

*A Translation and Index of:*

*Zachariah*

*Twamley's*

*History of  
Sutton Coldfield*

*(Unpublished – 1855)*

*Janet Jordan*

*A Member of Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group*

*2009*

**TRANSLATION**  
*of*  
**Zachariah Twamley's 'History of Sutton Coldfield'**

*In this Translation, every page equates as far as possible to the same page in Twamley's original manuscript (in Sutton Coldfield Local History Reference Library, Ref: SH97SUT). Therefore, the Index can be used for both copies.*

*Start of Translation.....*

## *Preface*

*The Author of the following pages, being aware that many of the Inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield, have been hitherto but very little acquainted with their ancient rights & privileges, which belong to them as residents in the Parish. Although many of them were born in it, & have lived in it all their days.*

*If this Book will elucidate or convey any information whereby the inhabitants may in anyway benefit therefrom; then the writer, will feel great pleasure, and a satisfaction (also) that he made this attempt principally for that purpose.*

*If any errors are committed (by the author) he can say of a truth, they were not willful; therefore, the candid reader must forgive all such mistakes; for to infallibility he does not pretend. With deference he submits to his fellow native parishioners, and friends; a compendious account of the antiquity of Sutton Coldfield; together, with a Memoranda of dates of different occurrences that have taken place in the parish, and some particulars relating thereto. To some they'll not come unacceptably, whilst others may disapprove of the book altogether; (be that as it may happen) he leaves the event to their own discretion, and generosity, to think as they please. I remain with due respect, Yr Hble Servt.*

*"An honest tale speeds best, being plainly told."*

*Shakespeare.*

*The Author*

***Introduction:*** *With some facts relating to the Free Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield; Warwickshire.*

*New Shipton in the parish of Sutton Coldfield, was the Author's birth place; and not unlike the predecessors of his family, he always had a regard for Sutton but what still more caused his great attachment, having received a plain, yet useful education at the School, top of the town, then called the Free School; during the time while the late Mr. William Webb, was the Head Master of it:*

*In the month of January, 1780. after the Christmas holidays of 1779. were ended, and the school reopened again; my next elder brother Samuel, with myself, we were both admitted by the Head Master into the School; In the English department of the said school.*

*It now last January, 1866, was seventy five years ago.*

*I was then aged 7 years and 5 months.*

*Having been taught to read, which at that time, was the qualification required for admission.*

*I was first placed in the Reading Class, amongst about a dozen more boys; and I continued in the same class, for some months afterwards all the time free, from any weekly payments.*

*Mr. Henry Swinburne, was the Under-master in the School at that time, to teach the English department.*

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*But something occurred, that the Head-master, Mr. Wm. Webb, and he could not agree in their opinions, therefore, (upon it). Mr. Hy Swinburne, left his situation and the school altogether.*

*Mr. Edward Parnel, soon afterwards came, and took the situation as Under-master in the school, and held it until Mr. Wm Webb's decease; which event took place in the year, 1817. (And for a short time also afterwards.) Both the Classicks, and Reading of English, etc. etc. were in Mr W.Webb's (?) Free; for boys whose Parents lived in the parish of Sutton Coldfield; And when boys first began to Write they had the privilege of being instructed free for 12 months. (which privilege, I myself received.) When that 12 months was expired, Each boy then paid Sixpence, per week, to the Under-master Mr Edward Parnel; which sum of 6d. included Spelling, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic; for those weeks they came to school (only), perchance they did not come to school, (no payment,) Which weekly payment of Sixpence, amounts at the very most it can be reckoned, to 6s. 6p. per quarter; Two months out of the year, were fixed holidays, (viz) Christmas, & Midsummer a month each.*

*All the obstructions and difficulties of getting*

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*Inhabitants boys into the school, (as Foundation boys) have arisen since the death of the late Mr. William Webb; for none arose during his time, of being head Master. (The author avers the above account to be correct, from his own knowledge.) Mr Webb's decease took place in the year 1817. The school has been an unsettled foundation ever since that time.*

*Mr. Charles Barker, obtained the Head Master-ship in the same year, by the small majority of only one vote more of the Trustees in his favour, than his opponent; Mr Joseph Shutt, who was at that time a School-master; in the town of Sutton on his own account. He ought to have had the appointment, if right had taken place; He was rightly, and well qualified for the situation. He likewise had some reasons to expect to have had it, it being partly promised him, by some of the trust, who did all in their power to serve him. And I have no doubt, if he had gained the appointment, the English department in the said school would have been taught at it, the same as it had been by the previous master.*

*"I do not hesitate in saying so, for I well knew the man".*

*After Mr. Charles Barker, took to the Head Master-ship, Mr Edward Parnel, stopped for a short time with him, whose integrity could not agree, with Mr. B's. assumption.*

*His irreproachable uprightness as a Master, had been*

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*put to the test in the school for 37 years previously; as a man, who strove to do his duty.*

*He was not an assuming man himself, neither could he like to be with a person, who might be possessed, with such a spirit about them.*

*However, his regular good conduct, amongst the pupils committed to his care, was soon missed after he left the school.*

*And the day pupils of the English department, in the said school; was turned away from it, None were continued except some few, who learnt the Classicks, at that time; And the school-room was afterwards altered, into two rooms, one for a dining-room for company, who visited at the house, and the other room for a Study.*

*(How did the then trustees interfere into this business, as men situated in their capacity;)*

*The consequent result spoke for itself. At the time of his death, which happened very sudden, on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1842. When he no doubt fell dead, from off his horse's back on the road, where he was found, Mr Barker at that time, had but one day pupil, (on the Foundation of the school;) to whom he taught the Classics, and no more. Therefore, his situation as Head Master*

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*of the Free Grammar School, etc, was nearly become a sinecure. In Mr. Barker's time, the revolution in the School began.*

*For further particulars, See, p.p. 1,090 and 1,091. Commissioners Report for inquiring concerning Charities. "Free Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield".*

*On the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1843. A Publick Meeting of respectable Inhabitants and residents, of the Parish of Sutton Coldfield; took place within the Town Hall, in Sutton, Respecting the New Scheme, proposed by the Trustees of the (new Grammar School;) for altering the system of Teaching at the Free Grammar School, at the top of the town. Which Bishop Vesey, Founded and endowed in the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Henry 8<sup>th</sup>, 1528. Who gave it by Deed, to teach the poor Grammar and Rhetoric, in the parish of Sutton Coldfield, or the funds to be distributed in payment of taxes for the poor, or for the marrying of poor maidens. "The principal point in the Scheme, (as Rules) exhibited on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1843 at a Publick Meeting of respectable Freeholders, and Inhabitants, of the parish of Sutton Coldfield; From the Trustees of the Grammar School.*

*1<sup>st</sup> That the Trustees shall be Governors.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> That on the death of any Governors, their places shall be filled up at the next meeting of Governors; from persons*

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*residing in or within 20 miles of the Parish.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> That the Governors shall meet at the School-house once in every half year, but that no business shall be proceeded with unless three Governors be present.*

*4<sup>th</sup> That they shall have the management and letting of the Estates, but no lease shall be given, for a longer term than 21 years.*

*5<sup>th</sup> That they shall make Rules for the Master and Scholars, but no Rule shall be made to defeat, the original purposes of the Founder.*

*6<sup>th</sup> That minutes of their meetings shall be entered in the Books, and that a suitable place for depositing such books shall be provided in the School-house.*

*7<sup>th</sup> That the Governors shall appoint the Treasurers.*

*8<sup>th</sup> That the Master shall be a learned Layman, a Graduate at one of the Universities, and a Member of the Established Church.*

*9<sup>th</sup> That the Master shall receive the Income, and have the care of the School-house and land; (a suitable Play-ground being provided out of it, for the Scholars.)*

*10<sup>th</sup> That an Under-Master be nominated by the Master, subject to the approval of the Governors; who shall be a member of the Established Church, and shall receive a Salary of not less than £100. a year, and a fourth of the payments from Boys admitted.*

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*11<sup>th</sup> That all Boys duly qualified whose parents reside in the parish shall be admissible on payment of 10/- per quarter in advance.*

*12<sup>th</sup> That all boys residing within such a distance from the parish, as to make the daily walk convenient, shall be admissible on payment of £1.10s.0d per quarter, if under 15 years of age; and £2.10s per quarter if above 15.*

*13<sup>th</sup> That no Boys shall be admitted under 8 years of age or stay after they were 9. And that no boys should be admissible without being able to understand, Reading, Writing, and the 4 first Rules of Arithmetic.*

*14<sup>th</sup> That admissions shall be by a written order from the Governors.*

*15<sup>th</sup> That the Master shall have power of suspending boys, but not expelling, except by order of Governors.*

*16<sup>th</sup> That the Master shall be allowed to take on his own terms Day Scholars, and Boarders; And that the Under-master may do the same, on terms directed by the Governors.*

*17<sup>th</sup> That the Masters may make Arrangements for providing Teachers of other Languages; at the expence of the Parents of the Boys.*

*18<sup>th</sup> That there shall be an Annual Examination, the Master, appointing the Examiners.*

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*By the remodeling, New-Scheme of the Grammar School, in the year 1843;*

*All the former privileges before named,) which the Inhabitants had enjoyed for their Boys, for time immemorial in part free; are now set aside.*

*And a forehand payment of 10s. for a quarter of a year's instruction, is demanded; likewise an higher qualification is required,(viz) the candidates for admission, must have prior gone through, and understand, the four first Rules of Arithmetic, before they are admitted into the School, by the trustees.*

*This is a higher qualification than the history of the School, can furnish us with heretofore.*

*Were not its annual income also greatly increased in the lifetime of the late Mr. Charles Barker, even on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1843, then amounting to the very handsome sum of £470.8s.0d per annum. This circumstance alone, was a cogent reason why the inhabitants & residents of Sutton Coldfield; should expect it to have been made quite free, for an English Education, (of their boys) when it was altered, in the year 1843. And to have had the option of having their boys instructed in the Classics, (which were always free before.) or English Grammar, or both, as such Parents might think proper to have*

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*their boys taught; according to the sphere in life, they may be intended to act in afterwards; also Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, Geometry, Algebra, the Mathematics, and Geography, with the use of the Globes, if required.*

*The new impost tax of 10/- per quarter, together with the high qualification required (by the Governor for admission into the School, were both uncalled for. And are a very great hardship upon the residents inhabitants. "Bishop Vesey, gave it to the poor, for them to enjoy quite free". Also an Act of parliament passed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of Queen Victoria". Dated the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1840, Says "Before making any decree, the Court shall consider the intentions of the Founder". (Russell's Reports Vol 2.p526.) Lord Eldon, in 1826. Said "that it was his Lord Eldon's distinct duty, to enforce the trusts strictly, according to the intentions of the Founder". "Est Semper fidelis".*

*In the year, 1843. The following persons were the Trustees, Sir Francis Lawley, Bart., His Excellency Sir Eardley Eardley, Wilmot Bart. Charles Bowyer Adderley, Esq, M.P. Wm. Stratford dale, Esq<sup>re</sup>., M.P.Hon. & Rev. Charles Finch, Rev. Egerton, Arden, Bagot, Rev. G.W. Bowyer Adderley, Thomas Dilke, Esq<sup>re</sup>. Willm Leigh, Esq<sup>re</sup>. Jn<sup>o</sup> Eardley Wilmot Esq, John Floyer, Esq<sup>re</sup>. Wm Inge, Esq<sup>re</sup>. Nathl R. Clarke, Esq<sup>re</sup>.*

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*The next person to be elected, to be Head Master of the Grammar School, of Sutton Coldfield; by the above named Trustees (or as Governors, under the New Scheme;) at a meeting held by them, at the town of Sutton, for that purpose; in the year, 1843. was a man who gave his name James Eccleston, Esq<sup>re</sup> B.A. He had been educated at a College in Ireland, and was chosen by the Trustees, out of more than 70 candidates who had made applications for the situation; I were informed merely on account of his testimonials alone, at that time produced; (yet a stranger.) He lived at the school-house, as Head-Master rather more than 5 years.*

*In the course of which time, he was chosen by the corporation a member of that Body; "who in the general way prefer Strangers, fresh come to reside in the parish; before they will choose natives, that have been a long time residents; and equally as respectable men, in their vocations"; And on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 1848. he was elected to the Officer of Warden; In which office he was professing to serve faithfully, as in the oath it is plainly expressed; until near the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, 1849. - When he left the School-house, and Sutton altogether, in a very dishonorable way; not paying one single 6<sup>d</sup> in the pound, on any of his debts of simple contract.*

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*And started by the Omnibus, the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of June; which runs from Tamworth to Birmingham; through Sutton, about 9 o'clock in the morning.*

*He was captured at Birmingham, and afterwards sent to Warwick; At which place, he took the benefit of the Insolvent Act. He was there tried, and sentenced for some imprisonment. But by pleading his own case, so ably afterwards; His Honour, who sat as Judge in that Court, released him. He somehow or other obtained , to procure an appointment at Hobart Town, to be made Rector of the High-School, there, Then last of all he took his Wife and family along with him, and started for Van dieman's land. He died there on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 1850. where he lies interred. Aged 34 years.*

*On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 1849. The Trustees of the Grammar School, met at the town of Sutton Coldfield; And elected a new Schoolmaster, to the Grammar School; whose name is Josiah Wright, a Cambridge Scholar; who seems to be a person of different habits to his predeceassor; Elected to be a Member of the Corporation, on, or before the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Nov 1849.*

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*On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1851. At a common Hall of the Corporation, held at the Moot-Hall, in the town of Sutton Coldfield. Mr Josiah Wright, School-master, made an application to the other members then and there assembled; for 2 Exhibitions of 50£ each, annually to be paid out of their revenues; for two youth's, at some of the Colleges, at Oxford, or Cambridge; who had been educated at the Grammar School - Sutton Coldfield; the members could not legally grant such an application, out of the Corporation Trust, revenues.*

*Had he not been a Stranger, would he have asked for any such a thing.  
"No".*

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*Sutton Cofield, or Coldfield.* This Town is situated near the northwest border of the county of Warwick, which communicates with Staffordshire, in a most pleasant part of the country of Warwick, on the Turnpike road between Birmingham and Lichfield, seven miles three furlongs from Birmingham; Eight miles three furlongs from Lichfield; also seven miles, two furlongs from Tamworth. And much esteemed for the healthiness of its air.

*The Coldfield, as it is so called, presents to the eye of the traveller, a bleak and cheerless tract of land; yet some in the neighbourhood is more fertile and kind, in the antiquary's opinion. The town, is a place of great antiquity, and was known in the time of the Saxons.*

*Rev. Stebbing Shaw, L.L.D. The Staffordshire Historian, in his history of that country, supposed the Arch-Druid of Britain to have had his chief Seat, in this vicinity.*

*William, the Conqueror, held the Lordship in his own hand, but Henry 1<sup>st</sup> passed it from the Crown to Roger earl of Warwick. But by a subsequent agreement, (however) a yearly rent of 58£ was appropriated to the service of the Kind.*

*Guy de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, obtained in the 28<sup>th</sup> of Edward 1<sup>st</sup> in the year 1300. the grant of a weekly market on the Tuesday, and a Fair, to last four days. It continued in the possession of the great Earls of Warwick till the destruction of the family, and seizure of its property, consequent upon the restlessness of the*

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*King-maker Richard Neville. And in their days it plainly shows (whilst in the zenith of their glory), they were the principal supporters that Sutton had to uphold it. When the death of this great Earl happened, at the battle of Barnet in the year 1471. All his immense possessions became confiscated. And bestowed by Act of Parliament, upon the brother of Edward 4<sup>th</sup> the Dukes of Clarence, and Gloucester. Who had married his two daughters. The battle of Bosworth field, gave another turn to affairs, and placed the Lancastrian party in power. - The heir to the King-maker's possessions, was then the young Earl of Warwick, the son of Clarence; who had been kept in prison by his uncle Richard 3<sup>rd</sup> He was also the last male of the house of Plantagenet. And this close proximity to the throne, added to the wish; to retain his vast inheritance induced Henry 7<sup>th</sup> not only to continue the cruel injustice, of his imprisonment; but at last to put him to death, on the most ridiculous pretences.*

*Sutton Park, lies to the north-west of the town, which originally contained of itself about 2,500 Acres. Enclosed within a ring fence; And is a remnant of an ancient Forest, of which England at the present day; contained a few specimens, It yet retains the traces, of that original roughness, and barrenness, with which nature first stamped*

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*the impression upon it. And still remains as red, and as wild yet romantically beautiful, as it was at the Roman conquest. It is the centre of what was once a Royal Forest, 'till Henry 1<sup>st</sup> passed it from the Crown, to Roger Earl of Warwick in consequence of his paying 50£ a yearly Rent to the Crown. As aforementioned. – From which time it was called Sutton Chase. Which extended from the River's Tame, and Bourne, on one side, to the borders of Cannock-Chase, on the other. And must have included a circuit at least 50 or 60 miles in extent. A large tract of country, and was used by them, and their predecessors, as their principal hunting ground. And the magnificent old Manor-House, was then used as their Seat; to enjoy that manly diversion, being situated contiguous.*

*One of four, eminent Roman Consular military ways called Icknild-Street; pass through Sutton Park, a truly great work of antiquity; the width of which measures about twenty yards, from one outside of it, to the other, and raised higher along the middle. Its course is from **N.N.W.** to **S.S.W.** across the Island from Tyne-mouth in Cumberland; to Winchester, and Southampton, in Hampshire. And is generally thought by Historians of celebrity, to have been constructed more than seventeen centuries back. It also appears from history*

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*that Ostorius, a Roman commander and lieutenant, in the reign of Claudius, Emperor of Rome, visited the Arden, in the year Fifty.*

*These Roads, were evidently made for the purpose of aiding the progress of their Armies, and facilitating conquest. It yet remains in so perfect a state, that the part which passes through the Park; is to be plainly traced, without any difficulty; and no doubt of its remaining so, for many ages yet to come, if it is not purposely destroyed. About five or six miles from here (Sutton Park) N.N.W. at a place called Wall, near Lichfield, was a Roman camp, and station; where it crossed another Roman Praetorian highway, called by the Saxons, Watling-Street; and considered the largest that was made through the Island, leading for Ireland.*

