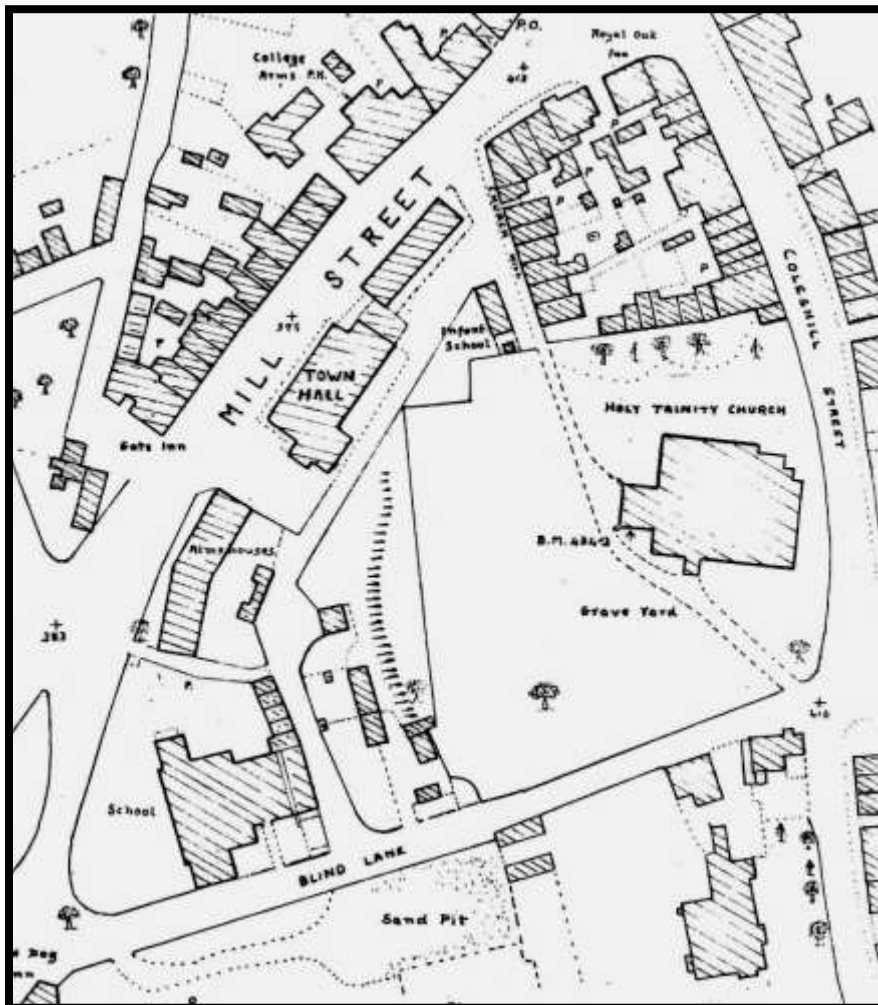


Church Hill, Coleshill Street and Mill Street

Part 6

Coleshill Street



1886 Survey Map

By Keith Jordan

(Member of the Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group)

December 2020

COLESHILL STREET

The start of Coleshill Street can be found at the point where the High Street, looking from the direction of Lichfield, swings to the right and joins the top of Mill Street, just prior to its descent into Sutton Coldfield and Lower Parade.

Coleshill Street initially runs beside Vesey Gardens on its right hand side and then subsequently Holy Trinity Church. In a relatively short distance it forms a crossroads with Rectory Road to the left and Trinity Hill to the right. The street continues sharply downhill until it ends at a further crossroads, this time joining with Coleshill Road, Victoria Road and Upper Holland Road.

Coleshill Street is one of the oldest streets in Sutton Coldfield and, as mentioned in an earlier section, some 800 years ago it formed the basis of the Earl of Warwick's newly-laid out town together with High Street and Mill Street. In the fashion of the time, the convergence of these three roads formed a large triangular market place, as can be seen by the sketch below:-

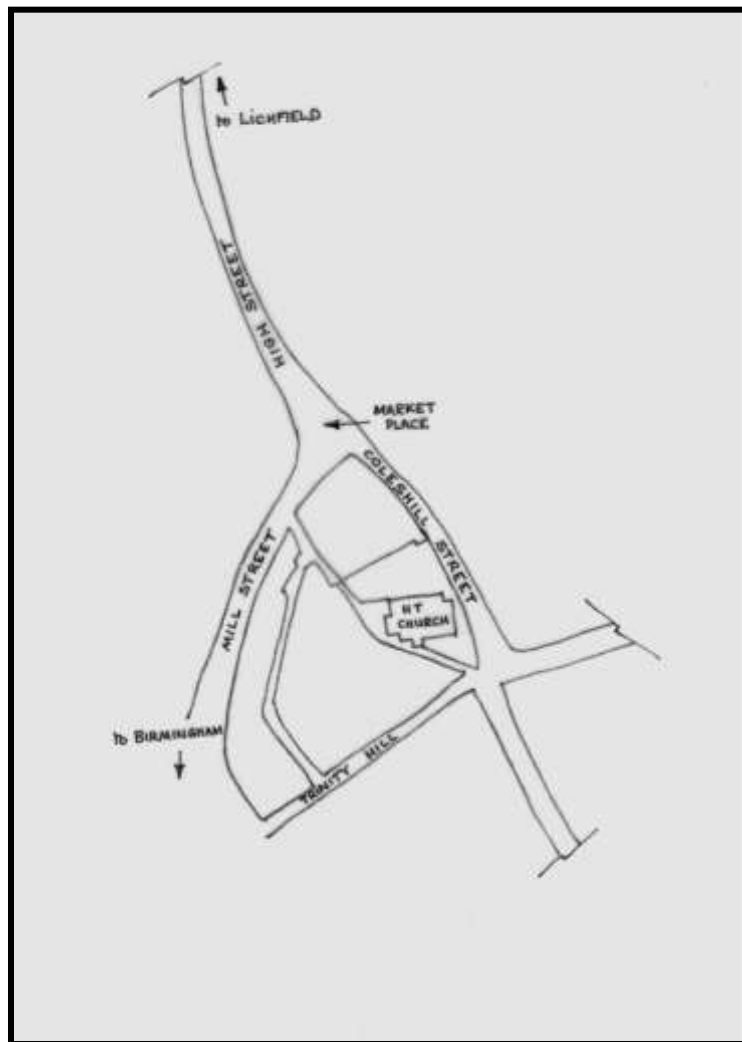


Fig 1 Hand drawn sketch of the layout of High Street, Mill Street and Coleshill Street, by Keith Jordan. Not to scale.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

It was in 1298 that the Crown officially gave the Earl of Warwick the right to hold a weekly market and annual fair in Sutton. The market charter would have formalised an existing situation, since Sutton had almost certainly become the local market centre before then and would also have served the surrounding settlements.

