)

That the Warden attach the Corporate seal to the power of Attorney for receiving the money for building the Church Galleries for the extras to the schools and for the salary of the school Mistress at Hill.

24.6.1828 (Page 605)

That a regular agreement be now entered into with the Schoolmaster and Mistress of the Hill and Little Sutton schools like unto other regular school agreements. That the School Committee meetings be considered open meetings. That in consequence of a resolution of the School Committee resolved that the premiums on putting the school children apprentice or to service be disposed of on the Wardens choice annually.

<u>Henry Brookhouse</u>		of <u>Parish</u>
and	<u>Sarah Ann Adams</u>	of <u>this</u> Parish
were married in this	<u>Church</u>	by <u>Banns</u> with Consent of
		this <u>Thirtieth</u> Day of
<u>May</u>	in the Year One thousand eight hundred and <u>thirty one</u>	
By me	<u>J. P. R. & Co.</u>	
This Marriage was solemnized between us	{ <u>Henry Brookhouse</u> <u>Sarah Ann Adams</u>	
In the Presence of	{ <u>Elizabeth Adams</u> <u>Miss B. B. B.</u>	
No. 233.		