*“The Arden”, of this County is justly asserted by Drayton, to have been one of the largest of the British forests; its extent being from the banks of the Avon, to the Trent, on the north, and to the Severn, on the west; on the east the tract so termed, was formerly bounded by an imaginary line drawn from High-Cross, to Burton on Trent. The Woodland recess of the district denominated Arden, formed the greater part of Warwickshire, which were formerly inhabited by the Wiccian Ceangi, or herdsmen.*

*Ostorius, did not think it necessary to fix any military*

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*station, in the interior of the county, on the north side of the Avon; but it appears his great Ardenian, was certainly Lilford, Northamptonshire, on the borders of Warwickshire.*

*In the reign of Henry 7<sup>th</sup> it appears that Sutton market, was utterly forsaken; and the town, was proceeding fast to a state of ruin and desertion. When its fortunes revived, in the person of John Harman, alias, Vesey who was born at Sutton Coldfield, in the year, 1452. And was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford. His talents and activity introduced him to the Court, at that time, when able men were so much wanted for clerical Offices, by King Henry 8<sup>th</sup>. He was made dean of the Chapel Royal, tutor to the princess Mary, and president of Wales.*

*In the eleventh year of Henry 8<sup>th</sup> he was advanced to the bishoprick of Exeter. He is said to have been a florid preacher, a great scholar, and was sent on several Embassies by the King. He acquired affluence in the busy times of Henry 8<sup>th</sup>. And had such a great regard for Sutton, as the place of his nativity; that he in the 19<sup>th</sup> year of Henry 8<sup>th</sup> 1528. Founded and Endowed a noble Free-School, to teach Grammar and Rhetoric, to the Poor, of the parish of Sutton; or for some Artificer, to teach his Art to the children of the parish of Sutton; or the funds to be distributed, in payment of the*

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*Taxes for the Poor; or for marrying poor Maidens. And what is remarkable; that the Master should be a learned layman; He also chose Trustees for the government of the said school. And it is observable that Lawrence Noel, whom Camden, celebrates for his great learning; was appointed Master, in the life-time of the founder but was persecuted (by the Trustees) into a resignation; where he had filled the situation, but little more than one year.*

*After the bishop's decease, And in the morning the scholars were obliged to sign the Psalm "de profundis" that is the 130<sup>th</sup> psalm, beginning with the following words "Out of the depth's have I cried unto thee." But the use of this Psalm, has been set aside ever since the Reformation; because, being repeated for the repose of the bishop's soul it was considered as superstitious; the other injunction, namely, that of the Master being a learned lay man; has been strictly attended to. And the School has formerly produced, some good Classic Scholars; and likewise useful members of society, as English Scholars. Up to the time, of the late Master Mr. Charles Barker's had it; in the year 1817. who succeeded the late Mr William Webb.*

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<i>"Bishop Vesey", was born at Sutton Coldfield, in the</i>	<i>Anno</i>		
<i>30<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Henry 6<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>1452.</i>		
<i>Henry 6<sup>th</sup> died in the year .....</i>	<i>1461.</i>	<i>Vesey, Aged</i>	<i>9 years</i>
<i>Edward 4<sup>th</sup> began to reign .....</i>	<i>1461.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>Edward 4<sup>th</sup> died .....</i>	<i>1483.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>31 yrs</i>
<i>Edward 5<sup>th</sup> began to reign, And died in the same year,</i>			
<i>reigned only 2 Mo<sup>s</sup> 16 days</i>			
<i>Richard 3<sup>rd</sup> began to reign</i>	<i>1483.</i>		
<i>Richard 3<sup>rd</sup> died. Killed at the Battle of Bosworth.</i>	<i>1485.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>33 yrs</i>
<i>Henry 7<sup>th</sup> Began to reign</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>Henry 7<sup>th</sup> died.</i>	<i>1509.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>57 yrs</i>
<i>Henry 8<sup>th</sup> began to reign</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>Vesey. Consecrated Bishop of Exeter,</i>	<i>1520.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>68 yrs</i>
<i>11<sup>th</sup> Henry 8<sup>th</sup></i>			
<i>" Founded Free School, and Endow'd it,</i>	<i>1528.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>76 yrs</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> Henry 8<sup>th</sup></i>			
<i>" Next Gift to Free School</i>	<i>1542.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>90 yrs</i>
<i>33<sup>rd</sup> Henry 8<sup>th</sup></i>			
<i>" Last Gift to Free School</i>	<i>1544.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>92 yrs</i>
<i>35<sup>th</sup> Henry 8<sup>th</sup></i>			
<i>Henry 8<sup>th</sup> died</i>	<i>1547.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>95 yrs</i>
<i>Edward 6<sup>th</sup> Began to reign, He reign'd 6 years 5</i>			
<i>Months 9 days.</i>			
<i>Vesey, Turned out of the See, of Exeter in the year</i>	<i>1551.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>99 yrs</i>
<i>Edward 6<sup>th</sup> died</i>	<i>1553.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>101 yrs</i>
<i>Mary, Began to reign, in the year</i>	<i>1553.</i>	<i>Vesey, reinstated in the</i>	
		<i>See of Exeter</i>	

*"Vesey," Soon after voluntarily gave up the See, of Exeter. And retired to his native place Sutton Coldfield. And died at Moor Hall, in that Parish, in the year 1555. at the Patriarchal Age of 103 years.*

*He lived 27 years, after his first Gift; for founding and endowing the Free School, in the year 1528. And he lived 11 years after his last Gift, to the Free School, in the year 1544. The Old Free School, was situated at the South-West, corner of the Church yard; on the right-hand side of Blind-lane. (called St Mary-Hall).*

*New Scite - The Close of Pasture land, called Bull-Croft; containing by estimation four acres Cost £100. a further sum of £400. was also granted by the Corporation, from the Charity property together making £500. from the Charity Fund. And the Schoolmaster himself (Mr Paul Lowe) expended a further sum of £300. to complete the erection of the school, school-house, and premises belonging thereto.*

*(Page 19 in the original document continues here. There is no Page 20 in the original document.)*

*N.B. This was a distinct property from the other Estates (which belonged to the school) until it were exchanged for other school property, in the year 1830; (by virtue of the Inclosure Act.)*

*See, Commissioners Report on Charities, 1833. = The prest School erected in the years, 1728-9/*

*In the twentieth year of Henry 8<sup>th</sup>. The bishop procured "letters patent" to have Sutton Incorporated. That they (meaning the Inhabitants generally) from henceforth be amongst themselves, One body incorporate perpetual in matter, right, and name; and one perpetual Community incorporated.*

*Of one Warden and Fellowship of the same Town, Manor, and Lordship, for ever.*

*To consist of 25 good, and honest men; chosen out of the inhabitants. (none others are legal members).*

*That William Gibbons, be the first Warden, until All Souls.*

*In the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> years of Henry 8<sup>th</sup>. The bishop further endowed the Free school, by giving more Land, etc. etc. to it. And for the same purposes as aforesaid, vested in trustees as before stated. He also endeavoured to confer the most solid benefit on his native place, by introducing and establishing the clothing Manufacture; and building many Stone-houses to be free, for such as worked at the Manufacturing of Woollen-Cloth, (and followed that pursuit) to the number of 51 houses. These principally remain a monument of his very liberal intentions. But they have long ceased to be occupied, by such manufacturers; as it was his very sincere wish, to encourage originally. And such part of them as remain fit for occupation, are converted into Farm-houses, and dwellings for the labouring class of*

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*Society principally. He devoted a great portion of his wealth, to the success of this place; and to the liberality of his benefactions, the town and parish at large is indebted; for its great privileges, and also its singular benefits (peculiar to itself) if properly appropriated (by the trustees) to the uses, he intended they should be applied. And not suffered to be encroached upon, for any selfish views, or by any arrogant usurpation.*

*“But the Government Commissioners further report on Charities, who visited Sutton, in the year 1833.”*

*“Shows that unfortunately, assumption, lacking knowledge has been too much the failing of the Corporation of that place, in bygone days; which has caused unhappy divisions, to take place in the parish, and too frequently expensive litigations, that ought to have been avoided.*

*The bishop also built a Moot Hall, with a prison under it, and a Market place, and paved the whole town. He also built at his own expence, the two side isles of the Church, and an Organ, in the latter part of the reign of Henry 8<sup>th</sup> and expended still further sums in repairing*

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*and embellishing the Church.*

*It is certain, that he endeavored to render the See of Exeter, no very desirable possession, to his more tolerant successors; by exposing a portion of the Estates, appertaining to that bishoprick. He was compelled to resign in the year 1551. and the 4<sup>th</sup> of the reign of Edward 6<sup>th</sup>. But was reinstated by Queen Mary, in the year, 1553.*

*He however soon afterwards, voluntarily abandoned the See; which he had rendered of so little value, and retired to his native place, residing at Moor Hall, in the parish of Sutton Coldfield; which house he built, and at it principally spent the latter part of his life, in great hospitality and splendour; having 140, men, dressed in Scarlet caps and gowns, to attend his, at his command.*

*For many years the good effects of his munificence and bounty, were felt by those around him. He reckoned to spend 1,500£ per annum; in those days, a large sum.*

*He died in the year 1555, at the patriarchal age of 103 years. And his remains lie interred in the chancel, of the church at Sutton, on the left hand, on entering at the north door.*

*Over his remains was placed, many years afterwards, a handsome Monument, with a recumbent figure representing a Bishop dressed in his robes, with a Mitre on his head, a Crosier by his side, and lying on his right arm.*

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*The expence of which was paid by John Wyrley, Knight, of Hamstead, in the parish of Handsworth, Staffordshire, To whom he was great uncle.*

*“The whole is enclosed, with Cast-Iron palisading.”*

*And on the side of the tomb, is this inscription.*

*“Beneath lie the remains of that pious learned Prelate John Harman als’ Vesey. Who was promoted by King Henry 8<sup>th</sup> in the eleventh year of his reign, to the See of Exeter; was employed by him on sundry Embassies, was Tutor to his (then) only daughter the Lady Mary, and president of Wales; So great was his affection for his native place, that he spared neither Cost, nor pain, to improve it, and make it flourish. He procured it to be Incorporate by the name of a Warden and Society of the Kings Town of Sutton Coldfield; granted to them and their successors for ever, the Chase, Park & Manor.*

*He built two Isles to the Church, and an Organ, erected the Moot-Hall, with a Prison under it, and a Market-place, 51 Stone-houses, 2 Stone-bridges; one at Curdworth and one at Water-Orton; paved the whole town, Gave a Meadow to poor Widows, And for the improvement of youth Founded a Grammar Free-School. Rebuilt A.D. 1728. He built Moor-Hall, where he spent the latter part of his life in Hospitallity, and Splendour; for many years the good effects of his Munificence. And died in the*

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*103<sup>rd</sup> year of his Age, and in the year of our Lord 1555."*

*"This Monument was erected by John Wryrley of Hamstead in Handsworth, Staffordshire, Knight. To the memory of the good Bishop his great Uncle."*

*Over the tomb, against the north wall, is a handsome Coat of Arms. And the following Tablets, in Latin. Translated into English (thus).*

*"Pray for the Souls of William Harman, otherwise Vesey, and Johanna, his Wife; having four children, (viz) John Exon, Bishop, Hugo, married Joeasa, the daughter of William Rugeley, of Dunton, Amilia, his eldest daughter, the Wife of John Leveston. And Agneta, his youngest daughter, the Wife of William Gibbons. He the said William Harman, died on the last day of May, in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Edward 4<sup>th</sup> And the said Johanna, died on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of Henry 8<sup>th</sup> and A.D. 1523.*

*Pray for the Soul of Hugo Harman, otherwise Vesey, brother and heir of John Exon, Bishop, Hugo, died on the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month of November, in the year 1523. and in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Henry 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*His first Wife was Anna, the daughter of Humphry Golson, by whom he had two daughters, Joeasa, the elder and Elizabeth, the younger: His second Wife was Joeasa, the daughter of William Rugeley; by whom*

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*he had two sons (viz) John, and William, and four daughters, Johanna, Filomena, Margaretha, and Dorothea.”*

*The ancient Manor-house, when entire and held by William the Conqueror; as a hunting Seat, for himself; must have been a place, of considerable importance and magnitude, in its early days. And even whilst it was in the possession of the great Earls of Warwick, afterwards; or the material of which it were built, would not have been worth purchasing by the agents of Henry Marquis of Dorset; to have pulled down and removed for building a large house with in Leicestershire (called Bradgate-Hall) In which house afterwards was born, the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey in the year 1537; (whose fate makes us say, the very Stones, carried misfortune with them) whom Queen Mary, had privately beheaded in the Tower of London. Mary, was crowned Queen of England, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 1553. Soon afterwards, Lady Jane Gray, with her husband, Father, and Father-in-Law; were all condemned, and executed. So that it may be said the foundation of Mary's throne was laid in blood. Lady Gray's father-in-Law, was Dudley*

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*Duke of Northumberland, whose ambition was unbounded, to which Lady Gray, fell a sacrifice; and the unrelenting cruelty of the bigoted, and bloody Queen–Mary. The duke of Northumberland, who ruled all things, at the helm of affairs, contrived to marry his Son, to the Lady Gray, in order to pave her way to the throne; and she was actually proclaimed queen, by the privy council; though much against her own inclinations; She having no such ambitious views, being more desirous of living in a private station.*

*Mr Hume's, History of England (says) In the year 1528.*

*The Chancellor, and Ministers, were empowered to fix the price of Poultry, Cheese, and Butter. A Statute was even passed to fix the price of Beef, Pork, Mutton, and Veal. Beef and Pork, were ordered at a halfpenny a pound; Mutton, and Veal, at a halfpenny half–farthing, currency money of that age. In 1544 it appears, that an Acre of good Land in Cambridgeshire, was let at a shilling, or fifteen–pence, per acre, of our present money.*

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*Patrons.**Rector's of Sutton Coldfield.**Robt Shilton, Gent*

*John Burges, A.M. M.D. 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1617*  
*Ant. Burges, Clk. 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1635*  
*Jac. Fleetwood. S.T.P. 1642*

*John Shelton, de*  
*Westbromwich, ?*

*Gul. Watson, Clerk, 1<sup>st</sup> Novem<sup>re</sup>. 1662)*  
*v.p.amortionem A Burgess )*  
*propter Non conformitatem )*

*John Ryland, Gent*

*John Ryland, Clk A.M. 19<sup>th</sup> May 1689. Born at*  
*Quinton in the C<sup>o</sup> of Gloucester in 1619*  
*Obit 1672, buried at St Martin's Bir<sup>m</sup>*

*Ric. Ryland, Clk A.M. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1720*

*Ric. Bisse Riland, Clk, M.A. 1758, Obit 18<sup>th</sup>*  
*February 1790*

*Wm Bedford Esq*

*John Riland, M.A. 1790. Obit 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1822*  
*Wm Riland Bedford. M.A. 1822. Obit 6<sup>th</sup> July*  
*1843.*

*Ric. Williamson D.D. 1843. Held it in*  
*Commendation for W.K.R. Bedford*  
*21<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>re</sup> 1850. Given up.*

*W.K.R. Bedford, M.A. 21<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>re</sup> 1850 inducted*  
*Sunday 22 Sep<sup>t</sup> Read himself in at Morning*  
*service*

*Dugdale's Warwickshire. Vol.2. p.915.**Sutton Coldfield**R (Holy Trinity) Proxies and Synods.**12/- Val. inter Gleb..in decim**- Gran etc etc**John Shelton Esq**King's Books.*

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d</i>
<i>King's Books.</i>	<i>33.</i>	<i>9.</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Yearly Tenths</i>	<i>3.</i>	<i>6.</i>	<i>11</i>

*Bacon's Liber Regis. P.212*

*The Church (Living) Sutton Coldfield is a Rectory with a good Parsonage-house, and requisite offices attached thereto; good Gardens, Stables, Coach-houses, Piggeries, and other useful buildings. It is situated easterly from the church, rather more than half a mile. The house (in bygone days) had been long accustomed to excellent hospitality, (namely) all the time of the Rev Richard Riland's holding it about 38 years. He was father of late Rev. Richard Bisse Riland who held it 32 years. there never needed to be a more kinder hearted generous man, than he were; nor a better Rector to his parishioners, generally, but more especially to the poor: a prince of a man altogether. He died universally beloved, and most sincerely lamented on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1790. Aged 56 years. His brother Jn<sup>o</sup> afterwards held it 32 years. So, The 2 brothers held it 64 years. The Church dedicated to the Holy Trinity; It is expected it were erected in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. And is an old handsome structure, in the Gothick style of Architecture. The Glebe Contains about 50 to 60 Acres, of Fertile land; consisting of some Arable, Pasture, and adjoining thereto; part of which is let to different tenants.*

*The Freehold, or Fee-simple of the (Church Living) has been in the Family of the Riland's; ever since the*

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*First year of William, 3<sup>rd</sup> 1689.*

*The late Richard Bisse Riland, had Issue, one Son, and two daughters: the son lived to attain his majority, being twenty-two years of Age, or more, when he died. The father and son, jointly together; passed a Deed of recovery, and cut off the entail to the Church Living; His son dying before he was in Holy Orders. The Rev. R.B. Riland made a Will, leaving the Church Living of Sutton Coldfield, equally between his two daughters, subject to his younger brother John Riland holding it; for the term of his natural life. Richard, departed this life on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 1790. Aged 56. And in the same year 1790, John, his brother was inducted in it Who died on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1822. in the 86<sup>th</sup> year of his Age.*

*William Bedford, Esq<sup>re</sup> of Batheaston, in the County of Somerset, Attorney. In the year 1784. married Lydia, eldest daughter of R.B. Riland. And Phebe the younger daughter of R.B. Riland by Mary, his Wife. Married the Rev. Edm<sup>d</sup> Williamson, Rector, of Campton cum Sheffard, in the county of Bedford. During the life-time of the late Jn<sup>o</sup> Riland William Bedford, Esq<sup>re</sup> made a Purchase of the other part ?? or share, of the Church-living from the rev. E. Williamson. And after the decease of John Riland in the year 1822. Wm Bedford, Esq<sup>re</sup> Presented it to his son, the late*