Later map evidence indicated a typical funnel-shaped market place just to the north of the church at the junction of the roads from Birmingham. Map evidence also suggests that the linear settlement had at least a partially planned layout because, on the eastern side of High Street and Colehill Street, generous house plots were regularly laid out with large crofts to the rear. These ran down to the glebe lands at the valley bottom. This plot sequence seems to have extended from the site of the present Moat House on Lichfield Road to a site identified with the present houses Nos. 57-59 Colehill Street.

The founding of Holy Trinity Parish Church also falls in line with this period as, it is thought, the original structure dated from between 1250 and 1290, although it was not until 1287 that it was first recorded.

During the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century, however, Sutton appears to have suffered a period of decline. Sutton Coldfield therefore owes an enormous debt to John Harman, later John Vesey (1462-1554), who became Bishop of Exeter during the reign of King Henry VIII and under whom he received significant patronage.

He was behind the licence for a weekly market and two annual fairs granted in 1519 and persuaded the King to give borough status to the town. During his period in office he was also able to obtain from the King a Charter, which bestowed upon the town the Chase and Park of Sutton Coldfield and the title of 'Royal Town' in 1528.

Up until the 1630's, buildings in the town were constructed in the local sandstone or were timber framed. Nos. 1-3 Colehill Street exemplifies the sandstone type and can be dated to the fifteenth or sixteenth century. Nos. 57-59 Colehill Street provides an example of timber framing during the same period.

Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, when Charles II came to the throne after a period in exile, there occurred a growth of urbanism and a consequent rise in the status of towns. This was reflected in a surge of building activity lasting well into the 18th Century. During this time there was resurgence in classical building forms and, as this trend continued, the town's appearance began to change.

New houses, built for prosperous tradesmen, men in professional occupations and country gentry, who took up residence on High Street and Colehill Street, were constructed according to classical principles, while many existing properties were given increased status through the addition of a classical façade. In addition, local stone and timber framing gave way to fashionable brick. No. 1 Colehill Street re-fronted in 1712 was an early example of this trend.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

John Snape's plan of Sutton Coldfield, prepared for the local landowner Andrew Hacket, provided the first detailed cartographic evidence for the town. It shows High Street, Mill Street and Colleshill Street as built up, with almost continuous frontages.

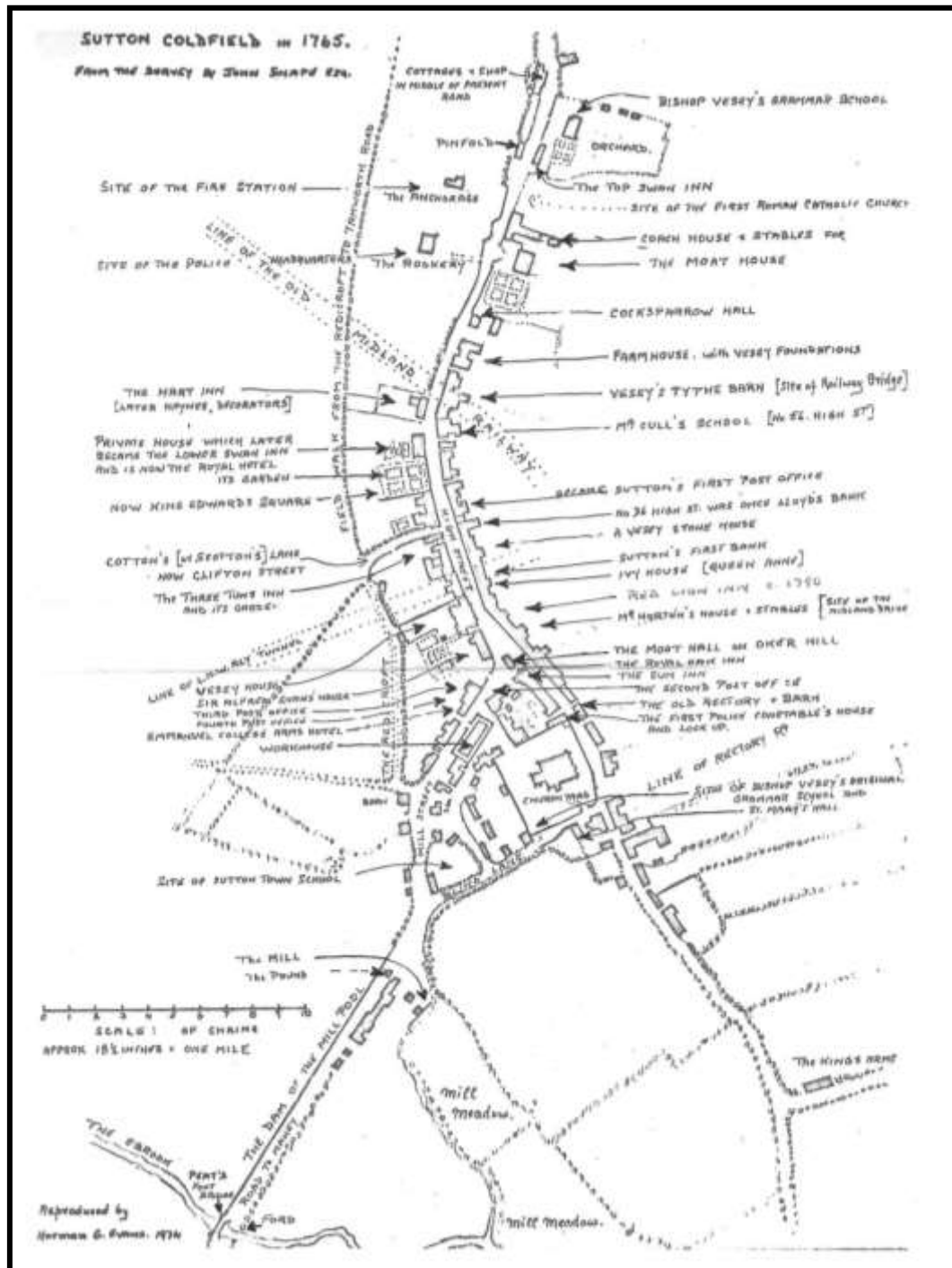


Fig. 2 Map of Sutton Coldfield Town in 1765 by John Snape, reproduced with additional information provided by Norman G Evans 1974.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

First hand accounts by people who actually lived in Coleshill Street are hard to find, but we are extremely lucky to have in Sutton Coldfield Library a copy of a diary written by Richard Holbeche in 1892. It is a recollection of the places he knew and the people he met during the period of his childhood, whilst living in the company of family, relatives and friends in and around the quiet rural town. It provides a wealth of detail and insight into the life and times of the mid 19th Century and by utilising the information and comparing it with the early Census Returns, a fuller picture of the residents can be obtained.