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*William Riland Bedford, M.A. in the same year 1822. Who held it about 21 years. He died suddenly, of Apoplexy; at the Royal-Hotel, in Birmingham; on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 1843. He never became sensible after he was first attacked, (and fell in the street, that morning;) until he died, about 8 o'Clock at night.*

*The Church, composing a Nave, Chancel, and three aisles; with a square tower, its height about 60 feet; in which is a Clock, (formerly with Chimes) now gone, except the Chime-barrel yet remains; A peal of musical Bell's, 6 in number: Cast by Chapman, Mears & Co. Bell Founders, in the White Chapel, London, in the year 1795. In the bottom part of the tower is a Vestry, belonging to the Church, altered within the few last years. It were previously in the Chancel on the south corner, inside of the church - In the year 1762. the church was new pewed with good English Oak; And a Pulpit of exquisite workmanship, of the same materials (principally) curiously, and beautifully carved. Its top were supported upon two fluted Corinthian Columns, the sound board (or top) is very handsomely inlaid, with a beautiful Star.*

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*(In original document, there was a second Page 31 inserted here - see end of this transcription)*

*And at top of all outside, were a gilded Dove “volant”. With an Olive-branch in its mouth; And when closely inspected, it was found to be one of the handsomest pulpit’s; within many miles of this place, whilst entire. But in, or about the year 1828 or 9. during the time of the Rev. Wm Riland Bedford’s holding the benefice; the pulpit-top were taken off, and now lying 1852. over the entrance, at the north door of the church. (How wrong to pull such good work to pieces, in so sacred a place.) The two Columns, which supported the top, are placed, one on each side, the pulpit door. “The pulpit-top, with the 2 colums; ought to be replaced again, in their former position”.*

*In the Church are 3 galleries (viz) One on the north, One on the south side; and one at the west end, which contains an Organ; cased with Oak, to correspond with the pewing, with gilded pipes in front, set up quite new, a few years ago: (when the old one was taken away (worn out). It was paid for, by voluntary subscriptions.*

*There was also a Christening-font, of white-Marble, now taken away except the marble basin, which stood in the middle isle, under the west gallery. Besides which, there are several very handsome Monuments, and Tablets; belonging to different Families, Who formerly resided within the parish; upon their paternal*

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*Estates, and have lived in considerable splendour. But now mouldering into dust, alike their predecessors, and fore-fathers;*

*I have not taken the whole of the Monuments and Tablets, but selected a few, particular one's relating to those who patronized this place.*

*At the west end of the church, as you ascend the steps, to go into the west gallery; on the left hand, is placed a handsome Monument; to perpetuate the memory of George Sacheverell, Esquire; who lived at New-Hall, in the Parish. In the splendour of an Old English Gentleman.*

*Here lieth.*

*George Sacheverell, Knight,  
Of New Hall, in the County of Warwick;  
Eldest son of Val. Sacheverell, Knight.  
Of Morley in the County of Derby, by Anna his Wife;  
Daughter of George Devereaux, Knight,  
Who,  
Was endowed with a great genius,  
Was a Fellow of Oriel College, in Oxford,  
And afterwards of Gray's Inn,  
He became an Ornament and an Honour  
To his Family, and himself,*

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*For his Affability and Politeness  
 His great urbanity  
 And close application to Study,  
 At the time that Civil-War raged in this Country  
 He delighted not in ignoble Ease,  
 But his genius prompted him to follow Poetry rather than War  
 In the Study of which he was so very assiduous,  
 That he signalized his Family and himself,  
 By his universal knowledge of the Arts an Sciences.  
 He was the happy Husband of two Wives,  
 The one Lucy Danet,  
 The other Mary Wilson, whom he left his Widow,  
 But no Issue by either of them.  
 He was a most equitable and mild Justice,  
 In the neighbourhood of Sutton;  
 Where for a long succession of years,  
 He afforded a shining Example.  
 Of Piety towards God,  
 Attachment to the Church,  
 Affability to his Friends,  
 And Generosity towards the Poor.  
 He died the 18<sup>th</sup> of May in the year, 1715.  
 And in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Year of his Age.*

*The inscription is in Latin, on the Monument.*

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*On a Marble Monument, on the right, of the north aisle, of the Nave. Sacred to the Memory of John Hacket Esq<sup>r</sup> of Moor Hall, in this Parish, who departed this life, March 16<sup>th</sup> 1810. Aged 72.*

*Also*

*The Reverend Richard Hacket, Rector, of Beckingham, Lincolnshire, who departed this life, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 1810. Aged 72. Both Sons of Andrew Hacket, Esq<sup>r</sup>, of Moxhul Hall, in this County.*

*"Fides sufficit."*

*This tablet is against the north wall underneath the gallery.*

*In Memory of William Jesson, Pearson, Esq<sup>r</sup>, of Chetwynd in the county of Bucks, and of Sutton Coldfield in the County of Warwick. The last male decendant from Pudsey, and Jesson. This Stone is inscribed by a Friend and Relation;*

*Having served his Country, and his King; with the British Forces under Lord Wellington, in Spain and Portugal; with the rank of Lieutenant in the 14<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons; and having witnessed the victory of Talavera-de-la-Regna, he fell a victim to fatigue and Sickness at the Age of 26 years, and died at Santarem near Lisbon, in the month of April Anno Domini 1810. Most deservedly beloved, and most sincerely lamented.*

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*William Jesson, Esqr died the 21<sup>st</sup> day of Oct 1786 Aged 56.*

*William Ash Jesson Esqr son of William Jesson Esqr died July the 29<sup>th</sup> 1776. Aged 22 years.*

*Hannah Freeman Jesson, daughter of William Jesson, Esqr died Feby 29<sup>th</sup> 1825. Aged 72 years.*

*This tablet was erected to their memory in 1825 by Elizabeth Pudsey Lynch, resident in France, the only surviving daughter of William Jesson, Esqr.*

*Near this place lyeth the body of Henry Jesson, Esqr 3<sup>rd</sup> Son of William Jesson, Esqr, son and heir of William Jesson, Esqr , and Ann, his Wife, one of the daughters of, and heirs of Henry Pudsey, of Langley Esqr.*

*Against the north wall, within the chancel is erected an elegant monument for Henry Pudsey, Esqr. Within a recess are 2 busts, representing them to be enclosed by two curtains, as if drawn back; and hanging upon two hooks, at the two top corners, of the recess. The drapery upon the 2 busts, and of the Curtains, also, is very naturally and beautifully displayed; altogether, an exquisite and elegant piece of Sculptor; that would not have disgraced a Roubiliac.*

*With the following Inscription*

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*Near this place is interred the body of Henry Pudsey Esq<sup>re</sup> Son and Heir of George Pudsey, of Langley in the County of Warwick Esq<sup>re</sup> – And Ann daughter of Paul Risley, of Chetwood, in the County of Bucks, Esq<sup>re</sup> who married Jane, second daughter of Francis Thornhaugh of Fenton, in the County of Nottingham, Esq<sup>re</sup> – And Elizabeth the daughter and heir, of John St.Andrew, of Goteham, in the County of Nottingham Esq<sup>re</sup> – He had Issue by her, one Son, and four daughters, Elizabeth, Jane, Henry, Ann, and Frances. – Jane, and Henry, lie here interred. Elizabeth, Ann, and Frances are surviving.*

*He died March 29<sup>th</sup> 1677 in the 45<sup>th</sup> year of his Age. “In pious Memory of her dearly loved Husband. Jane Pudsey, his relict; erected this Monument.”*

*Next Monument is Bishop Vesey’s before described.*

***Also,***

*There is another Monument belonging to the Jessons family.*

*And Against a Pillar, left of the Communion Table.*

*Neare this place lie the remains of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Richard Bisse–Riland, M.A.32 years Rector of this Parish, A Prebendary in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, and one of this Majesty’s Justices of the Peace for the County of Warwick, which important office he filled with general Esteem and died universally regretted on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 1790. Aged 56. Leaving*

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*those with whom he was united by the tenderest ties to lament the loss of the most endearing Qualities which could adorn the Husband, the Father, and the Friend. To the Memory of one, thus deservedly lamented, his affected Family have erected this Monument of Sorrow, and Affection.*

*“He was buried outside of the Church, by his own desire, under the East Window.”*

*On the right-hand of the Communion Table. Sacred to the Memory of the Rev<sup>d</sup> John Riland M.A. 32 years Rector of this Parish, who died March 18<sup>th</sup> 1822 in the 86<sup>th</sup> year of his Age. And in the 63<sup>rd</sup> of his Ministry. His remains are deposited in a Vault, below this Tablet.*

*“And I brethren when I came to you not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the Testimony of God, for I determined not to know any thing among you, Save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”*

*“Them that sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him.”*

*1<sup>st</sup> Thes<sup>ns</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>C.24<sup>th</sup>verse.*

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*On a Blue Slate near Communion rails.*

*H.S.E.  
Johannes Barnes  
Qui obit.  
Tertis die July  
Anno (Dom. 1730  
(Aetat 18  
Qualis Fuit  
\*Vicinum testari Marmon*

*Here he is secure  
John Barnes  
He died on the  
3<sup>d</sup> day of July  
1730  
In the 18<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age  
\*Who he was the adjacent Marble  
witnesses*

*And in Memory of Barbara, Mother of John Barnes  
Who died June 15<sup>th</sup> 1742. Aged 52.  
On a Marble Monument against the South wall.*

*Here is Secure*

*John Barnes, though a young man, was graced with admired learning, good Temper and obedience. Pain fell on him. While he lived the only offspring of his Parents, their only Hope. Alas! How great was their Anxiety. He was once the object of a Tutor's care, and now of his regret. (Seldom to Tutors does such a child occur) When going in his eighteenth Year, God saw him guiltless and mature for Heaven; and having pity on his tender frame, and having freed him from so dire a Fever, summoned his innocent Soul to Spirits like his own. Farewell, A long farewell, beloved young man, I can not say they death was hastened, since born almost with ages wisdom, thou hast performed thy little part with praise.*

*He died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Anno Domini, 1730.*

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*Mr John Barnes, erected this Marble, to perpetuate the Memory of his Son and only Issue, by Barbara his Wife, youngest daughter of Francis Eld, of Seighford, in the County of Stafford Esq<sup>re</sup>.*

*Charitable Gifts. To the Poor of this Parish by whom given, and when to be distributed. Inscribed on Tablets in the Nave of the Parish Church of Sutton Coldfield.*

*Mrs Jacob, in the reign of King James 1<sup>st</sup> Gave by Will to the poor of this Parish, the Sum of Sixty Pounds. And ordered the interest of it, to be every year distributed, to the most indigent inhabitants thereof, by the Warden and other members of the Corporation; to be distributed, in the Moot Hall.*

*Mr Raphael Sedgwick, of Wild Green, by is last Will, bearing date the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1665. Gave Five Pounds, to be paid by his Executors within one month after his decease, to the Church wardens, and overseers of the Poor of this Parish, and the Interest thereof to be given and distributed in Bread amongst the most needful poor there yearly upon Saint Thomas's day for ever.*

*Nicholas Birch, of Little Sutton in the year 1667, Gave by Will, the Sum of ten shillings, per annum, to be distributed amongst the Poor of Hill and Little Sutton; by the Churchwardens, 5/- on Saint Thomas's day, and 5/- on Good Friday.*

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*Mr Thomas Cooper, in the year 1687. Gave by Will, Two parcels of Land, in Little Sutton quarter, called Pit-Close, and Long Leasow, and appointed the Rent thereof, to be yearly distributed amongst the Poor, by the Rector, and Churchwardens. These fields have since been exchanged for Lands called Sherralds 9A.1R.17P - also in Little Sutton quarter. Also there is an allotment near Hill-Wood 3A.1R.10P.*

*Mr Thomas Jesson, in the Year 1703. Gave by Will, One-hundred Pounds. And ordered the Interest of it, to be disposed of for the use of the Poor.*

*The late Mrs Jesson, of Langley, by Will left the Interest of £10 Annually to the Poor.*

*John Wilkins, Esq<sup>re</sup> By Deed bearing date about Michaelmas, 1707. Gave to the poor Inhabitants of this Parish for ever, A Piece of Ground lying in Hill called Sharrat-Field and appointed Trustees to receive the Yearly rent and profit of it, And to employ them about the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, in buying and distributing Bibles, Common Prayer Books, Explanations of the Church Catechism, by B.T. Beveridge, books of Devotion and other useful books of Catechetical, Casuistical, and Practical Divinity, to such poor children, and other indigent inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield, as shall have been publickly Catechised in the Parish Church.*

*Mr Thomas Wheeler, Gave by Will a parcel of Land called The Pail-Close, in Maney quarter, the yearly rent whereof being*

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*Fifteen Shillings per annum, And is to be distributed amongst the Poor of this Parish, by the Rector, and Church-wardens on Good-Friday for ever.*

*The late John Addyes, Esq<sup>re</sup>, of Moor-Hall out of his Estate there left by Will, Three Pounds, annually for placing out poor Children Apprentice to some trade, And also Two Pounds, to be distributed annually to the Poor, on St Thomas's day at the discretion of the Owner of the same Estate by the Rector and Church-wardens.*

*The late Mr Nicholas Dolphin, by Will, left Twenty Pound, and the Interest of which to be annually distributed to the Poor of his neighbourhood by the Rector.*

*Valens Sacheverell, Esq<sup>re</sup> by his last Will and Testament Gave and devised to the Poor of this Parish, The sum of Twenty Shillings yearly to be paid out of his Messuage or Tenement in Great Sutton, now in Possession of Mary Reeve; Widow, to be distributed on the Feast of Saint Thomas, the Apostle for ever.*

*George Sacheverell, Esq<sup>re</sup>, in the year 1715, by his last Will and Testament, Gave to the said Poor, the Sum of Five Pounds, per annum, to be paid out of his Messuage or Tenement and Land, in this Parish, now in the Possession of William Butler, to be yearly distributed in Bread, on the second day of February, being his birthday, and the twenty-third day of April being St Georges day,*

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*By equal portions, Each poor Widow, first to have Sixpennyworth of Bread, to be distributed by the owner or owners of New Shipton Farm. And they not to be accountable to any person whatsoever for the payment or distribution aforesaid, except the Rector of Sutton Coldfield for the time being.*

*Mr Thomas Field)*

*Mr Thomas Peate) Church Wardens, 1716*

*Mrs Mary Jenkes, late of the Parish of Sutton Colfield, in and by her last Will and Testament, dated the second day of December 1750. Gave to the parish of Sutton Coldfield, Fifty Pounds, To be paid to the Minister and Church-wardens thereof, to be placed by them out at Interest on the best security of the same, and the Interest or increase thereof to be distributed amongst the most necessitous poor there, in such manner as they shall think proper.*

*Mrs Sarah Dreney, by her last Will, dated the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1839. Left a rent charge of One Pound, per annum, upon the House, She then inhabited in the Town of Sutton Coldfield, Payable to the Rector and Church-wardens, of the Parish, for the time being, to be distributed by them to poor Widows living in the Parish of Sutton Coldfield, yearly on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January for ever. N B. Also the Parish Plan – Part 795*

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*Jesson's Trust. This Property is situated up at Hill. Lying and being on the right-and side of a lane (that is called the long lane), between Four-Oaks, and Hill-hook, in the Parish of Sutton Coldfield. Consisting of a Barn, and Five Closes of Lane, containing 14A.0R.19P and known by the names of the Two Long-lane Pieces, and the Three Oslets. Annual Rent 22A.10R.0P John Hewett, tenant for the same, and present occupier thereof. Vested in the hands of Ten Trustees. - For placing out Boys Apprentice, to learn Trades. And Two Pounds, per annum, out of this property, to be give in Bread, on Saint Thomas's day annually. Meetings are held annually at the Church, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November by the trustees, between the hours of 11 and 1 o'Clock, at the tolling of the Bell to audit their Accounts and for purposes directed by the Gift. See, Commissioners further report concerning Charities, for full particular in the Year 1833. p1093-4 Solicitor to the The trustees, Mr Vincent Holbeche, Sutton Coldfield*

*The Church Yard. - It is remarkable of this Church-yard, that the bodies deposited in it, are consumed in a few years afterwards. It is a redish sandy-soil, with shining particles mixed in it, Some persons are of opinion, that the sudden dissolution, is occasioned by some internal heat in the soil, which operating on the grosser particles, reduces them to dust, much sooner than they would be in other places, whether the situation were high, or low.*

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Various Occurrences, which have taken place.

*“Here lyeth the body of Thomas Dawney, Gent. who dyed on the ninth day of September in the Year of our Lord God. One thousand six hundred and Seaventy one. Aged Seaventy three.*

*He was brought to be buried, from a part of the old Manor-house. His grave was made nine feet in depth, deposited are his remains in the sold rock. On the day of his interment, A Dole was distributed to the Poor, at the Town-Hall in Sutton; When so many persons were assembled together to receive it, that the upper floor gave way with the people thereon, which fell down upon the bottom floor. And miraculous to say, there was none of them killed, or very seriously hurt by the accident.*

*The bottom part of the Town Hall, at that time, was open, as a Market-place (and I remember being so myself, when I was a boy, by playing in it,) Shall have occasion to speak more fully on this subject hereafter, in the course of this history - In the year 1755*

*On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 1688, an inundation happened in Sutton Park, by the bursting of a Cloud, which broke down several Pool-dams, whereby so much injury was sustained, as almost ruined the place; but the loss was made up by voluntary subscriptions, of the neighbouring Gentlemen. See Sutton Register.*

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*Not far from where the Roman College, now stands. At a place upon Sutton Coldfield, where four roads met at one point, crossing the Chester-road, some years ago, (long before the commons was inclosed,) Was buried a person of the name of Jordan, who died by the violence of their own hands; what is called Fe-lo-dese [Felo de se] . It being a sort of direction point for several Towns, and villages, over that dreary and desolate heath, in bygone days, when an heap of Pebbles, only, distinguished the spot.*

*Was buried at Sutton, on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 1727. Thomas Eastham, a Stranger, that was found Murdered, at the upper end of a bye-lane, called Holly-lane, in this parish, He was decoyed to the fatal spot from Canwell-Gate, a Publick Inn, on the left-hand side of the Lichfield and Coleshill, turnpike-road, By a person of the name of Edward Powers (that was then drinking in the house) who professed he would show him, a nearer way to the town of Coleshill, over the commons, which were then open Fields. And when he got him into this bye-land (before mentioned) he murdered him. Suspicion fell on "Powers", as having committed the horrid deed, he being a man of bad character, and dissolute habits.*

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*He was apprehended and taken before the Magistrates, examined and sent to Warwick to be tried at the next Spring Assizes, following, when he was found guilty of the murder. And was sentenced to be handed by the neck, until he was dead, then Gibbeted afterwards upon Little Sutton, common. Which sentence was carried into execution on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 1728,. Not far from Collett's-book. The common-field for many years after, were called Powers's Field. It's now called Fox-hill. 1852 ( part from Register)*

*Also*

*Was buried on the d28th day of March 1729. John Johnson, a Silk-dyer, from London, Who was found Murdered, upon Sutton Coldfield, Common, in this Parish. (The Common-land were then lying open, and for many years afterwards, remained so.) Suspicion fell on a man of the name of Edward Allport, as having committed the barbarous deed. Who was a person of loose habits, and bore a very indifferent character; Whose house of rendezvous, and place of resort (principally) was at a small pot-house called or known by the "Boot and Shoe" on the left-hand side of the Chester road, near to the village of Erdington, by no means anything like a house of respectability, but noted for women of bad character being kept at it.*

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*He was apprehended and taken before the Magistrates who examined him, and committed him to Warwick, afterwards, to be tried there, at the next Summer Assizes, When he was found guilty of the Murder, and sentenced to be hanged by the neck until he were dead; and afterwards Gibbeted, at or near the place, where he committed the murder, Which sentence was carried into effect, on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1729. That part of the Coldfield, were called Gibbet-hill afterwards. N.B. I knew an Old Widow Woman, of the name of "Sarah Brown", who lived at a house on Redicup-heath (when I was a boy) She, well remembered seeing both men "Powers" and "Allport" hanged up. She was a by-stander, at both the times.*

*Town Hall, Sutton. The bottom part of which were open, as I observed before, for a Market-place; and the ground-floor were laid with flag-Stones - Like such as are gotten at Wilmcote, (not far from Stratford on Avon) in the county of Warwick.*

*The Old Prison in the year 1780, was on the left-hand or Coleshill-street side, at the South-end of the hall, the floor of which were level, or nearly so, with the Market-hall floor; the road into it was through a doorway, from off the floor of the Market-place, at the corner next to the Coleshill Street. The Stocks were also set along-side, of the Prison-wall outside.*

*A Carpenter named John Bird, worked in the Old Prison at that time.*

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*The Old Stairs to the upper rooms of the Hall, was through a large double door-way on the right-hand, from off the bottom floor of the Market-place, and on the Mill Steet side; the Fire Engine, and the leather buckets belonging to it, were kept then, on the left-hand side of the stairs, as you ascended up them: the floor on wich it was kept, were laid with flag-stones, on a level with the Market-place floor. "A much more properer place for it, then where it is now kept".*

*The new Prisons was made down at the Workhouse; in Mill Street, some few years previously, by erecting arched cells underground, in two compartments, at the bottom the Church hill, and they were very miserable damp places. But they are now removed lower down the Mill-Street.*

*The rev. Francis Blick, Curate. He held the Office of Warden, for three years 1781-1782 and 1783. All the fresh alterations that were made to the Moot-Hall, was during the time of his holding that office (viz) The new piece of building on the east side of the hall, for the stairs - The Shed, with Stone pillars, and Cast-iron palisadings - The projecting front window, from when you look up the High-Street, from off the bottom room floor - The stopping up of the Arch-ways, whereby you went into, or through the Market-place afore-time. And also the bottom room, made for an Assembly-room. etc. etc.*

*The whole of the aforementioned alterations to the town Hall, were done by the following tradesmen. Tho<sup>s</sup> Adams, Carpenter*

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*and Joiner. With whom my second brother Edward, was then an Apprentice, and helped to do the work. Robert Studhome, the Stone-Masonry. Thomas Farnel, the Bricklaying and John Plant, the Glazing and Painting.*

*Rev. F. Blick, Warden & Curate*

*On the left-hand side of the (now turnpike road, that leads from Sutton, to Birmingham, At the bottom of Mill-Street, there formerly stood a Corn-Mill, for grinding Grist which has been taken down many years ago. No doubt the street called Mill-street, derived its name from that circumstance. On the right-hand side of the road, were a Stonewall standing within these few years back, which was a part of the old Mill-dam (And when I was a schoolboy, I have had many a run along the top of it.) The new Bridge, at a place called Peat's, over the old-brook, between Sutton and Maney, a few years since, were built out of a part of the Stone. Where the present turnpike road goes along is called the Dam, at the present day. The Meadow-land, whereon the pool of Water formerly were pounded, for the use of the Corn Mill is now become the Freehold property of Captain Somerville, it being part of a Farm, called the "Manor Farm" It formerly belonged to the Holts, of Aston-Hall, near Birmingham and Duddeston.*

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*every month with the greatest punctuality.*

*Sir Edmund Craddock Hartopp, Bart his son, was the next in possession of it, who died without issue.*

*Sir William Craddock Hartopp, Bart is now in possession of Four Oaks, who is married, and has several children.*

*The Warden and Society, of Sutton Coldfield, form a Corporate Body of 25 men, Incorporated. And the whole Body are also a Committee. – Which was at first chosen out of the then respectable residents and inhabitants, living within the Parish of Sutton Coldfield aforesaid; being discreet, good, and honest men.*

*As Trustees, of a large Landed property, Given to Charitable uses; according to the Charter of King Henry 8<sup>th</sup> granted to Sutton Coldfield, in the twentieth year of his reign. In trust. And not as a Corporation property in their own right? For the power, or right, which they possess more than the humblest inhabitant (has) who resides in the parish of Sutton Coldfield; is the right pertaining to them, as Lords of the Manor.*

*By the Charters of Sutton Coldfield, and by taking a*

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*Corporate Oath, administered to each member, on the Holy Gospel of God; they receive their authority to act, as such trustees. Why was any part of the aforesaid method of choosing new members, when wanted to fill up vacancies in the Corporation ?????[unreadable].*

*There should be no secrets amongst the members of the Corporation. One member of that body, ought to possess the same chance to know of all the subjects that come before them, as another member does: All business matters should be done openly and fairly. No hole and corner business. All must be open committees. Why and wherefore have they so frequently made choice of the greatest Stranger, or a fresh comer unto the Town; or parish; for a new member, or members: if more than one was wanted, to fill up the Corporate Body; Can common sense, presume to tell the residents and inhabitants, of this parish, this is a judicious way of fulfilling a trust, of such great importance to the well being of this community. [Each member of the corporation should be present when a Statement of the Wardens annual accounts are examined; in order, that each may see the full amount of revenues; are rightly applied, according to the directions of the Sutton Coldfield Charters. The plain interpreters of their Oath & duty.*

***N.B. Private Sub-Committees are illegal.***

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*Some local observations.*

*It must have been great negligence (in by-gone days) on the part of former Members of the Corporate-Body, as Trustees for Charity; and as Guardians for the Poor, etc, or the Deputy Steward's carelessness at that time; to suffer such encroachments should take place, as that of granting pools, to be made upon the Waste Lands; and then afterwards Letting them to one of their own Body upon long terms, and illegal Leases, at inadequate rents, the same either in Sutton-Park, or elsewhere, upon the Waste, within the Manor and Lordship of Sutton Coldfield, and the parish of Sutton Coldfield, aforesaid.*

*And in several instances to let the holders make them a Free-hold property. This part of the business was worse than the former For it is very obvious and plain they were formerly made on the waste.*

*See "Commissioners further report concerning Charities."  
When visiting Sutton Coldfield, in the year 1833.*

Page. 1076

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*Memorandums. 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1854. The Warden wishing to foist some (Bye Laws) on the Sportsmen, of the Parish of Sutton Coldfield, about sporting in Sutton Park, and had some hand Bills Printed and posted up, at several places, within the said Parish of Sutton Coldfield. Geo Bodington, Warden.*

*Old Town Hall, pulled down to the ground, in the months of August and September, in the Year 1854.*

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*“Mr. Thomas Bonell, Solicitor, of Sutton Coldfield; In his history, published in the year, 1762. Says, The benefit arising to the poor, from the free enjoyment of so large a tract of inclosed ground; abounding with Wood, and Water, if properly exercised, according to the intention of the donor, would have been very great and valuable. But it has happened, that vast quantities of Wood and Timber, have been sold and disposed of; And many of the vallies, which are by far the most valuable part of the waste land, have been granted away by the body Corporate; to several of their own Aldermen, or Members; and others, for the making of Pools, and other purposes; How far these grants made by the Trustees for the poor; with rents reserved to and enjoyed by themselves, are legal and valid; may if litigated ??? of a dispute.”*

*“There hath also been inclosed 48 Acres of Land out of the said Park, by the united consent of the Inhabitants, and ratified by Parliament; at a certain annual rent for ever, in order to accommodate Simon Luttrell, Esq<sup>re</sup>, who is now building or rather finishing a noble house; commanding a very extensive prospect, and iin the highest taste, on the ruins of one formerly begun by Lord Folliot, for a hunting seat.”*

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Land taken from the Parish into Corpor<sup>n</sup> Revenues

*Berry's Farm, at Warmly; in the occupation of Mr Samuel Breedon (at the time it was taken) the rent of which land were formerly paid towards the parish rates until the year 1771. when the Rev. Benjamin Spencer, the curate, of this parish, was chosen Warden, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1770 for the year 1771. William Twamley of New Shipton, held the office of the Highways for that year, and he would not suffer Dr Spencer, to make such an encroachment upon the "parish's rights" until his office expired, and his Accounts were passed. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 1771, his Acc<sup>ts</sup> was passed by us. (B. Spencer Warden, Jo<sup>s</sup> Duncumb Captl Burgess (William Homer, Deputy Steward)*

4A.3R.31P

*Sutton Coldfield is an extensive parish containing 13,030 Acres of Land, rateable value £18,824.12s.9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d*

	Anno Dom.	Population
Census's taken, Population in the year	1801	2,847
	1821	3,466
	1831	3,684

Anno

Domini

Houses

1841

Inhabited 834  
uninhabited 49,  
building 4

1841

4,291

March 31<sup>st</sup>

A.D. 1851

Inhabited 926  
uninhabited 25,  
building 5

1851

4,562

Page 1060 Further report of Commissioners concerning Charities.

*By an award in the year 1581 under the hands and seals of Fulke Greville, Knight, and four others, after reciting that William Taylor, and other inhabitants of Sutton, had exhibited their Bill of complaint in her majesty's court of Star Chamber, against Thomas Gibbons, Esq<sup>re</sup> and others stating that the various wardens under a colour of their office, had made various grants in fee-farm, to their own uses, to the amount of 600 or 700 acres parcels of the possession of the said corporation, and reserving the rent of two-pence an acre only, to the behoof of the corporation, and had also demised parcels of the possessions of the said town to themselves etc contrary to the same Charters.*

*Page 1062. It was charged that the defendants had employed the profits to their own uses, and had sold the King's manor-house there, the Stone, timber, glass, lead, and other things belonging to the same (To Henry, Marquis of Dorset, or his agents) and the lands, mylnes, pools and parks, and had wasted and conveyed away his Majesty's woods to the value of £1,000, and by secret estates, and otherwise conveyed away divers farms, tenements, grounds and pastures within Sutton Coldfield, and other towns adjoining, formerly given to charitable uses, reserving a rent of £10 per-annum, to the overthrow of the free-school within the said town of Sutton Coldfield, and had converted common pasture grounds into tillage, to the number of 100 acres, reserving*

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*a yearly rent for the same, whereby the poor inhabitants of the said town of Sutton Coldfield lost the benefit of the common thereof, and that they had made free many of the customary tenants of the said manor, and sold away to the number of 1000 acres thereof and kept in their hand lands escheated to the manor affirming themselves to be lord thereof and had received to the value of £10,000 for the said bargains and profits of the lands aforesaid, without making any account or employment thereof, according to the true meaning of the Charter, and that the defendants still continued selling away lands, or converting the profits thereof to their own use: notwithstanding an award made by Sir Fulke Greville, knight, and several others therein named by order of the Star Chamber, and also notwithstanding an order made in Chancery, within two years then last past.*

*It is further stated, that the defendants appeared to the suit, and for answer, admitted the grant made by King Henry as mentioned in the Bill, at the instance of Dr Harman, the Bishop of Exeter, who was born in the said town, and that they believed the intent of his Majesty to have been that the overplus of the profits of the said lands, after payment of the yearly reserved rent of £58, and all ordinary charges should be employed to charitable uses, as in the Bill was set forth.*

*The commissioners by their certificate, state, that after hearing the parties on both sides, they were of opinion that the orders*

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*(Sir F. Greville, Chancellor of the Exchequer)*

*And rates, should be confirmed, for the preventing all future disputes\*.  
Mark this – \*All future disputes.*

*By a decree in the Exchequer, Michaelmas term 28<sup>th</sup> October 1617, it is stated that the yearly rents, were to be applied to the discharging poor inhabitants of tenths, and subsidies, or to the building of houses, or to the marrying of poor maids.*

*Another suit was long after instituted by Benjamin Blackham, against the said Warden and Society in the Court of Chancery, complaining of various abuses in the management of the trust estates, and in the appropriation of the revenues, and especially of the injury done to himself, and the other freeholders, by inclosing and other acts, And by the decree of the court made 16<sup>th</sup> June 1675 it was declared, that the inclosure and tillage of the park, and common fields and coppices, and felling the woods, without the consent of the major number of the freeholders, was contrary to the letters patent, of King Henry 8<sup>th</sup> and in violation of the rights and privileges, of the inhabitants, and residents of the said town: And that the plaintiff and all other the said inhabitants and residents ought to have the same liberty of common and depasturing and agisting of cattle therein, as were used in the time of King Henry 8<sup>th</sup> and the court did therefore order*

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*and decree the same accordingly.*

*And that a perpetual injunction should be awarded to restrain the defendants, and all claiming under them, their agents, workmen, and assigns, from including, ploughing up, and converting into tillage or otherwise diverting or appropriating to their own use, any part of the said Sutton-Park or commonable fields and coppices, or felling any timber, or doing any act, or thing, contrary to the letters patent of Henry 8<sup>th</sup> upon the premises, without the consent of the major part of the residents and inhabitants, of the said town of Sutton Coldfield.*

*N.B. It is very plain therefore from the letters patent of Henry 8<sup>th</sup> that felling the Timber in Sutton Park by an order of the Corporation (only) is contrary to the letters patent of Henry 8<sup>th</sup> (which is their Charter) and in violation of the rights and privileges, of the inhabitants and residents of the said town: without the consent of the major part of the aforesaid inhabitants and residents, of Sutton Coldfield. And by the Court of Chancery on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1675 did therefore order and decree the same accordingly, as aforesaid.*

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*The Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield (as mentioned before) was first Incorporated by Henry 8<sup>th</sup> in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, 1529. These letters-patent, and Charter, were obtained by Dr Harman, alias Vesey, who was himself a native of Sutton Coldfield and, with the king, a great favourite. Therefore, he spared neither cost nor pains to make it flourish.*

*Another Charter was also granted to Sutton Coldfield by King Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> - hearing date the 27<sup>th</sup> July, in the 16<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, 1665, confirming the preceding Charter, granted by Henry 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*“For particulars, See Charters, Etc, Printed by James Belcher and Son, High Street, Birmingham, 1836.”*

*The Market day is on Monday, being distant from London - 109 miles. There are also 4 fairs held here in one year, two new ones, and two old ones, this year 1853 March 14, Trinity Monday, May 23, Sept<sup>re</sup> 19 (statute) Nov<sup>re</sup> 8 old fair.*

*Sutton Coldfield is an extensive Parish, containing 13,030, acres of Land, rateable value £18,824.12s.1½d. The principal Freeholders are Sir Robert Peel, Bart, Wellbeloved Scott, Esq<sup>re</sup>, The Chadwick family, New Hall, Terry, Esq<sup>re</sup>, Captain Somerville. The Corporation, as Trustees, for themselves, and others, being residents and inhabitants, within the Parish of Sutton Coldfield The Warden, for during his holding that office is Clerk*

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*of the Market. He is also Coroner, during the time of office. And Lord of the Manor also during office. The Constable summonses a Jury out of the resident inhabitants upon all Inquests, held within the parish of Sutton Coldfield. The inhabitants of this parish are exempt and free, from serving as petit jurors, at the Assizes, in the County of Warwick, or in any other parish, in this Kingdom on Inquests.*

*The town is governed by a Warden, chosen annually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November (called the Warden's choice) and two Capital Burgesses, for life, without they remove, and live elsewhere, out of the parish, (viz) George Bodington, M.D. Warden. Sir W<sup>m</sup> Edm<sup>d</sup> Craddock Hartopp, Bart., Rev James Packwood, Capital Burgesses. Holbeche and Addenbrooke, Deputy Stewards. Earl of Aylesford, High Steward, George Beech and John Thursfield, Serjeants-at-Mace, and Lloyds & Co, Bankers - Treasurers, Birmingham. The Warden and Society, elect a Lord High Steward and Park-keeper. The High Steward appoints his deputy, who must be a Lawyer, and presides at the courts leet, and baron, etc, and also at the Summer, and Winter, fairs, The Warden, with proper officers, should join in procession to walk and proclaim the Fairs. And to hold a court of Piepowder also at same times.*

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*King Henry 8<sup>th</sup> also granted, free-warren, etc, etc, to the inhabitants.*

*Upon the Coldfield is an artificial mount, called the King's Standing, from the circumstances of King Charles the 1<sup>st</sup>, having harangued his troops from Shropshire, on this spot, and taking thence, a direction into the Lichfield road.*

*The Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, passes through the parish.*

*Previous to the Inclosure Act, being obtained in this parish, In the 4<sup>th</sup> of the reign of George 4<sup>th</sup> An Act of Parliament was obtained, Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 1824. For Inclosing certain Open and common Fields and Meadow, and also Commons Commonable and Waste Lands, within the Manor and Lordship of Sutton Coldfield, and the Parish of Sutton Coldfield, in the County of Warwick, which said New Inclosed Lands, are exonerated from Tythes, and made Tythe-free, by the aforesaid Act. And the old Inclosed Lands, are made subject to a Corn-Rent-charge, upon that part - To be ruled by the London Markets, of Mark-lane, London. As in the aforesaid Act, it is pressed.(?)*