He started his narrative by describing the property he lived in at 1-3 Coleshill Street and some of his observations included the following:-

“Its front was to the town, not a fine front by any means, and giving really little indication of the excellent interior, and a lovely view at the back.”



Fig. 3 Front elevation of Nos. 1-3 Coleshill Street, circa 1950.

Unusually, his main comments were reserved for the rear of the house, for which he ventured the following:-

“The east or garden side was, and is, picturesque to a degree. A long, not low house, covered from ground to roof with large leafed ivy, the three large gables and one small one edged with broad barge-boards, irregular windows, no two being of the same size or in the same plane, giving it an air of quaintness which the inside quite bore out.”

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)



Fig. 4 Rear elevation of Nos. 1-3 Coleshill Street. The gable ends referred to and some of the differing window sizes can clearly be seen. Photograph taken circa 1850's.

“To the south stood a very old rough stone continuation, used as offices, with old mullioned windows, bricked-up ages ago and beyond a large tythe barn, with a granary and enormous loft which, when we were young, was a paradise. It was here that we could hide ourselves in the straw, build eaves with the hay trusses or, when the loft was full, slide from roof to floor. From the granary was a windlass and rope running through a trap door to the yard below, or rather through the great archway, which led from the street to the yard.”



Fig. 5 Looking upwards towards the trap door leading from the tythe barn and granary, taken in 1995.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)



Fig. 6 The great archway, which led from the street into the yard, taken in 1995. Note the original exposed stonework behind the rendering.

“A three-stalled stable, saddle room, dairy and pig sty bounded this yard on three sides, while the fourth was taken up by the orchard.”

Richard Holbeche then went on to describe a little of the interior of the house, as follows:-

“It had a good Hall, with a heavy dark oak staircase, the floor being large alternate squares of blue and white stone. These quarries I have heard my father say were given to him by Mr Hacket (another prominent citizen of Sutton at the time). A glass door opened to the garden, which was reached by fine white steps. The Breakfast Room was on the right of the entrance and had been used in my Grandfather’s time as the Drawing Room, the room on the left being the Day Nursery and having a swing hanging from the beam in the ceiling.

The house had been wittily described as a rabbit warren, a very good simile, for the numerous rooms led into each other in a most perplexing way, especially to a stranger. There was no passage in the entire building.”

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

He then went on to make a brief mention of the town:-

“Sutton Coldfield in the early 1850’s had not I should imagine, with the exception of the dam, changed for a century. The streets took roughly the form of a capital ‘Y’ with its tail northward, but now streets and roads extend in every direction. Alas for the old field walks, quiet lanes and picturesque black and white cottages.”

Of great interest was a section in the diary which Richard Holbeche devoted to describing the people who lived and worked in Coleshill Street. He started by saying:-

“Opposite to us lived Betty Perkins, a stout and ancient dame and the mother of Mrs Weaver. Both they and their next door neighbour Mrs Allen sold cheap sweet stuffs much affected by my brother Aemilian and myself. There was rivalry between these two trades’ people, which occasionally culminated in bad language.”

Elizabeth Perkins aka 'Betty' appeared on the first Census Return in 1841. At the time she was noted as being aged 50 and married to Joseph Perkins also aged 50, who was an Agricultural Labourer. They had three daughters; all employed in general domestic service and one son named John, aged 14.

The next Census Return, taken in 1851, showed the couple were still in residence but all their four children had moved away from the family home. Joseph Perkins was still an Agricultural Labourer and 'Betty' was described as a Shopkeeper. We now know that Joseph originally hailed from Yardley which, at that particular time, was classified as being in Worcestershire. Betty was born in Sutton Coldfield. The couple were both aged 67 on this census, so it appears the census in 1841 was incorrect, especially as Richard Holbeche described her as "a stout and ancient dame".

Mrs Weaver was obviously one of Betty's daughters but, whether it was Hannah, Ester or Elizabeth, is not known.

Mrs Allen, mentioned by Richard Holbeche as being the next door neighbour of the Perkins, must remain a complete mystery, as her name does not appear on any of the listings of the time.

“The Shorts, a worthy couple, lived next door and had a relation named Moses Dyke. They re-built their house in 1862.”

John and Catherine Short were a married couple with two children. John Short was aged 48 on the 1851 Census Return and was an Agricultural Labourer by trade. His wife Catherine was aged 51. Both were born just outside the boundary of Sutton, John coming from Middleton, Warwickshire and Catherine from Shenstone, Staffordshire. Their two children were both born in Sutton. Daughter Sarah, aged 12, was noted as being a scholar and son, Thomas, was only two years of age. In addition, there was Mabel Duke, described as a 'nurse child' aged 3. At the time this term was one used for a child where a woman was paid to care for it, either by wet-nursing a baby or simply looking after an older infant, the latter being a child up to the age of 7 or 8. In most cases the child would have been born illegitimate and this method would enable the real mother free to find employment and thus earn money to live. Failure to do this would only leave the final option of the Workhouse, which everyone wished to avoid if at all possible. The nearest modern equivalent to the description today would be that of a 'foster child'. It is perhaps why Richard Holbeche described them as "a worthy couple".

The 1871 Census Return still places them in Coleshill Street. By this time, however, they were living on their own. John Short was supplementing his wages as an Agricultural Labourer with that of a Milkman, perhaps making a very early start to his day.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

When one takes into account his age, which was 76, it highlights the harshness of the times. No 'final salary pension plan' was available to him then! His wife was also helping out by working as a Dairy Woman, despite being 71 years of age.

Short is mentioned in the Sutton Coldfield Poor Rate Book for 1845 and also in the Register of Electors for 1851-52. The Poor Rate Book for 1861 confirms he was both owner & occupier of his property, which was described as a 'House & Yard'.

“Who kept the ‘Old Sun’ before William Betts I do not know. I do know that Betts must have been a very popular host for, in the pre-railway days, his house was a great meeting place for Birmingham tradesmen who, on Sundays, drove their wives in gay bonnets to take the Sutton air. They came in smart dog-carts drawn by fast trotting ponies of a type not now met with.”

The person who ran the 'Old Sun', prior to William Betts, was John Alldridge, whose family had been in charge since 1809.

Please refer to PART 3 (The 'Old Sun' Public House) for more details.

The name William Betts was first mentioned on the 1841 Census Return, when he was noted as living with his father, mother, sister and brother in Coleshill Street. His father Thomas, aged 35, was a Farmer and his mother Hannah was the same age.

His sister, also named Hannah, was 15 and his brother George was 4.

Ten years later the family were still together, except for his sister Hannah, who had moved away.

William had become a Road Surveyor and his brother George was at school. Nothing more is heard from William until he took over the 'Old Sun' from John Alldridge in 1857. He remained 'mine host' for over 10 years until 1868. He died shortly afterwards in 1869 without ever reaching the age of 40. He left a widow, Jane, also aged 40 and two sons, Thomas aged 10 and George aged 7.