*The tythe Commutation, upon the old Inclosed lands (at the first) amounted to the sum of £1580 per annum. Rents of Land, and Tythe-rent, now altogether, in the whole amount, to annually about £2,800, Like a Bishoprick. 1853.*

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*Previous to the Inclosure, the Waste lands of this Manor amounted to 4,000 acres. About one half of which was approved, by what was called the Lot acre System. Portions, to the extent of 700 acres at a time were let out among the inhabitants, householders of the parish of Sutton Coldfield, in toll of one acre to each, they covenanting for the proper, cultivation thereof, for the term of 5 years, to fence it with a boundary fence; according to the number of acres, every proprietor held in each field, so were the fencing apportioned them to fence it. Lots were also drawn by the officers of the Corporation.*

### *Hamlets*

*Little Sutton. A small pleasant village, 1½ mile N by E.*

*Hill. A small village 1¾ miles, North*

*Maney, and the Wild. A Hamlet, nearly adjoining to the South-West, end of the town, a stragling ??*

*Meer-green. A scattered village 1½ miles North.*

*Warmley Ash. A small village and hamlet, 3 miles S-E.*

*The Parish also contains many scattered Farms and Houses.*

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*Agriculture. There are but few Parishes (if any) in the County of Warwick which contains a greater variety of Soils, than Sutton Coldfield. Therefore one System of management, will not suit for all occupiers of land in this Parish, to pursue.*

*If men who write treatises upon Agriculture, could also make the "Season", to suit the systems, which they lay down to be acted upon, then their ways of management might be right, in accordance with their books. But the allwise Disposer of all things, knoweth best, what seasons are most suitable for all men. Therefore, all are obliged to submit to his sovereign appointments, respecting those events. (Such is the true statement of the matter.)*

*And as occupiers of land are made liable for Rents, Tythes, Poor-Rates, and some other such-like imposition, in the general way, together with the risque of seasons also. I think the practical Farmer, if he be a man possessed with a good sound judgment; ought to farm the land he occupies, according to that practical knowledge without the landlord's too much interference, so long as he does justice to his landlord, and to himself. For I consider the landlord's, and tenant's, interests are reciprocal, with each other. All landlord's therefore ought to let their land, at such a fair price that the tenant may gain a remuneration for his labour,*

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*labour and for the Capital, which he employs in his business: also exigent expenses, with something considerable for his family (if any) and likewise for himself. Always remembering, that a poor tenant, very rarely, makes a rich landlord. "Vive ut vivas". Live and let live.*

***Four Oaks Hall.** About the year 1779. The Rev<sup>d</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Greasley, D.D. Rector of Nether-Seal, Purchased Four Oaks Estate, He altered the House into a fine Mansion, as it now appears; And also new fenced the Park, belonging to it; with good Oak paling, and kept Deer in it. He also laid out a considerable sum of money in making further improvements upon the estate. My 2<sup>nd</sup> brother, Edw<sup>d</sup> Twamley, helped to do the fencing of the park, in the year 1780. Dr Greasley died in the year, 1785. And it was sold – Hugh Bateman Esq<sup>re</sup> next afterwards purchased it – who did not live at but a few years, then went away.*

*The first Sir Edmond Craddock Hartopp, Baron, was the next purchaser and occupied of Four Oaks. He was an honorable good sort of a man, kept an hospitable house; and was a good tradesman's friend; by paying their accounts against him*

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*[in original, a page here inserted as follows:-]*

*every quarter, with the greatest punctuality.*

*Sir Edmund Carddock Hartopp, Bart – his son, was the next in possession of it, who died without issue.*

*Sir William Craddock Hartopp, Bart, is now in possession of Four Oaks; who is married, and has several children. 1853.*

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*Within the last Sixty years, some hundreds of Acres of Common land, or Fields, that were at that time Commonable, have been lost from the Parish of Sutton Coldfield through neglect of not perambulating the boundaries of the parish rightly. After the Rev John Riland, M.P. became Rector, of Sutton Coldfield, 1790. The parish was wrong perambulated, or what is called the clergyman, (possessing his boundary line – And the Warden's also in succession, not keeping up the Manorial right of the said Manor and Lordship of Sutton Coldfield, aforesaid.*

*In one instance, at the time when Aston and Witton Inclosure took place, in the year, 1804. A large tract of Common land were taken, 200 acres, or more from Sutton Parish, and added to the aforesaid parish of Aston, Inclosure (The land taken were situated on the Coldfield, S.W. side of the Chester road; the Roman College, now stands in a part of the said lands. The Brook, which runs along the valley beyond constituted the boundary line of the parish of Sutton Coldfield, on the south-west side thereof – At the time the parish was perambulated, or possessioned; when the Rev<sup>d</sup> R.B. Riland, came to the living of Sutton Coldfield, In the year 1758. "William Twamley of New Hall Mill in this Parish, was one of the Church-Warden's, at that time. 1758"*

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*Again on the North–West side of the Parish; beyond Sutton Park, and adjoining to Little–Aston, 100 Acres of Comm<sup>n</sup> land (or more) were lost; by Sutton parish authorities refusing to bury 2 brothers of the name of Mousley, from Hill, village, that were found dead, by the side of the road; they were returning home from Walsall.*

*The parish of Shenstone, therefore, claimed the above mentioned land; (then lying Common, or in open Field). By and through the circumstance, of Shenstone parish burying the 2 Corpses. Mr Edward Croxall, Deputy Steward, at that time.*

*And again at Water–Orton Holms, (land, and water) a part of the River Tame, running through it, containing several Acres in the whole. And are now claimed by the Earl of Bradford, who has had the Alder's , felled two or three times; which were grown upon the land, and has had them sold. Here was neglect.*

*"I well remember the Rev. Francis Blick, having that part of the River Tame, (which runs through the Holms, in Sutton parish). Fished with Nets, about the year 1781. in order to keep up the Manorial–Right*

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*of Sutton Coldfield; during the time he held the office of Warden". He being there at that time, Lord of the Manor of Sutton Coldfield. Who also took along with him, the two Serjeants at Mace, John Wood, and Thomas Bond, with Joseph Booth, a tailor, who then in those days, lived at the town of Sutton, and several others.*

*"All the aforementioned facts, I perfectly remember."*

*Page 1,064            About the year 1787. proceedings were again commenced against the corporation for the purposes of assisting an attempt made by them to increase the payments made by the inhabitants of the manor according to immemorial custom for the agistment of horses, and cattle in the park. This legislation was also terminated by an agreement, in pursuance of which the following covenants were entered into by the corporation.*

*By Indenture, dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 1788, between the warden and society, etc. of Sutton Coldfield, of the one part, and William Twamley and other persons inhabitants within the town, manor and lordship of Sutton Coldfield, of the other part; reciting that the said William Twamley and others, and their predecessors, occupiers of their respective premises, had for time immemorial respectively exercised a right of pasturage of common for all sorts of cattle except sheep, in a certain track of land, containing 2,500 acres within the manor of*

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*Sutton Coldfield, called Sutton Park, under the certain uniform immemorial payments of 10d. for three months, or one stage, as it is called, for the agistment of every horse, mule or ass, and of 5d. for every three months, or one stage, for the agistment of every cow or heifer, and no more, made to the warden and society of Sutton Coldfield aforesaid and further reciting, that the said Warden and Society had in the month of March 1787, on a misapprehension of the rights of the inhabitants, caused notices to be fixed on the park gates and other places addressed to all persons inhabitants within the sad town, lordship or parish, who wished to turn any horses or other cattle in Sutton Park, requiring for every stage for every horse, colt, ass or mule, the sum of 1s.6d.; and for every cow, heifer or steer, 6d., and declaring in such notices that whatever horse or other cattle after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, then next, unmarked and not entered in the book, would be impounded, and further reciting, that certain proceedings in replevin had taken place in consequence of the impounding of cattle, pursuant to the said notices, and a certain proposal and agreement which had been subsequently made and entered into between the warden and society and a committee appointed by the inhabitants for dis-*

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*continuing the said proceedings. It is witnessed that in consideration of the premises, and in pursuance and performance of the said agreement, the warden and society covenanted with the parties of the second part and with every other, the inhabitants within the said town, manor and lordship, whose seals were thereunto subscribed, that the ancient and accustomed payments before-mentioned, for the agistment of cattle in Sutton Park, should at all time thereafter be accepted by the said warden and society, in full payment and satisfaction of such pasturage (in the words of the above recital) and they and their successors should not at any time thereafter, attempt to raise the said rates.*

*In the year 1788. A Bill were filed in the Court of Chancery. By the inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield Informants. against the warden and society of Sutton Coldfield Defendants. In order to make the Corporation give an account of Timber and Underwood, sold and received the money for it (by them) out of Sutton Park, from time to time, Felled by order's, from the various warden's and society, of Sutton Coldfield. But not accounted for, to the satisfaction of the Inhabitants, Freeholder. etc. etc. Nor according to*

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*the directions of their Charter's. Therefore a Subscription was raised by the inhabitants, and owners of Freehold Estates; situate within the parish of Sutton Coldfield, to defray the expences of the then pending suit. By whose subscriptions more than £800. were raised and applied to that purpose. "And several Members belonging the Body Corporate, were subscribers (thereto) in support of their own rights".*

*"Eleven persons were chosen by the inhabitants as a Committee, to manage the business, for the other inhabitants, and residents."*

*C.B. Adderley Esq<sup>r</sup>, President*

*Mr Thomas Butler, of Sutton Coldfield, Solicitor, for Informants.*

*William Bedford, of Birmingham, Attorney ) Solicitor's*

*And, William Homer, of Sutton Coldfield, ) for*

*Deputy Steward, ) Defendants*

*Sir John Scott. Counsel retained in this Suit, for the Informants; (said) No men, could have taken a more honourable matter in hand; than the Relators in this Cause had done, by aiming to bring the Defendants to an account.*

*Attorney General, against the Corporation of Sutton Coldfield. In the year 1792. A Write of Injunction was prayed for against the defendants, in the Court of Chancery;*

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*To restrain them from felling timber etc. and selling it out of Sutton Park. Likewise disposing of the money it were sold for, however they liked.*

*The Motion, came on this day about 2 o'Clock the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1792. And did not last half an hour. And the Injunction were granted as prayed. The three Commissioners, The Chief Baron. – Judge, Ashurst and Judge, Wilson. were altogether for the Injunction, on the Statement of the Charter, Bill, and Answer. And did not require one Affidavit to be read, pending the Suit. They were clearly of Opinion, Defendants ought not to do anything. The prevention of which, was intended by our application. And it was also hinted by the Court, that the Defendants ought to confine themselves within the limits of the Charter. Which is so plain, it cannot be now misconstrued.*

*An order from the Court of Chancery, were issued and sent to Mr Thomas Butler, the Relators Solicitor. To examine into, and to look over the Corporation's Books. To ascertain an account of what Timber etc. which had been sold, out of Sutton Park. And the amount of the money, which had been received, by the*

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*divers Warden's and Society. From the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1727. to the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1787. Amounting as per Corporation's Books, to the large Sum of £8,263.7s.11d "Which order was obeyed, a return made out; and sent up to the Court of Chancery, accordingly."*

*Mr Thomas Butler, died suddenly in London at the latter end of the year 1793. or the beginning fo the year 1794. And Mr Edward Sadler, Attorney of Sutton Coldfield. Took up the Cause, as Relator's Solicitor. Sir John Scott, the relator's Counsel from the first commencement of the Suit. Was afterwards appointed Lord Chancellor, and received the title of Earl Eldon, who knew the whole of the Suit, from its beginning.*

*Mr Edward Sadler, and Mr William Bedford, was both together at the Chancellor's house in London one morning; and while the chancellor were dressing (himself) to attend the House of Lord's. W<sup>m</sup> Bedford, and he, Edw<sup>d</sup> Sadler, had an altercation respecting the proceedings which had taken place, pending the Chancery Suit. Between the inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield, Plaintiff's. And the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield. Defendants. Will<sup>m</sup> Bedford, wanted*

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*the Injunction, etc. taken away. And Edward Sadler wished to restraints to remain. The Chancellor hearing what they were debating about. And afterwards he came into the room, where they was. "And said, to put an end to your dispute. The restraint shall remain over the Corporation's head's, as long as I am Chancellor" further saying, "If he was to set them at liberty today, they would be at mischief again tomorrow."*

*N.B. Mr Edward Sadler, told me this himself, Z. Twamley  
"Earl Eldon, kept this word, they remain'd as long as he was Chancellor."  
Forty years, or more.*

*By a decree dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 1799. It was referred to a Master to settle a plan to manage the Charity, and for the application of the revenues thereof; regard being had to the Charter. By his report dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 1801. that out of the annual revenues which were stated by the relators, to amount to £220. there was to be paid a Crown Rent of £58. two sergeants at mace £12. £6 each, 5£ per annum, for coals, stationary, and other small expenses. 5£ per annum, for expenses at the choice of Warden, Sessions, and courts leet, £20 for the deputy steward, £24 to the park keeper, making 124£ per annum, leaving a residue of the said revenues of 96£ per annum, to be applied for the marriage*

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*of poor maidens; to be given in May, every year, to 4 poor maidens, natives of, or long resident in Sutton Coldfield. 24 each. To be of good character, and chosen by a majority of the corporation, present at a meeting for that purpose.*

*And in case there should be any increase of the revenues, by sale of timber, inclosure, or otherwise, that it should be applied in the same manner.*

*In Chancery.*

*Between the Attorney General at the Relation of William Twamley and others. Informants.*

*And the Warden and Society of the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield in the County of Warwick. Thomas Terry and others.....Defendants*

*Page 1066. An Order, Came from the Court of Chancery, Dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 1802. For a quantity of Timber, in Sutton Park, to be marked and sold, by Auction, in lots, and in Printed particulars expressed. For the best price that could be obtained for the same. Which Sale took place at the Three-Tuns Inn, situate at Sutton Coldfield, in the County of Warwick. On the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> days of October, 1803. And the said timber was sold for the Sum of £18,216.0.0. The above sum which the Timber was sold for, after expences of Sale, etc. etc. And £1,825:5<sup>s</sup>:4<sup>d</sup>, Costs of Suit, being taken out, were paid into the hands of the Accountant General, and*

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*Funded Property purchased with it, in the Three per Cent Consolidated Annuities, in the name of the Accountant General.*

*From the dividends further purchases of like stock were from time to time made, and the whole of this fund after certain payments made thereout under orders of court, as hereafter mentioned, amounted, at the date of the decretal order next mentioned, to £38,475.8<sup>s</sup>.10<sup>d</sup>. stock, and £3,561.14<sup>s</sup>.3<sup>d</sup> cash in the bank, in the name of the Accountant-General, in trust in the cause.*

*Page 1,066. In the month of February, 1823. An order came from the Court of Chancery to have the Bogs, in Sutton Park, drained. And the expences of doing it, was paid out of the above money; which amounted to the sum of 3,655£.*

*This sum was paid to the corporation, in February, 1823.*

*Page 1,075. The buildings erected under the order of court of the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1825. These comprise.*

*1<sup>st</sup>. A School-house in the town of Sutton Coldfield, consisting of two school-rooms, one for boys, and the other for girls, with two residences for the master and mistress attached to them, each school-room is capable of containing 70 children.*

*2<sup>nd</sup>. A similar School-house in the hamlet of Hill.*

*3<sup>rd</sup>. A school capable of containing 60 children and a*

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*residence for the mistress; in that part of the parish called beyond the Wood. And lastly, the ten almshouses for poor inhabitants; these contain two rooms each on the ground floor with a cellar below; they are inhabited by ten poor persons, or old men and their wives, who are elected by the corporation as vacancies occur; the emolument they now receive is £3. 6s per week each apartment, beside, an allowance of coals, to each apartment 1 ton 10 hwt or thereabouts, per annum.*

*The cost of the first mentioned school and houses 1,500£, of the Hill school 549£, of the third 343£, making together the sum of 2,392£ mentioned in the scheme.*

*For the almshouses 608£ was paid.*

*And 258£ for the two houses, of the serjeants at mace; or park-keepers, erected in the park.*

*These sums were paid by sales of stock, in 1825-6.*

*In the year 1828. an application was made to the Court, for leave to build a gallery in the church for the charity children.*

*This was granted, and the object has been effected at a cost of 300£.*

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1. *That a charity school should be established in the town of Sutton Coldfield, for the moral and religious instruction of 100 of the male and female children of the poor inhabitants of the parish, upon the system recommended by Dr Bell and others or upon any other plan which might be thought more eligible.*

2. *That a school of the same description should be established in some convenient situation between the Hamlet of Hill and Little Sutton, in the parish of Sutton Coldfield for the like education of 100 boys and girls, children of the poor inhabitants, living in that part of the parish who from the distance and not with convenience attend the schools in the town of Sutton.*

3. *That a preparatory school for the like instruction of 40 children, should be established in that part of the parish of Sutton Coldfield, called "Beyond the Wood and Walmley", being at too great a distance for the smaller children to have the benefit of instruction, either at the school in the town of Sutton or at the school to be established between the hamlets of Hill and Little Sutton.*

4. *That a part of the above school in the town of Sutton, be appropriated for a school of industry, for instruction of girls in sewing, spinning, knitting, writing, and arithmetic, the children to be employed in making their own clothes,*

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*also for the girls in the charity school, and also to knit stockings for the boys, and to make up linen, to be lent or given to the poor married women in child-bed, as after mentioned.*

*5. That the children attending these schools be annually clothed, as a means of inducing the parents to send their children to school regularly.*

*6. That the sum of 2,392£. Should be allowed for the building and furnishing these schools, including the school of industry, the corporation being allowed to use what timber might be wanted for the purpose, out of that growing in Sutton Park.*

*7. That the sum of 40£ (now raised to 50£ on account of more boys being taught in the school by the master of the school at Sutton. The sum of 50£ for the mistress of the school of industry, she finding an assistant and having the instruction and management of the girls' schools. That the sum of 40£ now raised to 50£ should be allowed for the master of Hill and Little Sutton, and 25£ for master or mistress at Walmley.*

*8. That 30£ per annum should be allowed for firing at the 5 different schools.*

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9. *That the sum of 2£ should be allowed for the clothing of each boy, and the sum of £7.11<sup>s</sup>.6<sup>d</sup> for each girl; which, estimating the probably number in the different school at 240 , would annually amount to 429£; and that none should be admitted under the age of six, nor continue beyond the age of twelve.*

10. *That the boys and girls, educated in the above schools, as they arrive at proper ages, should be put out apprentices with premiums, or to service with new clothes, for which there should be allowed annually 20£.*

11. *That 50£ should be allowed per annum, to purchase materials, for making clothing at the school of industry.*

12. *For medical assistance, vaccination of the poor inhabitants gratis, attending poor married women in child-bed at their own houses, 31£10<sup>s</sup>, per annum.*

13. *That poor married women be supplied with sheets and child-bed linen, to be lent them during their confinement, for which there should be allowed annually 35£.*

14. *That the sum of 30£ per annum should be allowed for the purchase of blankets or other articles of charity, to be distributed annually on the day of the warden's choice, amongst the old and infirm poor persons of the*

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*best character in the parish*

*15. That 10 almshouses should be built for the reception of the reduced and meritorious inhabitants, the building of houses being a specific use in the charter, for which there should be allowed a sum of 608£.*

*16. For an encrease of salary to the deputy steward, his salary being considered inadequate to the duties and trouble of his office, and which would be considerably increased by carrying the new scheme into execution, 30£.*

*17. An increase of salary to the park-keeper 30£ making his salary in the whole of 60£.*

*18. And for an increase of salary to the serjeants-at-mace 44£, each, as assistant park-keeper, in guarding the park and woodlands from depredations, making the salary of each in the whole 50£ per annum, the serjeants-at-mace being required, together with the park-keeper, to give up their whole time and attention to the said charity estates.*

*19. That there should be allowed, for the building of two small houses, for the two serjeants-at-mace, in or near Sutton Park, 258£.*

*20. The warden being enjoined by the charter to see*

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*that the weights and measures are just within the parish, that there should be allowed for a weighing machine, for the use and benefit of the poor inhabitants, £173:14<sup>s</sup>, and for a salary for a person to attend on the same 5£ per annum.*

*21. That 10£ should be allowed for purchasing new maces, and for restoring the ancient forms of the corporation, such as cloaks and hats to the serjeants, and a coat and hat to the keeper; and that there should be an allowance for the dinner at the warden's choice to the members of the corporation, who give their time and labour gratuitously, the annual sum of 25£.*

*Page 1,067. This report was confirmed by the court;*

*Page 1,068. By a subsequent order of the court, bearing date 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1828, it was further directed, that an annual sum of 30£ should thenceforth be allowed the warden and society, as salary for the mistress of the school at Hill, and Little Sutton.*

*Page 1,069. The validity of a lease, under which the possession of the school premises was held up to the year 1830, had been disputed by the corporation, but it is now unnecessary to enter into the question, as, under the provisions of the Inclosure Act, hereinafter mentioned, the whole premises*

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*Page 1,069*

*have been exchanged with the trustees of the free grammar school, greatly to the advantage of both parties.*

*Page 1,069. In lieu of the school premises, which contained 3,A & 19P. and a small slip purchased from the road trustees for 5£. the corporation have received a messuage, commonly called the Old School-house, in Sutton Coldfield, divided into two tenements, with a garden, also two other tenements adjoining thereto, total 17£.17s. per annum, and so much of the waste land allotted to the school trustees, as with the said tenement should be worth 47£.per annum.*

*Page 1,090. The possession of the premises agreed to be given up has been mutually delivered; and the signature of the Inclosure Award by the Commissioner, is also now obtained, 1852. which completes the transaction entirely.*

*The Corporation Seal, was also affixed to the Inclosure Award, on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 1852. The signing and sealing, the Commissioners Inclosure Award; entirely settles, and makes the Grammar School - and the Charity-trust, distinct Estates since the year 1830.*

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*1835. The next place was the Old Poor-house, purchased by the Corporation out of their Revenues at about the sum of 700£.*

*The expences of altering it into a School-house and premises for a Schoolmaster to live in, and take boarders into his house, with the cost of erecting of the School on the Church-hill, in the year 1835. Purchase, and altogether, come to the sum of about 2000£. And excessive waste of Trust Property, to gratify the whim, or unbounded assumption, of the late Mr Charles Barker, and a few others of the supercilious folk.*

*Green Lanes School, Erected in the year, 1838. Another Charity School, was erected in the green-lanes; very near the outskirts of the parish of Sutton Coldfield, in an out of the way sort of a place; (which may truly be said of it) not far off the Chester-Road; It is situated at such a great distance for boys, whose parents live at Minworth-Greaves; and from other parts (?) of the parish, almost at as great a distance from the school; say*

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*Pedimore, Wigginhill, Wishaw-lane, and Bumble-End. The Schoolmaster who lives at it, receives a Salary of 50£ per annum, (besides fire fuel 5£. or more) for teaching 50 boys or more, 20 out of which are annually clothed.*

**N.B.** *The School, is Licenced by the Bishop, as a place of Worship.*

*In the year 1836. A Chapel of Ease was erected up at Hill, between [Mere Green?] and the village of Little Sutton. The soil and land it is built upon, was given by F.B. Hacket Esq<sup>re</sup> of Moor Hall containing one Acre or more, for a Church-Yard, and Burial ground. The other part of the expences were principally raised by voluntary contributions. It was Consecrated in 1836. by Henry Ryder, D.D. Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. (The diocese has since that time been altered). It is now in the diocese of Worcester. The present Curate who lives in the parsonage-house, is the rev. S.C.Saxton, who had 150£ per annum, allowed him by Dr. Rich<sup>d</sup> Williamson, Rector*

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*On tuesday, the second day of September 1845. Walmley new Church in the Parish, was Consecrated by Henry Pepys, D.D. Lord Bishop of Worcester, who preached a Sermon appropriate on the occasion, from 1 Cor<sup>ns</sup> 15 Chap. 58 verse. The sum of 60£ was collected after the services. The original design were made by Mr Whiting. But various alterations have been made from these designs, by Mr D.R. Hill, Architect, etc, of Birmingham, under whose direction and a Committee the work has been executed, by Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Smith, Builder, etc. etc. of Sutton Coldfield. The Organ has been constructed by Mr Banfield, Organ Builder of Birmingham. (who played it at the Consecration of the Chapel). The appropriate fittings for it has been presented by the following persons individuals. The stained glass to the circular window in the chancel, the Altar-cloth, etc. by Miss Mowbray. The niece of the Rev. Rich<sup>d</sup> Williamson, D.D. the present Rector; The Sacrament vessels by the Honble Mrs Noel. The Christening font by the Rev. Montagu Webster. The Bell, the gift of William Jacot, of New Hall. Miss Lucy Riland, of Sutton Coldfield, Gave a very considerable Sum, towards its endowment. Who had the first presentment of the Rev. Gilbert William Robinson, the first incumbent, who now occupies the Parsonage House. This house was erected before the Church, and cost as large a Sum of Money to build*

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*it, as both the Church, and Parsonage-house, ought to have cost; had the money been laid out, upon the principle of economy. Why go back to those dark ages of superstition, nay even barbarism; the Norman style of Architecture (for a plan model to imitate).*

*In this quarter of the parish, called beyond the Wood, and Walmley; in the year 1826. was erected a good and substantial Charity School, with a dwelling-house attached thereto, and other requisite premises, it was capable of containing 60 children, which cost the sum of £343, as aforementioned; with a Salary of 25£ per annum and fire fuel, for a Mistress to teach them. This School was some few years licenced, by the Bishop of Worcester, as a place for divine worship, for the present incumbent of Walmley Church, The rev. Gilbert William Robinson, (before the Church was finished building, in the Norman style,) It were then thought good, and large enough; to contain within its walls, the population of that district, as a Congregation; besides the School-children; that came to school, on the week-days; and also regularly attend, on Sundays therein. The distance from this good Old School, to the present Parsonage-house; cannot measure more*

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*than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, at the furthest. Then why were the last new erected buildings put up, in the year's 1850, and 1851. consisting of a School, a dwelling-house, Committee-room, and other adjoining premises attached, etc, near to the Church, at Walmley; which have cost the Sum of £587.18<sup>s</sup>.11<sup>d</sup> quite uncalled for, out of the Charity revenues. likewise the alterations of the Walmley Old School, and house, into two Cottages. cost £70 pd on account (not finally paid in full;) also to the Walmley Old £3.12.6*

*Copy, of notice for letting the Cottages, Stuck upon the Church Door at Sutton. Notice is hereby given, That the two houses and premises belonging the Warden and Society, and lately used as a School situate at Thimble-end Walmley, are to be let, Applications for the same to be forthwith made at the office of Holbeche & Addenbrooke, Deputy Stewards. Sutton Coldfield 9<sup>th</sup> September 1851.*

*Copy of a Notice. A Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Parish will be held at the Moot-hall on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, instant, at 11 o'Clock in the forenoon, in order that their views may be ascertained, as to the disposing of the Money received from the London and North Western Railway Company under their Bond, given to the Corporation.*

*By order of the Warden*

*Sutton Coldfield*

*14 May 1853*

*Geo., Bodington, Warden*

*Holbeche & Addenbrooke.*

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*In the year 1847. The Rev. Richard Williamson, D.D. Rector, of Sutton Coldfield. Caused a preparatory, or Infants School; to be erected upon Sutton Coldfield, on newly Inclosed land, (Tythe Free) belonging to the Corporation trust Estates. And according to the Warden's, annual accompts for his year of serving that office, 1847. there is an Item, of the cost on Account £178:0<sup>s</sup>:0<sup>d</sup> again in the year 1848 a balance, etc. £230.2<sup>s</sup>.1<sup>d</sup> which together is £408.2<sup>s</sup>.1<sup>d</sup> And again in the year 1851. Enlarging and erecting other buildings to the School £111.6<sup>s</sup>.4<sup>d</sup>. Total cost £519.8<sup>s</sup>.5<sup>d</sup>*

*Also, in the year 1849. after James Eccleston, left the Grammar School as head Master 4<sup>th</sup> of June; he was then holding the office of Warden. The Rector R<sup>d</sup> Williamson DD served the office after him, until the second of November following; during which time, the Original Charters of Sutton Coldfield, were sent up to London, to be Translated into English, and anew Transcribed; the original one's being written in old Latin, with many abbreviations of words, etc. etc. hard to be understood, and arightly construed at the present day, to know their definite meaning. And also to preserve the old skins from being worn out, or becoming illegible from frequent use and handling.*

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*Therefore, all Members of the Corporate Body, who can read; have now a fair opportunity of reading them, and knowing their contents; which direct by precepts therein contained, how every individual member who constitutes a part of that Body Corporate ought to act; after having taken his corporal oath, upon the Holy Gospel of God.*

***No member now can plead any excuse, who acts contrary to the directions, so plainly written in the two Charter's.***

*On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1849. The Corporation at a Common Hall assembled, did there and then allow to Mr Solomon Smith, of Fox-hill, Sutton Coldfield, the sum of £600, on an Account; to be paid out of the Corporation revenue, who had previously delivered in a Bill of more than 700£ For Surveying, etc. etc. for more than 20 years back, a part of it. All the time he was then serving as a Member of the Corporation himself.*

<i>First instalment was paid to him in the year</i>	<i>1850</i>	<i>£200.0.0</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> do do</i>	<i>1851</i>	<i>200.0.0</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> do do</i>	<i>1852</i>	<i><u>200.0.0</u></i>
		<i><u>£600.0.0</u></i>

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*On Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1850. Rector Richard Williamson, D.D. Preached his farewell Sermon. From the 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle general of St John 1 chap 7<sup>th</sup> verse.*

*And on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 1850. The rev. William H. Riland Bedford, M.A. (Son of the late W<sup>m</sup> Riland Bedford M.A.) About 5 o'Clock in the afternoon, was inducted into the Church-living, as Rector of Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.*

*And on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, following Mr Bedford, read himself in, at Morning Service.*

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*In original, there are no pages 93 and 94.*





Page 1075. *The Moot Hall*, a substantial brick building, standing in the centre of the town of Sutton Coldfield and used by the warden and society, for all purposes connected with the town, and in the hands of the corporation, attached to it is the weighing-house mentioned in the Master's report of 14<sup>th</sup> May 1825. A sum of between 300£. and 400£. Was expended upon repairs and alterations of the Moot Hall in 1807. The extensive tract of land called Sutton Park, of the contents of which we find the following summary annexed to a plan of the park taken in 1779.

	A	R	P
Clear ground within the park	1,623.	2.	0
Lands inclosed and planted with wood, viz,			
Westwood Coppice, Holly Hurst,			
Lower Nut Hurst, Upper Nut			
Hurst, and Darnel Hurst	263.	3.	20
Lands not inclosed covered with wood, viz.,			
Stretly Wood, Pool Hollies,			
Gumslade, Valley Wood, Lady			
Woods, etc.	<u>136:</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>26</u>
	2,028	3.	6

The following item is added to the summary and appears to apply to some of the parcels in the rental.

Lands included within the park,	)			
and pools, in the possession of	)			
the following persons, viz, Sir	)			
Chas Holt, bart, Keeper's Pool,	)			
Dr Greasley, Park & Bracebridge	)			
Pool, Jo <sup>s</sup> Duncumbe, esq, Black	)			
Root Pool, in the keeper's	)			
possession, Mr Powell, Button	)			
Mill, etc. and Miss Addyes, the	)			
Blade Mill, etc.	)	<u>117:</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>38</u>
		2146	0.	4

*Page 1075. Of the lands included in the above statement 63A & 32P comprising part of the Lady Wood and lands adjoining have been transferred to Sir Edmund Hartopp in the exchange of 1831 and in lieu thereof an equal quantity of land given by him has been thrown into the park; the total of the park therefore remains unaltered.*

*The remainder of the lands conveyed in exchange by Sir Edmund Hartopp amounting to 30A 3R 5P have been treated by the corporation as an equivalent for the timber in Lady Wood and appropriated accordingly.*

*In respect of the tithes of the land received in exchange from Sir Edmund Hartopp and thrown into the park, a corn rent amounting at present to 8£.18<sup>s</sup>.4<sup>d</sup> has been made payable (Page 1076) to the rector under the award, subject to be varied with the price of corn at the expiration, of every term of seven years.*

*The woods in the park contain about 400 acres; the timber is principally oak, with little or no underwood but holly; nearly the whole is protected from the trespassing of cattle by fences of posts and rails.*

*The corporation derive a small profit from the agistment of cattle in the park, every inhabitant of*

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*The town, manor and lordship being entitled by immemorial custom, to turn in horses, cows and other cattle, (except sheep) upon the terms formerly mentioned viz. upon paying for each horse, mule or ass 10<sup>d</sup> for three months, or one stage as it is called, and 5<sup>d</sup> for every cow or heifer.*

*The park-keeper collects these payments and also some small profits made by the sale of ling and gorse, and accounts to them yearly (with the warden) when he receives his salary. They average about 16£ per annum. Strangers pay for ling, and gorse.*

*Sutton Park, also abounds with Water, arising from Springs; and afterwards made into Pools, forming very handsome sheets of water. The first is called Bracebridge-pool, situated on the north-west, side of the park, containing about 15 to 20 acres, or thereabouts.*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> pool below on the stream is called Perkins's, (and originally Duncumb's) being at first made by him, and Edward Homer, then Deputy Steward, at that time, in the year 1753. which is at least 12 acres, part of Blackroot.*

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*Another pool in the middle of the park, called Keeper's, on another stream running between the woods, about 3 acres, fed principally from a spring and bathing-well; called Keeper's-spring. This pool was Sir Charles Holt's.*

*The water from these two sources, formed stream enough to work a Tilt-hammer for plating Saws, Spades, Shovels, and grinding the Saws, and Tiles. Which Trades, found employment for many hands. The business being very respectably carried on by the proprietors, who held it for a number of years. (It was formerly called the Blade-Mill.) Within the last few years, the whole of the Trades, has been given up, the buildings (a part of which is pulled down) the whole of the machinery, with the working tools sold, and entirely removed, from off the ground. These premises having been sold, got into other hands, and was occupied for a short time by the purchaser in 1847. Since resold to Mr John Wiggan, of Birmingham, Gun Maker, etc. who come to live therein 1851. This North-West Side of the park, was drained in the year 1823. By an order of the Court of Chancery.*

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*On the S.W. Side of the Park, is another bathing-place; called Rowton Well. Which has been a noted Well, for a great number of years; For Scorbutic eruptions, etc. etc. Very much resorted to by the working mechanics of Walsall, West-bromwich and that neighbourhood. Indeed all round about that smoky country, to bathe in its pure water's.*

*And from Birmingham, the park is a place of great resort in the Summer-time of the year; by Gipsying-parties, who bring bands of music with them and dance; to shake off the towns smoke, from their clothing, and other recreations.*

*Also, on this S.W. Side of the park, First arising from Spring and running Easterly through a morass, or bog; which has been drained; by an order from the court of Chancery, in the year 1823. This is another stream of water, and formed into a pool, within the park about 14 acres, named Longmoor Mill, distance from the top spring about one mile. This works a Corn Mill, call'd Longmoor Mill. The rent of which, is a part of the corporation Revenues; and is accounted for in their annual revenues.*

*The second pool on this stream, is a large sheet of water covering about 40 to 50 acres; situate without the park, on the south side thereof, called Powell's Forge and Mill, whereat*

---

*Saws, Spades, Shovels, etc. etc. are Manufactured, employing a good many hands to get and finish them up.*

*The third pool upon this stream, is called Windley; and if cleansed from Mud, Alders, and Sedge, would measure about 20 acres. The Rolling-Mill, as it was originally called and used for that trade. It is now altered into a Sawing Mill and in the occupation of Mr Thomas Hayward; who conveys and has Sawn up great quantities of timber, for many purposes that it may be wanted. This Mill is also situate contiguous, to the outside of the park.*

*And a little distance below this Mill, in the meadow near the foot of the Manor-hill, the steams of water (issuing out of the park) meet together, forming one stream.*