The Poor Rate Book for 1861 stated that the 'Old Sun' was owned during this time by William Goodwin and Thomas Frederick Thorpe. The description of the property was that of a Public House & Garden.

“Neale and his wife took the next house when they moved from the cottage opposite. They were quiet chapel-going people and one of their sons George was a clerk in my father’s office. Neale was a boot maker, bent and bandy legged and attended, after the old Town Hall was pulled down, to the weighbridge, often called the Pepper Pot, which rose on its ashes”.

Joseph Neale, aged 45, first appeared on the 1861 Census Return. He was described as a Shoemaker and he employed two assistants, which indicated he had a thriving business. His wife Elizabeth was of similar age and originated from Baxterley in Warwickshire. They had two sons George, aged 15 and Henry, aged 13. As Richard Holbeche mentioned, George Neale worked in the Offices of Holbeche & Co. as an Office Boy, whilst his brother went to school. 1871 saw them continuing to live in Coleshill Street, although both sons had moved away. However, at the time of the census, they were looking after their young grandson Henry, aged 4, who was born in Stafford.

Ten years later the couple were still in the same property, with their grandson remaining in their care. He was now aged 14 and attending school. It would appear from this that Henry, their younger son, had relinquished his responsibility in the matter.

The Poor Rate Book for 1861 indicated that their home, described as a house & garden, was owned by Vincent Holbeche, Richard Holbeche's father.

Joseph Neale continued to be included in the Sutton Coldfield Directories for many years, the last entry being for 1880 and, as he was then in the region of 65, may have retired from business.

“Then came the Botterils, man and wife. Botteril did not seem to do much towards supporting the establishment but was generally to be found walking slowly in the park, his left hand under his coat tails, his right having a brown worsted glove for covering. I remember him so well, walking with his head down, as if he had trouble. Mrs Botteril was a busy person and she too sold sweet stuff, chiefly peppermint sticks, spiral with brightly coloured lines. She also sold flour and grain. We bought bran there for our rabbits.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

Over her door was an elliptical board and in faint white letters could be read ‘Jane Botterill, licensed to sell tea, coffee, vinegar, tobacco and snuff’. She must have been a good woman for, when Aemilian and I broke her window with a pea-shooter from the loft window, she came to her door and shrieked in a high falsetto “I’ll tell your Pa” and retreated quickly fearing a volley. She never did tell or we should have remembered it.”

The 1841 Census Return showed that Thomas Botterill was aged 55 at the time and a Shopkeeper by trade. His wife Mary was aged 60 and they had two children, the elder being a daughter named Frances, who was aged 25 and a son named Henry, aged 10. Sarah Botterill, aged 75, was also living with them and this, presumably, was Thomas's mother.

Ten years later, the 1851 census showed a number of changes. His wife Mary must have died in the interim period because Jane Botterill, aged 46, is noted as being his wife. His mother Sarah Botterill was also no longer mentioned and, she too, had probably passed away. Staying with them was his son-in-law Henry Scott, aged 34, a Clerk from Gloucestershire, who had married his daughter Frances, now aged 37.

Thomas was born in Leicestershire, as was his daughter and that was where, it can be assumed, he met and married his first wife Mary. Jane Botterill was a local woman, having been born in Sutton Coldfield.

The 1861 Census Return shows Jane as a widow, aged 56, and living on her own. Her trade was noted as a Grocer & Hosier and this would explain the sign above her shop, which Richard remarked upon. She had also taken in a lodger, a Seamstress named Maria Johnson from Bromsgrove in Worcestershire, who was aged 54 and unmarried. She may have been good company on occasion for Jane, now that her husband had died and her family moved away.

Jane Botterill appears once again, this time on the 1871 census. She was still living in Coleshill Street and running her Grocer & Hosier shop. She was now 66 years of age and continued to have a lodger, but this time it was a James Adcock, aged 36, an unmarried Hairdresser from nearby Wishaw in Warwickshire. To help her in her advancing years, she employed a young local girl as a Domestic Servant, named Susan Discow, who was aged 16.

In the Sutton Coldfield Directory for 1850 Thomas Botterill is included as a Shopkeeper. This remained the case in 1854. The Poor Rate Book for 1861, however, noted Mrs Thomas Botterill as the occupier of the shop and Mr Edward Milner as the owner. It is therefore around this period that Thomas Botterill most probably died. The Sutton Coldfield Directories for 1866 and 1868 includes Jane Botterill as a Shopkeeper. The Poor Rate Book for 1871 showed Jane as the occupier of the shop and Mr William Goodwin as being the owner, having purchased the property from Mr Edward Milner. The last entry in the Sutton Coldfield Directory for Jane was in 1872.

Two more entries were found, in 1874 and for 1875-77, when James Botterill is mentioned, which is most likely to have been her son.

“Commander, the policeman (mark! the one and only policeman) lived in the white house next to the church yard. He was a smart and soldier-like man.”

George Commander's name appeared on the 1861 Census Return. He was aged 31 and initially came from Leamington Spa in Warwickshire. His wife, Sarah, was born in Tamworth, Staffordshire and was 30 years of age. They had two children, a daughter named Mary, aged 2 and a son, George, who was only 2 months old at the time of the census.

It would seem, according to Richard Holbeche's description of him, that he had the appearance of a policeman, which would have stood him in good stead. His name was also more than apt for his profession.

This entry was the only one for George Commander and, as is the nature of the job, he was probably moved on to another area coupled, perhaps, with a promotion.

It is interesting to note that he was the only policeman in the town, which went some way to indicate its quiet, rural nature at the time.

“Next comes the dear old church. The churchyard was very badly kept and sheep grazed it. It was unenclosed and the Birmingham roughs used to sit and make a noise about Mary Ashford's grave during service.”

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

“At the corner of Blind Lane (now Trinity Hill) lived Smith the carrier and up the next steps big Charley, a huge and unwieldy shoemaker was to be found. He wore corduroy trousers, short in the leg and inordinately long in the waist.”

Like George Commander, Charles Smith was first noted on the 1861 Census Return. He was aged 28 at the time and born locally. His wife, Sarah, was a little older at 33 and she hailed from Birmingham. They had two young sons, John, aged 3, and Arthur aged 2.

Business as a Carrier must have provided a good steady income because, ten years later in 1871, Charles and Sarah had increased their family to six. The later additions were Ellen (9), Samuel (6), Maria (4) and a young child, Alfred, aged just 8 months. With the exception of Alfred, all were attending school.

The Smith family appeared once more on the 1881 census. By now Charles was aged 48 and Sarah 53. Most of their children had departed to make their own way in life, the exceptions being Arthur, now aged 22, who had followed in his father's footsteps and was working as a Carrier and Maria, aged 14, still attending school.

To supplement their income they had taken in lodgers; four in total. They were Laurence Inkerman, a Painter from Welford in Warwickshire, George Laker, a Groom from Gloucestershire and his wife Emma, a Dressmaker from Ducklington, Oxfordshire and finally, Albert Jordan, a Plasterer from the same small village, who may have been related to Emma, possibly her brother. Charles Smith's name was included in the Sutton Coldfield Directories as a Carrier in 1872, 1874, 1875-77, 1880 & 1888. The final entry found was in 1892 in the name of Mrs Sarah Smith, his wife.

Although by no means certain, big Charley may have been Charles Beard, who appeared just once on the census returns in 1871. He was aged 57, unmarried and came from Minchinhampton in Gloucestershire. He was noted as being a Shoemaker and so the brief description proffered by Richard Holbeche seems to fit. Charles Beard had two people lodging with him, these being Samuel Green, a married Agricultural Labourer, aged 54, from Brinklow, Warwickshire and a single, local man, aged 25, named Vincent Snead, who was a Hairdresser by trade.

Charles Beard's name appeared in the Sutton Coldfield Directories for the years 1866 (Shoemaker) and 1872, 1874 & 1875-77 (Boot & Shoemaker).



Fig 7. Property at the corner of Blind Lane and Coleshill Street, the home of Charles and Sarah Smith and Charles Beard. Circa 1950's. The house was demolished in 1959.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

“Beyond, in what is called Coleshill Lodge, (now the Rectory) Miss Ryland resided. My mother used to spend an evening with her occasionally and we went to escort her home. Miss Ryland was a very old lady and I should say she wore a wig. She was very nice and gentle and would go out in a bath chair, accompanied by her servant Smith.”

Miss Lucy Ryland was noted on the first Census Return, dated 1841. She was the daughter of the Reverend John Ryland and a spinster of independent means. At the time of the census she was 60 years of age. Two servants were mentioned namely; Ann Kesterton, aged 25 and Elizabeth Hickin, aged 20.

The following census in 1851 shows an anomaly with regards to Lucy Ryland's age, which was given as 74. In ten years therefore she had aged 14 years! A small additional item of information was gleaned, which was the fact she was born in Birmingham. One servant was indicated this time and she was Phoebe Jackson, only 14 years of age, born locally.

On the 1861 census, which would have been about the time Richard Holbeche was describing her, Lucy was 85 years of age. This time she was once more employing two servants, Mary Smith, a local woman, aged 53, who was the Cook and Phoebe Lloyd, aged 36, who was the Housemaid, from Flintshire in Wales. Both were unmarried, which was the custom of the time for people in service. In the Sutton Coldfield Directory for 1854, Lucy Ryland was classified under the heading of 'Gentry'. The Poor Rate Book, dated 1861, stated she was the Owner and Occupier of 'Coleshill Lodge', which was described as a House, Garden and Plantation. According to Sarah Holbeche, in her diary, Lucy Ryland died, aged 93, in June 1869. She later said that 'Coleshill Lodge' was sold to a Mr J C Jerome, who made alterations on behalf of Mr Bedford's tenancy and so it became the Rectory in the town. It is correct that in the Poor Rate Book for 1871 his name appeared as the owner of a garden, indicating perhaps that the property itself may have been unoccupied. However, between 1871 and 1879, the trail goes cold. It is known that by 1880 Edward John Brookes was the owner. Edward Brookes was a director of W Brookes & Sons Ltd., Saddlery Merchants of Walsall, who died on the 20/2/1913. At some point towards the end of the 1890's the property was purchased by George Herbert Lloyd, a Manufacturing Engineer, who died on the 7/1/1914. The Census Return for 1911 then listed Mr Leonard Clarke as the new owner, although it is not known how long his residency lasted. It is known, however, from the Register of Electors, that the house was in the possession of Mr Thomas Bloore during the latter part of the 1920's, the whole of the 1930's and into the 1940's. In the 1950's it became known as 'The Rectory' and it is now named 'Bishops Lodge' and has become the official residence of the Bishop of Aston.



Fig 8. 'Coleshill Lodge' can be seen on the left hand side of the street before Holy Trinity Church. The photograph was taken circa 1860, about the time Lucy Ryland was in occupation.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)