*And running S.E. at the bottom of the Manor-hill, to Peat's Bridge; which carries the turnpike-road over the HE-Brook, as it is named. From whence on the upper side of the bridge, is laid under the turnpike-road; a water-course which conveys a stream of water, from the brook to supply 4thly a Leather Mill; situate at the bottom of the town of Sutton. belonging to Joseph Pitman, Esq<sup>re</sup> who lives at the Hill, near to the town of Stourbridge, Worcestershire. After having worked this Mill, the streams join again down in the meadows.*

---

*The fifth Mill, Situate only a short distance from the joining again of the whole stream; and to which there are several pools (altogether measuring about 8 or 9 acres) the whole of these premises, belonged to the late Mr John Oughton. These works are now employed by Mr Joseph Clive, in boring and grinding Gun barrels, etc. etc. which only employs a few persons in the trade, this kind of work, being principally done by Steam-power at Birmingham, makes country Water-Mills, of but little value.*

*The sixth Mill, is for grinding Corn; called New Hall Mill; belonging to the "Chadwicks", of Mavesyn-Ridware, in the County of Stafford; they also are the owner's of New Hall with the adjoining Estate that surrounded it.*

*The family of the "Twamley's" were occupiers of the Mill, for a great number of years, until the late Cha<sup>s</sup> Chadwick, was the owner thereof, and a many years afterwards.*

*The seventh, is a Mill called Penn's. Used for the drawing or spinning of Wire, belonging Joseph Webster, Esq<sup>re</sup>. The Wire business is carried on, in the joint names of Joseph Webster and Son, to a great extent; who employ a great number of hands in it, both men and boys. They are reckoned to get up the best Music Wire, of any house in the trade.*

---



*The eighth Mill, called Plant's belonging to Joseph Webster, Esq<sup>re</sup> Is worked by the same proprietors and the one before, in the wire trade, this also employs a good many hands in the wire business.*

*And it is the last mill, upon the stream. From thence it runs through some more fields, and meadows, into the River Tame, at Berwood Hall, in the parish of Curdworth.*

*The whole length of the stream, I think would not measure more than seven miles; from its first rising in Sutton Park, to its end, into the river tame, aforementioned.*

---

*On Tuesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 1853. A Deputation from Birmingham, came purposely to Sutton Coldfield; to consult with a Sub-Committee, composed out of the Members of the Corporation of Sutton Coldfield; who then and there met together, in the Moot Hall at Sutton Coldfield. "About a Chrystal-Palace, proposed to be erected in Sutton Park."*

*When it was at the same time and place, told this Deputation from Birmingham, That they did not hold the Lands and other Property in their own right, as a Corporation property; "But as trustees of a property, for charitable uses". And that the only power or right, they possessed more than the humblest inhabitant has, who resides in the parish of Sutton Coldfield; Was the right pertaining to them, as Lord's of the Manor of Sutton Coldfield.*

*"By the Charter's of Sutton Coldfield, and by taking a Corporate Oath administered to each Member, on the Holy Gospel of God; they derive their authority to act as such trustees."*

*Therefore, the Body Corporate of Sutton Coldfield; cannot of themselves without obtaining the consent, of the major part of the residents; and inhabitants, of the parish of Sutton Coldfield; Either grant a Lease, or Leases, for any such-like terms, of either 999 years, or even the odd 99 years; nor alienate a part of Sutton Park.*

---

*Their power over the Estates, and Funded property Rents, Interest of Money. Etc. arising therefrom, or in any-wise belonging therewith, or thereto; Is circumscribed and plainly set before them, by precepts contained in the Sutton Coldfield Charter's, etc. And also by order and decrees, of the Court of Chancery; from time to time, nearly to the present time 1853. See, Commissioners further report concerning Charities. Sutton Coldfield. 5&6W4.pp1064-1065. C.76.*

*Certainly they can be made amenable for misapplication or wrong appropriations; of any part of the trust funds and other property, coming into their hands, belonging the trust estates and funds.*

*It is also quite plain, that Trustees to an Estate and other property, stand in a similar situation; as Executors to Wills stand. They must be guided by the letter, and directions of the Donation; or they make themselves accountable for all wilful defaults, in the administration thereof. See, Russell's Reports, vol 2, P526. Lord Eldon, in 1826. That it was his Lord Eldon's distinct duty, to enforce, the trusts strictly, according to the intention of the "Founder".*

---

*Warwick. The Court-house, or Town-Hall, is a respectable stone building, situate on the south side of the High Street, erected about the year 1730, at the expence of the corporation; and for which, under the charge of misapplication of the public money, they were summoned to appear in the Court of Chancery, and were suspended from the exercise of all their power and privileges, to which they were restored till 1738.*

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*(This is the Second page 31 referred to previously in this transcription.)*

*The aforementioned Rev<sup>d</sup> Richard Bisse Riland, was such an excellent man, in the Church, that even his equal, it were a difficult matter to find, (one so good hereabout). In his time of being Rector, the following Families regularly attended at Church, on a Sunday morning.*

	<i>Carriages</i>
<i>Rev<sup>d</sup> Richard Greasley, D.D. from Four Oaks Hall</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Sir Robert Lawley, Bar<sup>t</sup> from Canwell Hall</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Isaac Spooner Esq<sup>re</sup> from Birches Green, Aston</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Dorothy Chadwick, from New Hall, Sutton</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Andrew Hacket, Senior, Esq<sup>re</sup> Sutton Town, House</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Joseph Duncumb, Esq<sup>re</sup>, Sutton</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Mrs. Minors, Roughley, Cottage, Sutton</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Rev<sup>d</sup> Richard Bisse Riland, M.A. Rectory Sutton</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>11 carr<sup>s</sup></i>

*Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> Lawley, Baronet, Had a Seat erected in Sutton Church, between the West, and North, Galleries, purposely for himself, and family, to attend Divine-service at Sutton; altho' his church were Weeford, Staffordshire. I well remember it being done, as my brother Edward, was one who helped to do it. Z.T. - In the year 1851 (at Easter) Dr. Wm. Webb, of Clare-Hall, Cambridge; called upon me as an Old School Fellow; I named it to him, he also, remembered it done.*

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# INDEX

to

## *Zachariah Twamley's 'History of Sutton Coldfield'*

*This index was compiled bearing in mind the following idiosyncrasies of Twamley's original manuscript (held in Sutton Coldfield Local Studies Library):-*

- 1. There does not appear to be a Page 20*
- 2. Pages 93 and 94 are blank.*
- 3. There is an extra Page 31.*

*Janet Jordan*

*A Member of Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group*

*January 2009*

- 
- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Accountant General 76, 77</i>      | <i>Barker, Mr 4,5</i>               |
| <i>Act of Parliament 9, 63</i>        | <i>Barker, Mr Charles 3,8,18,85</i> |
| <i>Adams, Thos 49</i>                 | <i>Barnes, Barbara 39,40</i>        |
| <i>Adderley, Charles Bowyer 9,72</i>  | <i>Barnes, Johannes 39</i>          |
| <i>Addyes, John 42</i>                | <i>Barnes, John 40</i>              |
| <i>Addyes, Miss 95</i>                | <i>Bateman, Hugh 66</i>             |
| <i>Admissions 7, 8,9</i>              | <i>Bathing-place, 99</i>            |
| <i>Agisting 59</i>                    | <i>Bathing-well 98</i>              |
| <i>Agistment 69,70,71,96</i>          | <i>Battle of Barnet 14</i>          |
| <i>Agriculture 65</i>                 | <i>Beckingham, Rector of 35</i>     |
| <i>Aisles 31</i>                      | <i>Bedford, Mr William 74</i>       |
| <i>Alders 68,100</i>                  | <i>Bedford, Rev Wm Riland 32</i>    |
| <i>Algebra 9</i>                      | <i>Bedford, W.K.R. 28</i>           |
| <i>Allport, Edward 47,48</i>          | <i>Bedford, William 30,72</i>       |
| <i>Almshouses 78,82</i>               | <i>Bedford, William Riland 31</i>   |
| <i>Arch-Druid 13</i>                  | <i>Bedford, Wm 28</i>               |
| <i>Arden, The 16</i>                  | <i>Beech, George 62</i>             |
| <i>Arithmetic 2,7,8,9,79</i>          | <i>Belcher, James, &amp; Son 61</i> |
| <i>Ashurst, Judge 73</i>              | <i>Bell, Dr 79</i>                  |
| <i>Ass 70,97</i>                      | <i>Bells 31, 87</i>                 |
| <i>Assembly-room 49</i>               | <i>Berry's Farm 56</i>              |
| <i>Assizes 47,48,62</i>               | <i>Berwood Hall 102</i>             |
| <i>Aston-Hall 50</i>                  | <i>Beveridge, B.T. 41</i>           |
| <i>Attorney General 72,76</i>         | <i>Beyond the Wood 78,79,88</i>     |
| <i>Avon 16,17</i>                     | <i>Bibles 41</i>                    |
| <i>Bacon's Liber Regis 28</i>         | <i>Bill of complaint 57</i>         |
| <i>Bagot, Rev 9</i>                   | <i>Birch, Nicholas 40</i>           |
| <i>Banfield, Mr, Organ Builder 87</i> | <i>Bird, John 48</i>                |

*Birmingham* 13,31,50  
*Birth place (author's)*  
*Bisse-Riland, Revd. Richard* 37  
*Black Root Pool* 95,97  
*Blackham, Benjamin* 59  
*Blade Mill* 95,98  
*Blankets* 81  
*Blick, Rev. Francis* 49,50,68  
*Blind lane* 19  
*Boarders* 7,85  
*Bodington, Geo* 54,62,89  
*Bog* 77,99  
*Bond, Thomas* 69  
*Bonell, Mr Thomas* 55  
*Boot and Shoe* 47  
*Booth, Joseph* 69  
*Boundary fence* 64  
*Bracebridge Pool* 95,97  
*Bradgate-Hall* 26  
*Breedon, Mr Samuel* 56  
*Bridge* 100  
*Brook, The, 67 or HE-Brook* 100  
*Brown, Sarah* 48  
*Bull-Croft* 19  
*Bumble End* 86  
*Burges, Ant.* 28  
*Burges, John* 28  
*Burial ground, Hill* 86  
*Burton on Trent* 16  
*Butler, Mr Thomas* 72,73,74  
*Butler, William* 42  
*Button Mill* 95  
*Canal, Birmingham and Fazeley* 63  
*Cannock-Chase* 15  
*Canwell-Gate* 46  
*Capital Burgesses* 62  
*Cattle* 69,71,96,97  
*Census* 56  
*Chadwick Family* 61  
*Chadwick, Chas* 101  
*Chadwick, Dorothy* 31  
*Chadwicks of Mavesyn-Ridware* 101  
*Chancel* 31  
*Chancellor* 75  
*Chancery* 58,74,76  
*Chapel of Ease, Hill* 86  
*Chapman, Mears & Co.*  
     *Bell Founders* 31  
*Charity* 57,75  
*Charity children* 78  
*Charity Fund* 19  
*Charity School* 79,80,85,88  
*Charity-trust* 84  
*Charter* 57,61,72,75,90,103,104  
*Charter of King Charles 2<sup>nd</sup>* 61  
*Charter of King Henry 8<sup>th</sup>* 51,60  
*Charter, Bill and Answer* 73  
*Chase* 24  
*Chester road* 46,47,67,85  
*Chetwood* 37  
*Chetwynd* 35  
*Chief Baron, The* 73  
*Child-bed linen* 81  
*Children* 77,79,88  
*Chime-barrel* 31  
*Chimes* 31  
*Christmas* 2  
*Chrystal-Palace* 103  
*Church* 31  
*Church Hill* 49  
*Church wardens* 40  
*Church yard* 19,44  
*Church-hill* 85  
*Church-Warden* 40,41,42,67  
*Church-Yard, Hill* 86  
*Civil-War* 34  
*Clarke, Nathl R.* 9  
*Classics* 2,4,8  
*Claudius, Emperor*  
     *of Rome* 16  
*Clive, Mr Joseph* 101  
*Clock (Church)* 31  
*Clothes* 79  
*Clothing* 81  
*Clothing manufacture* 21  
*Cloudburst* 45  
*Coach-houses* 29  
*Coals* 75,78  
*Coleshill* 46  
*Coleshill-street* 48  
*Collett's-brook* 47  
*Colt* 70

*Commissioner's further report* 53,57  
*Commissioners Report on Charities 1833* 19  
*Common fields* 59,63  
*Common Hall* 91  
*Common Land* 47,67  
*Common pasture grounds* 57  
*Commonable* 63,67  
*Commons* 46  
*Communion Table* 37,38  
*Constable* 62  
*Cooper, Mr Thomas* 41  
*Coppices* 59  
*Corinthian Columns* 31  
*Corn* 101  
*Corn mill* 50,99  
*Corn rent* 96  
*Corn-Rent-charge* 63  
*Coroner* 62  
*Corporate-Body* 53,55,72,90,103  
*Corporation* 52,61,103  
*Corporation Revenues* 56  
*Corporation Seal* 84  
*Court of Chancery* 59,60,71,72,73,74,76,98,99,104,105  
*Courts leet* 62,75  
*Cow* 70,97  
*Crown Rent* 75  
*Croxall, Mr Edward* 68,  
*Cumberland* 15  
*Curate* 49  
*Curate, Hill* 86  
*Curdworth* 24,102  
*Customary tenants* 57  
*Dale, Wm Stratford* 9  
*Dam* 50  
*Danet, Lucy* 34  
*Darnel Hurst* 95  
*Dawney, Thomas* 45  
*Day Scholars* 7  
*de Beauchamp, Guy* 13  
*De profundis* 18  
*Dean of Chapel Royal* 17  
*Decree of the Exchequer* 59  
*Decretal order* 77  
*Deer* 66  
*Depasturing* 59  
*Deputy Steward* 53,62,68,72,75,82,89,97  
*Deputy Steward, Salary of* 82  
*Devereaux, George* 33  
*Dilke, Thomas* 9  
*Dining-room* 4  
*Dole* 45  
*Dolphin, Mr Nicholas* 42  
*Dove "volant"* 32  
*Dragoons, 14<sup>th</sup> Light* 35  
*Draining of the park* 98  
*Drayton* 16  
*Dreney, Mrs Sarah* 43  
*Duddeston* 50  
*Dudley (Lady Jane Grey's father in law)* 26  
*Dugdale's Warwickshire* 28  
*Duke of Northumberland* 27  
*Duncumb, Joseph* 31,56,95  
*Duncumb's Pool* 97  
*Eardley, Sir Eardley* 9  
*Earl Eldon* 74,75  
*Earl of Aylesford* 62  
*Earl of Bradford* 68  
*Earl of Warwick* 13,14,26  
*Eastham, Thomas* 46  
*Eccleston, James* 10,90  
*Edward 1<sup>st</sup>* 13,  
*Edward 4<sup>th</sup>* 14,19  
*Edward 5<sup>th</sup>* 19  
*Edward 6<sup>th</sup>* 19,23  
*Eld, Francis* 40  
*Eldon, Lord* 9,104  
*English department* 1,3,4  
*English Grammar* 8  
*Erdington* 47  
*Established Church* 6  
*Estates* 6  
*Examinations, Annual* 7  
*Examiners* 7  
*Exchange of 1831,* 96  
*Exeter, Bishoprick of* 17  
*Exeter, See of* 23,24  
*Exhibitions* 12



*Fair* 13,61,62  
*Farm houses* 21  
*Farmer* 65  
*Farms,* 57  
*Farnel, Thomas* 50  
*Felling* 59,60,68,71,73  
*Felo de se* 46  
*Fences* 96  
*Fencing* 66  
*Field, Mr. Thomas* 43  
*Finch, Rev Charles* 9  
*Fire Engine* 49  
*Fire Fuel* 86  
*Firing* 80  
*Flag-Stones* 48  
*Fleetwood, Jac* 28  
*Floyer, John* 9  
*Folliot, Lord* 55  
*Font* 32  
*Founder* 6  
*Four Oaks* 44,51  
*Four Oaks Estates* 66  
*Four Oaks Hall* 66  
*Fox-hill* 47,91  
*Free* 2  
*Free Grammar School* 5,84  
*Free School* 1,19,21  
*Freehold (Fee-simple) of Church* 29  
*Freehold Estates* 72  
*Freeholders of Sutton Coldfield* 61  
*Free-School* 17,24,57  
*Free-warren* 63  
*Galleries* 31,32  
*Gallery in the Church* 78  
*Geography* 9  
*Geometry* 9  
*George 4<sup>th</sup>* 63  
*Gibbeted* 47,48  
*Gibbet-hill* 48  
*Gibbons, Thomas* 57  
*Gibbons, William* 21  
*Gift* 19  
*Gilded pipes* 32  
*Gipsying-parties* 99  
*Glebe* 29  
*Globes* 9  
*Good Friday* 40,42  
*Gorse* 97  
*Goteham* 37  
*Gothick style* 29  
*Government Commissioners* 22  
*Governors* 5,6,7,10  
*Graduate* 6  
*Grammar* 17  
*Grammar* 5  
*Grammar School* 1,8,11,84,90  
*Grant* 58  
*Grants in fee-farm* 57  
*Greasley, Dr* 95  
*Greasley, Rev Richard* 31,66  
*Green Lanes* 85  
*Green Lanes School* 85  
*Greville, Fulke* 57  
*Grist* 50  
*Guardians for the Poor* 53  
*Gumslade* 95  
*Gun barrels* 101  
*Hacket, Andrew* 31,35  
*Hacket, F.B.* 86  
*Hacket, John* 35  
*Hacket, Rev. Richard* 35  
*Hamlet* 64,77,79  
*Harman (children of)* 25  
*Harman, Dr (alias Vesey)* 61  
*Harman, Dr, Bishop of Exeter* 58  
*Harman, Johanna* 25  
*Harman, John (alias Vesey)* 17  
*Harman, William* 25  
*Hartopp, Sir Edmond Craddock* 66  
*Hartopp, Sir Edmund* 96  
*Hartopp, Sir Edmond Craddock* 51  
*Hartopp, Sir W E Craddock* 62  
*Hartopp, Sir William Craddock* 51,66  
*Hayward, Mr Thomas* 100  
*Head Master* 1,2,3,4,10,90  
*Head Mastership* 3  
*Heifer* 70,97  
*Henry 1<sup>st</sup>* 13,15  
*Henry 6<sup>th</sup>* 19  
*Henry 7<sup>th</sup>* 14,17,19  
*Henry 8<sup>th</sup>* 5,19,21,22  
*Henry Marquis of Dorset* 26,57