**Fig 9. The house where Miss Lucy Ryland lived.
Photo taken approximately 130 years later in 1996.**

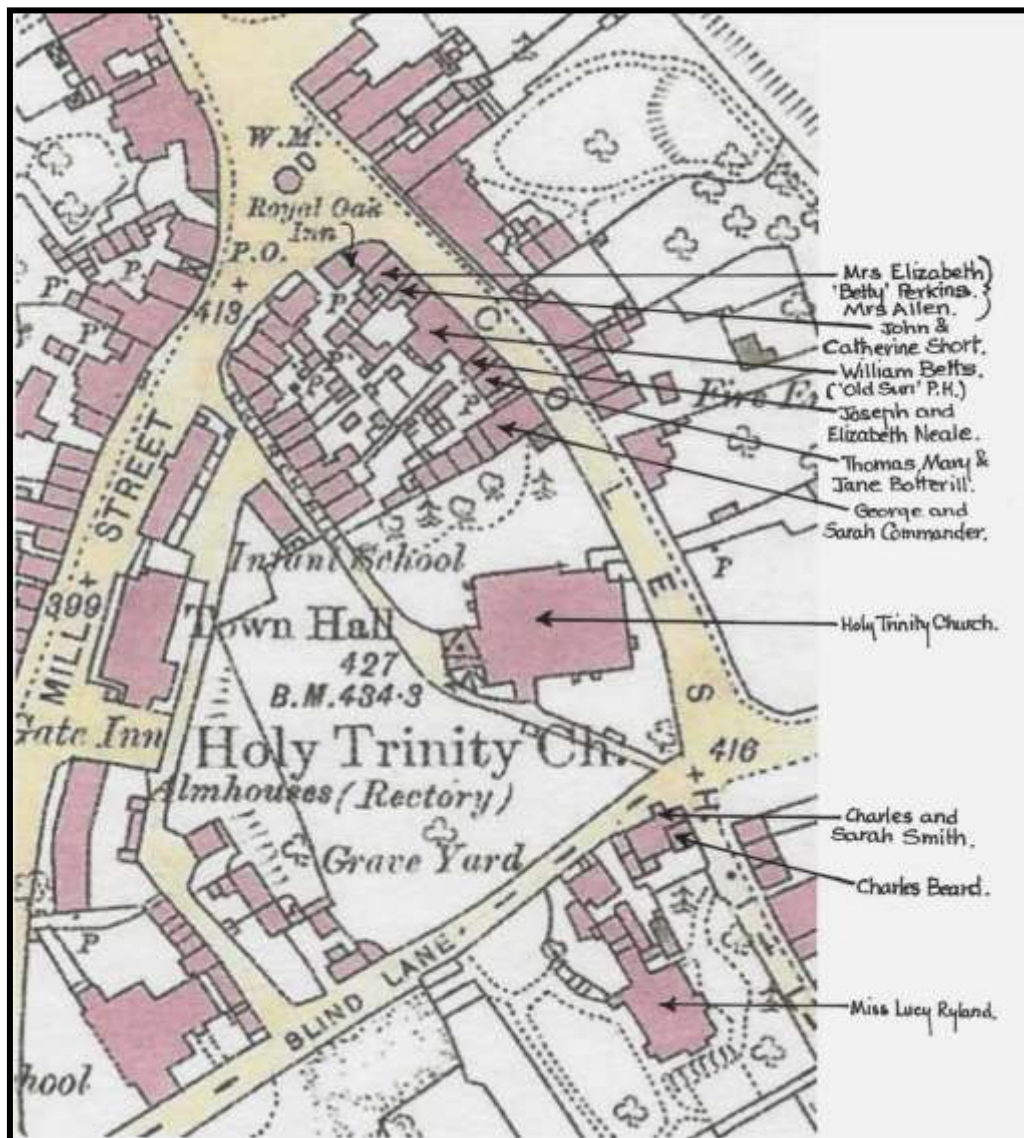


Fig 10. Ordnance Survey Map dated 1886, indicating the various individuals from the descriptions provided by Richard Holbeche in his diary, who lived on the opposite side of the street to the Holbeche residence.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

“A little lower down, on the opposite side of the road, the Misses Shaw kept a school in a pretty white cottage.”

The Shaws appeared on the first Census Return in 1841. Mary Shaw, the mother, aged 50, who was a School Mistress, was mentioned along with her three daughters, Mary, aged 20, Lucy, aged 18 and Jane, aged 13.

The 1851 census confirmed that Mary Shaw, now aged 60, was a widow and an Annuitant. This probably just meant she had been granted an annual allowance from her deceased husband and was a person of Independent Means. Two of her three daughters still lived with her namely; Mary, aged 30 and Lucy, aged 28. Another daughter Emily Jessie, aged 21, seems to have become involved. They were all designated as School Mistresses. The school, which they ran, was described in the Sutton Coldfield Directory for 1854 as being a Ladies' Boarding and Day School. It would, however, have had relatively few pupils. The Shaw family were all locally born in Sutton.

The Shaw family were once more mentioned on the 1861 census. It indicated that Mary Shaw was now aged 73, thereby causing a slight anomaly, and a Landed Proprietor, which indicated that, perhaps, she owned another property, properties and/or land, from which she derived additional income by way of rent. Her three daughters, all unmarried, were noted as being 48, 44 and 32, respectively, which causes even more confusion! The Sutton Coldfield Poor Rate Book for that year shows Mr Henry E F Shaw, her son, as being the owner, the description being a House and Garden.

The 1871 census noted more changes had occurred. Mary Shaw, the mother, was now deceased and the new head of the household was Elizabeth Mary Shaw, aged 58, the owner, with the title of Governess. Lucy, aged 55, and Emily, aged 43, were both residing at the property, but both were called Assistant Governesses. In 1872 it was just described as a Day School so, perhaps, the school had reduced in size and they were each individually responsible for just one or two pupils?

Lucy and Emily Shaw are both shown on the 1881 census. They are spinsters, Lucy is aged 65 and designated head of the family and Emily is aged 53. The school has now closed and each is described as an Annuitant.

The 1891 census finds the sisters still residing in Coleshill Street. Lucy is 75 and Emily is 63 and both are described as having their Own Means. The Burgess Roll for 1890-91 indicated that Emily was the owner and, from this point in time, it is just her name that appears.

Incredibly, the 1901 census confirms that Lucy, aged 85, and Emily, aged 73, are alive and well and in the same home they had lived in for over 60 years. In fact Miss Emily Jessie Shaw's name continued to appear on the Burgess Roll until 1909-10, when she would have been aged 81 plus.

The Shaws were indeed a very long lived family.

“Some doors above in the graceful little house was their brother, a doctor and great friend of ours. He always had something pleasant to say when we met. He had a brown snuff-box.”

Henry Edward Farnell Shaw MRCS, LSA., a Surgeon, lived a few houses up from his mother Mrs Mary Shaw and his sisters. His name did not appear on the 1841 Census Return, but he was included on the next one in 1851. Sadly, he was already described as a widower at the very early age of 40. He lived in Coleshill Street with his brother Thomas F R Shaw, aged 32, who worked as a Clerk. They had two Domestic Servants, Mary Page, aged 24 from Atherstone in Warwickshire and a local girl named Esther Trent, aged 16.

The 1861 census showed Henry to have re-married, his new wife being Maria, aged 34. They had one young son named Henry J, aged 5. All were born in Sutton Coldfield. They had three servants, Ann Maskall, aged 22, a Nurse from Sutton, Elizabeth Farmer, aged 24, a Cook from Minworth, Warwickshire and William Jennings a young lad, aged 17, who was employed as a Stable Boy, who came from Middleton in Warwickshire.

Henry Shaw on the 1871 Census Return was aged 60 and, with his wife, they had a growing family. Henry J, aged 15, now had three sisters namely; Maria, aged 9, Elizabeth, aged 4 and Mary, aged 2. The three eldest were all attending school. Two servants were employed, Sarah Gwyn, a local girl who was a Children's Nurse, aged 19 and Elizabeth Woodcroft, aged 21, a General Domestic from Coleshill, Warwickshire.

The 1881 census indicated that Henry Shaw had sadly died and his widow, Maria, was the head of the family at the age of 55. Her three daughters were still living with her but her son, Henry J, was now studying as an Undergraduate at Oxford University. Maria employed one General Domestic Servant in the form of Emma Bolton, aged 30, from Salford, a small village near Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)



Fig 11. The row of cottages in Coleshill Street where H E Shaw and the Misses Shaw lived and worked. The photograph was taken circa 1970's

“Then in the first sandstone house lived Mr Eddowes, when he first came to Sutton and before he was married. Miss Bashford (Mrs Hayward) lived there afterwards.”

Richard Sadler, a well known Solicitor in Sutton, was taken ill in October 1855, so seriously in fact that he had to engage the immediate help of an assistant. He took on Thomas Eddowes, a young Solicitor, who had qualified in 1849. A week later the firm's name was changed to Sadler & Eddowes. Richard Sadler sadly died just over a year later on the 27th November 1856. The name of Thomas Storer Eddowes does not appear on the census until 1861, although it is known from the diary of Sarah Holbeche that he had moved to Coleshill Street in 1857, when she stated *“Mr Eddowes married Miss Margaret Macauley from Leicester this year coming to the small house next to Mr Packwood's.”* Thomas was aged 34 and came from Loughborough, Leicestershire. His wife was aged 25. Because of Sadler's long association with Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, after his death the Governors nominated Thomas Eddowes in his place, to the office of Treasurer of the School, at a salary of £20 per annum. In 1861 they celebrated the birth of their first child, Margaret Helen Eddowes. They employed no fewer than four servants in their new home. There was Margaret Barnes, aged 50, a Nurse who hailed from Woolwich in Kent, Fanny Grundy, aged 30, a Cook from Staffordshire, Esther Brookes, aged 28, a Housemaid, also from Staffordshire and finally Charles Gough, a young local lad, aged 17, who was their Groom. All the servants were unmarried, which was the custom.

At the time of the 1871 Census Return, Thomas Eddowes was aged 44 and his wife 35. Two children were mentioned and both attended school. Herbert M Eddowes was aged 8 and Agnes, his sister, was aged 6. They continued to have a number of servants which were Ann Bladon, aged 29, a Cook from Monmouthshire in Wales, Lucy Adams, aged 31, a Sewing Maid from Northamptonshire and Elizabeth Newbrooke, aged 22, a Housemaid from nearby Little Sutton.

That same year Thomas Eddowes was elected as Warden of Sutton, a post which he held for three years. Between 1871 and the next census the family moved to another, larger property. Although it was situated quite close to the Holbeche residence, it was classified as being in the High Street. In later years, it would have been positioned where the Midland Bank stood on the corner of Midland Drive. At the end of 1882, the family were in mourning, due to the fact that their eldest daughter Margaret Helen tragically died, aged just 21.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

However, better news for Thomas and Margaret occurred in 1890 when their son Herbert Macaulay Eddowes was admitted as a Solicitor, after being articled to his father. His middle name is explained by his mother being a relation of Lord Macaulay.

It is known that, at some point in time, the Eddowes family moved from their home in High Street to Tudor Hill.

By 1901, Thomas Eddowes had been Clerk to the Governors of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School for 45 years and he was now in his seventies. His son had tacitly taken over some of the work and attended the committee meetings, as his father's deputy. Thomas Eddowes finally died in 1903.

The firm of Solicitors Thomas Eddowes belonged to is still flourishing today. It has been in existence for over 360 years, since it was originally founded by Mr Sadler in 1650. It now conducts business, under the title of Eddowes, Perry & Osbourne, from its offices in High Street, Sutton Coldfield.



Fig 12. The sandstone house in Coleshill Street, which was occupied by Mr Thomas Eddowes when he first came to Sutton. The property in question is the upper one on the left hand side in the photograph, taken in 2012.

“Next to them were Mr Packwood and Miss Wildsmith. Mr Packwood, in his old age, taught us to hop, skip and jump in our Dining Room, when he came periodically for tea.”

Rev. James Packwood's name can be found on the 1841 Census Return. He was aged 45, his wife Alice being slightly younger at 40. Sarah Baylis, aged 20, was employed as a Domestic Servant. James was the curate to the Rector William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford of Holy Trinity Church and he would have undertaken all the duties required when the Rector was absent, which appears to have been for numerous lengthy periods during his equally long tenure. This is confirmed by Richard Holbeche, in his diary, in which he made the comment; *“The Rector was absent a good deal of the time and old Mr Packwood, the senior curate, did most of the work. He had a rather monotonous and soothing voice, so we frequently got into trouble for sleeping.”*

Packwood was also very active in the affairs of the town, being a member of the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield. He actually became Warden during the years 1829-30. According to local historian Norman Evans, he was called upon to assist with the translation of Henry VIII's charter from Latin, which the town initiated in 1849. In that same year he was elected one of the two 'Capital Burgesses', the previous holders, both having died, were Sir William Cradock Hartopp and John Oughton.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)



Fig 13. Rev. James Packwood, curate of Holy Trinity Church. Circa 1850.

The Census Return for 1851 showed James Packwood to be aged 57 and he was described as a Church Minister. We now know that he originated from Middlesex. His wife was aged 50 and she was born in Duffield, Derbyshire. Remarkably, their local Domestic Servant, Sarah Baylis, aged 37, was still in their employ. Sadly, from reading the diary of Sarah Holbeche we know that Alice died at a relatively young age, the year after the census was taken. On Page 41 (September 8th 1852) she commented; *"Mrs Packwood died, a good woman, beloved and honoured."*

The 1861 census indicated that James was now aged 67 and a Curate. Living with him was his niece, Sarah Wildsmith, aged 18, from Ripley in Derbyshire. Sarah Baylis continued to look after their needs.

This was to be the last entry for the Reverend Packwood as Sarah Holbeche related in her diary: Page 113 (December 10th 1867) *"Mr Packwood resigned."* and finally on Page 138 (March 14th 1869) *"Mr Packwood died, peace to his soul."* She attached a newscutting which said; 'On the 14th inst. at Sutton Coldfield, aged 79 years, the Reverend James Packwood, for more than forty years curate of that place, died. He was buried with his wife on the North side of the church on the 20th March. The Corporation attended as a last tribute to an honest, upright man.'

"Then came old Charles Smith. He was a genial and kindly man and had driven the Birmingham and Sutton coach."

Charles Smith, as owner/occupier, was first mentioned on the 1851 Census Return as head of the family, aged 61 and a Maltster. He was locally born and his wife Alicia was aged 68 and came initially from Whittington, Staffordshire. Living with them at the time was his nephew John Hill, aged 28, a Builder from Atherstone in Warwickshire. They employed one Domestic Servant, a young girl named Elizabeth Lamb, aged 15. According to Roger Lea, in one of his articles, the malthouse was at the rear of the property. He went on to add that Charles Smith had developed several other properties and so could afford to live well.

The 1861 census found Charles Smith living on his own, his wife having died. He still retained one servant, a 35 year old unmarried lady from Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Richard Holbeche further commented: *"His brother Harry at Whitehouse Farm, who had kept the 'Three Tuns' public house, was an equally nice old fellow. They both had many stories to tell of my Father's younger days."*

Sarah Holbeche, in her diary, mentioned that Charles Smith died on the 2nd January 1867. She went on to say that, *"He was associated with the early history of Sutton and my childish recollections of him being a carrier postman and the 'Chas Smith's Coach'."*

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

She also made the following comments at various times:-

(i) 1814 *"Charles Smith taking to the cart as carrier, the cart becoming a caravan, (which was a type of glorified wagon) and the only conveyance for passengers to Birmingham, except through coaches."*

(ii) 1816 *"Charles Smith exchanged his caravan for a coach, running four days a week – fare 4/- inside and 2/6d out; to see the coach service start was the event of the morning and what an event to go!!"*

(iii) 1/6/1834 *"Went by C Smith's coach to Birmingham."*

(iv) 8/8/1837 *"Charles Smith sold his coach to a company. He was an authority for things past, his memory so good with a spice of humour that always made his stories entertaining. He was not clever but always respectable and ready to help his neighbours. I never heard an evil word from him, or of him, and I believe he knew his God and trusted in his Saviour."*



Fig 14. Charles Smith.