*Herdsmen* 16  
*Hewett, John* 44  
*High Steward* 62  
*High Street, Warwick* 105  
*High-Cross* 16  
*High-street* 49  
*Hill* 44,64,77,79,80,86  
*Hill school* 78  
*Hill village* 68  
*Hill, Mr D.R.* 87  
*Hill-hook* 44  
*Hill-Wood* 41  
*Hobart Town* 11  
*Holbeche and Addenbroke* 62,89  
*Holbeche, Mr Vincent* 44  
*Holly* 96  
*Holly Hurst* 95  
*Holly-lane* 46  
*Holt, Sir Charles* 98  
*Holt, Sir Chas* 95  
*Holts* 50  
*Holy Trinity Church* 29  
*Homer, Edward* 97  
*Homer, William* 56,72  
*Horses* 69,70,97  
*House of Plantagenet* 14  
*Houses, inhabited* 56  
*Houses, uninhabited* 56  
*Hume's, Mr - History of England* 27  
*Icknild-Street* 15  
*Impost tax* 9  
*Inclosure* 64,76  
*Inclosure Act* 19,63,83  
*Inclosure Award* 84  
*Inclosure, Aston and Witton* 67  
*Incorporation* 24  
*Incorporation of Sutton* 21  
*Indenture* 69  
*Infants School, Sutton Coldfield* 90  
*Inge, Wm* 9  
*Injunction* 73,75  
*Insolvent Act* 11  
*Isles* 22,24  
*Jacob, Mrs* 40  
*Jacot, William, of New Hall* 87  
*Jenkes, Mrs Mary* 43  
*Jesson* 35  
*Jesson, Ann* 36  
*Jesson, Hannah Freeman* 36  
*Jesson, Henry* 36  
*Jesson, Mr Thomas* 41  
*Jesson, Mrs* 41  
*Jesson, William* 36  
*Jesson, William Ash* 36  
*Jesson's Trust* 44  
*Jessons Family* 37  
*Johnson, John* 47  
*Jury* 62  
*Keeper's Pool* 95,98  
*Keeper's-spring* 98  
*King Charles the 1<sup>st</sup>* 63  
*King Henry* 58  
*King Henry 8<sup>th</sup>* 17,24,59,61  
*King James 1<sup>st</sup>* 40  
*King's Books* 28  
*King's Standing* 63  
*King-maker* 14  
*Knitting* 79,80  
*Lady Jane Gray* 27  
*Lady Jane Grey* 26  
*Lady Wood* 95,96  
*Landlords* 65  
*Langley* 37  
*Lawley, Sir Francis* 9  
*Lawley, Sir Robert* 31  
*Layman* 6  
*Lease of school* 83  
*Leases* 53  
*Leather buckets* 49  
*Leather mill* 100  
*Leigh, Willm* 9  
*Letters-patent* 61  
*Letting* 53  
*Lichfield* 13,16  
*Lichfield Road* 63  
*Lilford, Northamptonshire* 17  
*Linen* 80  
*Ling* 97  
*Lisbon* 35  
*Little Sutton* 41  
*Little Sutton* 40,41,64,79,80,86  
*Little Sutton common* 47

*Little–Aston* 68  
*Living* 29,30  
*Lloyds & Co* 62  
*London and North Western*  
*Long Lane* 44  
*Long Leasow* 41  
*Longmoor Mill* 99  
*Lord Chancellor* 74  
*Lord High Steward* 62  
*Lord of the Manor* 62,69  
*Lordship* 21  
*Lot acre System* 64  
*Lowe, Mr Paul* 19  
*Lowr Nut Hurst* 95  
*Luttrell, Simon* 55  
*Lynch, Elizabeth Pudsey* 36  
*Maces* 83  
*Magdalen College, Oxford* 17  
*Magistrates* 47,48  
*Maney* 41,50  
*Maney and the Wild* 64  
*Manor* 21,57,64  
*Manor and lordship* 53,63,  
67,69,97  
*Manor Farm* 50  
*Manor–hill* 100  
*Manor–House* 15,26,57  
*Manorial right* 67,68  
*Market day* 61  
*Market Place* 22,24,45,48,49  
*Mark–lane, London* 63  
*Marriage of poor maidens* 5,76  
*Mary* 19  
*Mary, Princess* 17  
*Mary, Queen* 23,26,27  
*Master* 6,18,77,80,85,86,95  
*Mathematics* 9  
*Mavesyn–Ridware* 101  
*Meadow* 24,100  
*Meadow–land* 50  
*Meer–green* 64  
*Mere Green* 86  
*Midsummer* 2  
*Mill Street* 49,50  
*Mill–dam* 50  
*Minors, Mrs* 31

*Minutes of Meetings* 6  
*Minworth–Greaves* 85  
*Mistress* 77,78,80  
*Mistress, salary of* 83,88  
*Monuments* 32,33,38  
*Moor Hall* 19,23,35,42,86  
*Moot–Hall* 12,22,24,  
40,49,89,95,103  
*Morass* 99  
*Mousley* 68  
*Mowbray, Miss* 87  
*Moxhul Hall* 35  
*Mud* 100  
*Mule* 70,97  
*Music wire* 101  
*Mylnes* 57  
*Nave* 31  
*Nether–Seal* 66  
*Neville, Richard* 14  
*New Hall* 33,61,87,101  
*New Hall Mill* 67,101  
*New Shipton* 1,56  
*New Shipton Farm* 43  
*Noel, Mrs* 87  
*Norman style* 88  
*Old Free School* 19  
*Old Poor–house* 85  
*Omnibus* 11  
*Open committees* 52  
*Open fields* 46,63,68  
*Organ* 22,24,32  
*Organ, Walmley* 97  
*Ostorius* 16  
*Oughton, Mr John* 101  
*Overseers of the Poor* 40  
*Packwood, Rev James* 62  
*Pail–Close, The* 41  
*Paling* 66  
*Parish Church* 40  
*Parish Plan* 43  
*Park* 57,66,69,96,99  
*Park keeper* 75  
*Park–keeper* 62,97  
*Park–keeper, coat and  
hat of* 83  
*Park–keeper, Salary of* 82

*Parnel, Mr. Edward* 2,3  
*Parsonage house* 29  
*Parsonage House, Walmley* 87,88  
*Parsonage-house, Hill* 86  
*Pasturage* 71  
*Pasturage, right of* 69  
*Pastures* 57  
*Paved the whole town* 22,24  
*Pearson, William Jesson* 35  
*Peat's bridge* 50,100  
*Peate, Mr Thomas* 43  
*Pedimore* 86  
*Peel, Robert* 61  
*Penn's Mill* 101  
*Pepys, Henry, Bishop of Worcester* 87  
*Perambulating the boundaries* 67  
*Perkins's Pool* 97  
*Petit jurors* 62  
*Pew* 31,32  
*Piepowder court* 62  
*Piggeries* 29  
*Pit-Close* 41  
*Pitman, Joseph* 100  
*Plan* 75,79  
*Plant, John* 50  
*Plant's Mill* 102  
*Play-ground* 6  
*Ploughing up* 60  
*Pool* 99  
*Pool Hollies* 95  
*Pool-dams* 45  
*Poor* 41,42,45,57,81,97  
*Poor inhabitants* 78,79,81,83  
*Poor Maidens* 18,  
*Poor maids* 59  
*Poor married women in child-bed* 80,81  
*Poor-Rates* 65  
*Population*  
*Possessioned* 67  
*Posts and rails* 96  
*Powell, Mr* 95  
*Powell's Forge and Mill* 99  
*Powers* 48  
*Powers, Edward* 46  
*Powers's Field* 47  
*Preparatory school* 79  
*Preparatory School, Sutton Coldfield* 90  
*Price of Acre of land* 27  
*Price of Beef, Pork, Mutton, Veal* 27  
*Price of Poultry, Cheese and Butter* 27  
*Prison* 22,24,49  
*Prison, The Old* 48  
*Proxies and Synods* 28  
*Psalm, 130<sup>th</sup>* 18  
*Publick Meeting* 5  
*Pudsey* 35  
*Pudsey, George* 37  
*Pudsey, Henry* 36,37  
*Pudsey, Jane* 37  
*Pulpit* 31,32  
*Pulpit-top* 32  
*Qualification for admission* 1  
*Queen Victoria* 9  
*Railway Company* 89  
*Reading* 2,7,9  
*Reading Class* 1  
*Reading of English* 2  
*Rector* 42  
*Redicup-heath* 48  
*Reeve, Mary* 42  
*Reformation* 18  
*Rents* 65  
*Replevin* 70  
*Revenues, Corporation Trust* 12  
*Rhetoric* 5,17  
*Richard 3<sup>rd</sup>* 14  
*Richard 3<sup>rd</sup>* 19  
*Riland Bedford Wm* 92  
*Riland Bedford, Rev William H* 92  
*Riland, Jn<sup>o</sup>* 29,30  
*Riland, John* 28,30  
*Riland, Lydia* 30  
*Riland, Mary* 30  
*Riland, Miss Lucy* 87  
*Riland, Phebe* 30  
*Riland, Rev John* 67

*Riland, Rev R.B.* 30,67  
*Riland, Rev Richard* 29  
*Riland, Rev. Richard Bisse* 29,31  
*Riland, Revd John* 38  
*Riland, Ric. Bisse* 28  
*Riland, Richard Bisse* 30  
*Ring fence* 14  
*Risley, Ann* 37  
*Risley, Paul* 37  
*Rivers, Tame and Bourne* 15  
*Road trustees* 84  
*Robinson, Rev. Gilbert William* 87,88  
*Roger, Earl of Warwick* 13,15  
*Rolling Mill, The* 100  
*Roman Camp* 16  
*Roman College* 46,67  
*Roman conquest* 15  
*Roubiliac* 36  
*Rowton Well,* 99  
*Royal Forest* 15  
*Royal Town* 61  
*Royal-Hotel* 31  
*Rules* 6  
*Russell's Reports* 9,104  
*Ryder, Henry, Bishop of Lichfield  
and Coventry* 86  
*Ryland, John* 28  
*Ryland, Ric.* 28  
*Sacheverell, Anna* 33  
*Sacheverell, George* 33,42  
*Sacheverell, Val* 33  
*Sacheverell, Valens* 42  
*Sacrament Vessels, Walmley  
Church* 87  
*Sadler, Edward* 75  
*Sadler, Mr Edward* 74  
*Saint Thomas's day* 44  
*Salary of Master* 6  
*Salary of park-keeper* 97  
*Santarem* 35  
*Saws* 100  
*Saws, 98,100*  
*Saxons* 13,16  
*Saxton, Rev SC* 86  
*Scheme* 5  
*Scheme, New* 5,8,10  
*Scholars* 6  
*Schol-house* 6  
*School* 78,85  
*School at Sutton* 79,80  
*School of industry* 79,80,81  
*School trustees* 84  
*School-house* 6,10,19,77,85  
*School-house, Old* 84  
*Schoolmaster* 3,11,19,85,86  
*Schoolmaster, Salary of* 86  
*School-room* 4,77  
*Scorbutic eruptions* 99  
*Scott, Sir John* 72,74  
*Scott, Wellbeloved* 61  
*Sedge* 100  
*Sedgwick, Mr Raphael* 40  
*Seighford* 40  
*Serjeants at Mace* 62,69,75,82  
*Serjeants, cloaks and hats of* 83  
*Serjeants-at-mace, Salary of* 82  
*Sessions* 75  
*Severn* 16  
*Sewing* 79  
*Sharrat-Field* 41  
*Shaw, Rev. Stebbing* 13  
*Sheep* 69,97  
*Sheets* 81  
*Shelton, John* 28  
*Shenstone* 68  
*Sherralds* 41  
*Shovels, 98,100*  
*Shropshire* 63  
*Shutt, Mr Joseph* 3  
*Silton, Robt* 28  
*Smith, Mr Solomon* 91  
*Smith, Mr Thos* 87  
*Smoke* 99  
*Soils* 65  
*Somerville, Captain* 50,61  
*Sound board* 31  
*Southampton* 15  
*Spades, 98,100*  
*Spelling* 2  
*Spencer, Rev. Benjamin* 56  
*Spinning* 79  
*Spooner, Isaac* 31

*Sporting* 54  
*Sportsmen* 54  
*Spring* 98,99  
*Springs* 97  
*St Georges day* 42  
*St Mary–Hall* 19  
*St Thomas’s day* 40,42  
*St Thomas’s day* 42  
*St. Andrew, Ann,* 37  
*St. Andrew, Elizabeth* 37  
*St. Andrew, Frances* 37  
*St. Andrew, Henry,* 37  
*St. Andrew, Jane* 37  
*St. Andrew, John* 37  
*Staffordshire* 13  
*Star Chamber* 57  
*Steam–power* 101  
*Steer* 70  
*Stockings* 80  
*Stocks* 48  
*Stone–houses* 21,24  
*Stone–houses* 24  
*Strangers* 97  
*Stratford on Avon* 48  
*Stretly Wood* 95  
*Studhome, Robert* 50  
*Study* 4  
*Subscription* 72  
*Sutton Chase* 15  
*Sutton Cofield or Coldfield* 13  
*Sutton Coldfield* 23  
*Sutton market* 17  
*Sutton Park* 14,15,16,68,70,71,73,  
76,77,80,95,97,102,103  
*Swinburne, Mr. Henry* 1  
*Swinburne, Mr. Hy* 2  
*Tablets* 32,33  
*Talavera–de–la–Regna* 35  
*Tame, River* 68,102  
*Tamworth* 13  
*Taxes* 5  
*Taylor, William* 57  
*Tenants* 65  
*Tenements,* 57,84  
*Terry, Esq* 61  
*Terry, Thomas* 76  
*Thimble–end, Walmley* 89  
*Thornhaugh, Francis, of Fenton* 37  
*Thornhaugh, Jane* 37  
*Three Oslets* 44  
*Three–Tunns Inn* 76  
*Thursfield, John* 62  
*Tiles,* 98  
*Tillage* 57,60  
*Tilt–hammer* 98  
*Timber* 100  
*Timber* 55,60,71,73,76,80,96  
*Tithes* 96  
*Top of the town* 5  
*Tower* 31  
*Tower of London* 26  
*Town Hall* 5,45,48,49  
*Town Hall, Old* 54  
*Treasurers* 6  
*Trent* 16  
*Trustees of Grammar School* 5  
*Turnpike Road* 13,46,50,100  
*Tutor to Lady Mary* 24  
*Twamley, Edward* 50,66  
*Twamley, Samuel* 1  
*Twamley, William* 56,67,69,76  
*Twamley, Z* 75  
*Twamleys* 101  
*Two Long–lane Pieces* 44  
*Tyne–mouth* 15  
*Tythe Commutation* 63  
*Tythe–free* 63  
*Tythe–rent* 63  
*Tythes* 63,65  
*Under–master* 1,2,6,7  
*Underwood* 71  
*Upper Nut Hurst* 95  
*Vaccination* 81  
*Valley Wood* 95  
*Van dieman’s land* 11  
*Vesey (als’ Harman, John)* 24  
*Vesey (John Harman)* 17  
*Vesey Monument* 23  
*Vesey, Bishop* 5,19,22,37  
*Vesey’s house* 23  
*Vestry* 31  
*Wales, President of* 17,24

*Wall* 16  
*Walmley* 80,86,88  
*Walmley Church* 88,89  
*Walmley Old School* 89  
*Walsall* 68,99  
*Warden* 10,49,54,61,67,69,82,  
90,97  
*Warden and Corporation* 40  
*Warden and Fellowship* 21  
*Warden and Society* 24,51,59,70,  
71,74,76,95,62  
*Warden, first* 21  
*Warden's Accompts* 90  
*Warden's choice* 62,81,83  
*Warmley Ash* 64  
*Warmly* 56  
*Warwick* 13,47,48  
*Warwick Court-house* 105  
*Warwick Town-hall* 105  
*Waste* 53  
*Waste Lands* 53,63,64,84  
*Water* 97,98  
*Water-Orton* 24  
*Water-Orton Holms* 68  
*Watling-Street* 16  
*Watson, Gul.* 28  
*Webb, Dr Wm* 31  
*Webb, Mr William* 3,18  
*Webb, Mr. Wm* 2  
*Webb, William* 1  
*Webster and Son, Joseph* 101  
*Webster, Joseph* 101,102  
*Webster, Rev Montagu* 87  
*Weeford* 31  
*Weekly Market* 13  
*Weighing machine* 83  
*Weighing-house* 95  
*Weights and mesures* 83  
*Wellington, Lord* 35  
*West-bromwich* 99  
*Westwood Coppice* 95  
*Wheeler, Mr Thomas* 41  
*Whiting, Mr.* 87  
*Wiccian Ceangi* 16  
*Widow* 43  
*Wiggan, Mr John, of Birmingham,*  
*Gun Maker* 98  
*Wigginhill* 86  
*Wild Green* 40  
*Wilkins, John* 41  
*William 3<sup>rd</sup>* 30  
*William the Conqueror* 13,26  
*Williamson, Dr. Richd* 86  
*Williamson, Rev Richard* 90  
*Williamson, Rev Richd* 87  
*Williamson, Rev. Edm<sup>d</sup>* 30  
*Williamson, Ric.* 28  
*Williamson, Richard* 92  
*Wilmcote* 48  
*Wilmot* 9  
*Wilmot, Jn<sup>o</sup>* 9  
*Wilson, Judge* 73  
*Wilson, Mary* 34  
*Winchester* 15  
*Windley Pool* 100  
*Wire drawing* 101  
*Wire spinning* 101  
*Wire trade* 102  
*Wishaw-lane* 86  
*Wood* 55  
*Wood, John* 69  
*Woods* 96  
*Woollen-Cloth* 21  
*Workhouse* 49  
*Wright, Josiah* 11,12  
*Writing* 2,7,9,79  
*Wyrley, John* 25  
*Wyrley, John, Knight, of Hamstead* 24