Some 90 years later the property was showing its age and the last family to live there moved out in 1955, the building being demolished shortly afterwards.



Fig 15. Charles Smith's house in Colehill Street, taken in the 1950's.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

“Some pretty cottages came next with steps up to their front door, the end ones being half-timbered.”



Fig 16. Row of old cottages in Coleshill Street, with steps up to their front door. April 1939.

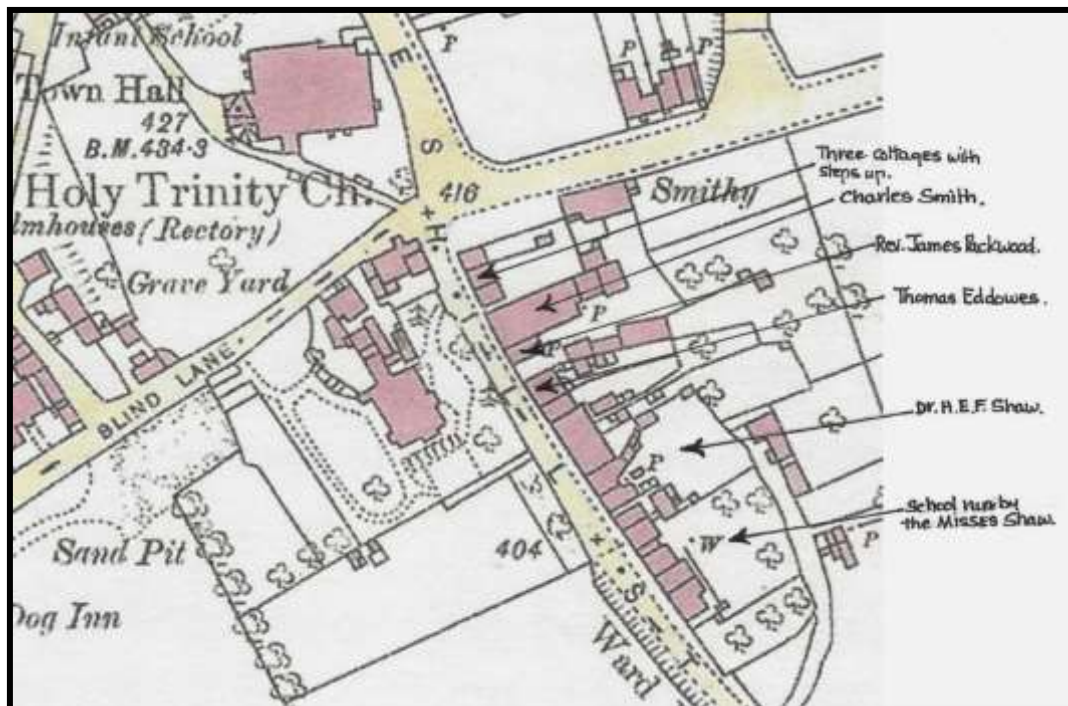


Fig 17. Ordnance Survey Map dated 1886 indicating where the various individuals lived in Coleshill Street, from the descriptions provided by Richard Holbeche in his diary, opposite to 'Coleshill Lodge'

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

“On the spot where Rectory Road now opens was a yard belonging to Hill the builder, who had his workshops in an old house facing the church. His carpenter’s shop was on the first floor and was reached by an outside flight of brick steps.”

John Hill first made an appearance on the census return for 1841, when he was noted as being aged 15 and living with his father William Hill, aged 50, in Coleshill Street. John Hill, at the time, was an Apprentice Carpenter. On the following census in 1851, aged 28, he was living with his uncle Charles Smith and his wife, also in Coleshill Street. It was probable therefore that his father had died and William’s brother had offered to take John under his wing. John was still single and it was known that he had been born in Atherstone, Warwickshire. He had completed his apprenticeship and his trade was stipulated as being a Builder. It is not known how long he lived with his uncle but, as mentioned earlier, his Aunt Alicia died prior to 1861 and Charles himself died in 1867. Charles Smith was known to be a kind and generous man and lived comfortably. It is therefore not beyond the bounds of probability that his young nephew, John Hill, could have been provided for under the terms of Charles Smith’s will.

Whatever happened, John obviously decided to stay in Sutton for, on the 1861 Census Return, he was noted as still residing in Coleshill Street, albeit in a different property. He was now married to Ann, a local girl of the same age and they already had a burgeoning young family, with three children. Son Harry was aged 9 and he had two sisters, one named Alicia (perhaps after John’s Aunt), aged 6, and Ellen, aged just 12 months. He was still working as a Builder but he was also now a Farmer. In addition, John employed two Domestic Servants, one was from Aston and the other from nearby Shenstone in Staffordshire. Their names were Maria Lakin, aged 20 and Elizabeth Heatley, aged just 13.

The census for 1871 saw the Hill family still living there. John Hill was, by now, aged 44 and Ann 45. No mention was made of son Harry or the eldest daughter Alicia. Ellen was aged 11 and at school along with another daughter Harriet M, aged 7. They had a single Domestic Servant named Harriet Ash, aged 25 and a Labourer in the form of Edward Preston, aged 43 from Blythebury in Staffordshire. He may have been employed to assist in the building work.

Most unusually, John Hill and his family did not appear at all on the 1881 Census Return for whatever reason, but they were included on the 1891 census. The information contained therein showed several changes. John, now aged 60, was still a Builder but his first wife Ann had died and he was re-married to Mary, aged 46, who came from Windsor in Berkshire. With the exception of his son Harry, John Hill’s other three children were still living with him. These were Alicia, aged 30, Ellen, aged 27 and Harriet M, aged 24, all of which were unmarried. In addition, John now had four other children with his second wife, all born in Sutton Coldfield. They were Ada, aged 13, Margaret, aged 11, Alfred, aged 8 and finally William, aged 5. As there were such a lot of mouths to feed, John Hill’s business must have been thriving. Not unexpectedly, they employed a general Domestic Servant in the form of Elizabeth Harvey, aged 22, from Bloxwich in Staffordshire.

John Hill’s business appeared in the Sutton Coldfield Directories until 1900, under the heading of Builder and Joiner. The last entry in the poor Rate Books was for 1892, when the following information was provided:-

| <u>Occupier</u> | <u>Owner</u> | <u>Description of Property</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| John Hill | John Hill | House, Garden and Malthouse. |
| “ | Holbeche Executors | Buildings and Land. |
| “ | F J Thorp Esq | Land. |

John Hill’s name was also included in the Sutton Coldfield Burgess Rolls until 1899. The following year, the last entry was in the name of his wife Mary Hill. By this time John had probably died as he was approaching his 70th birthday. It could be that Mary may have returned to her roots, as she was born at Windsor on the outskirts of London.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

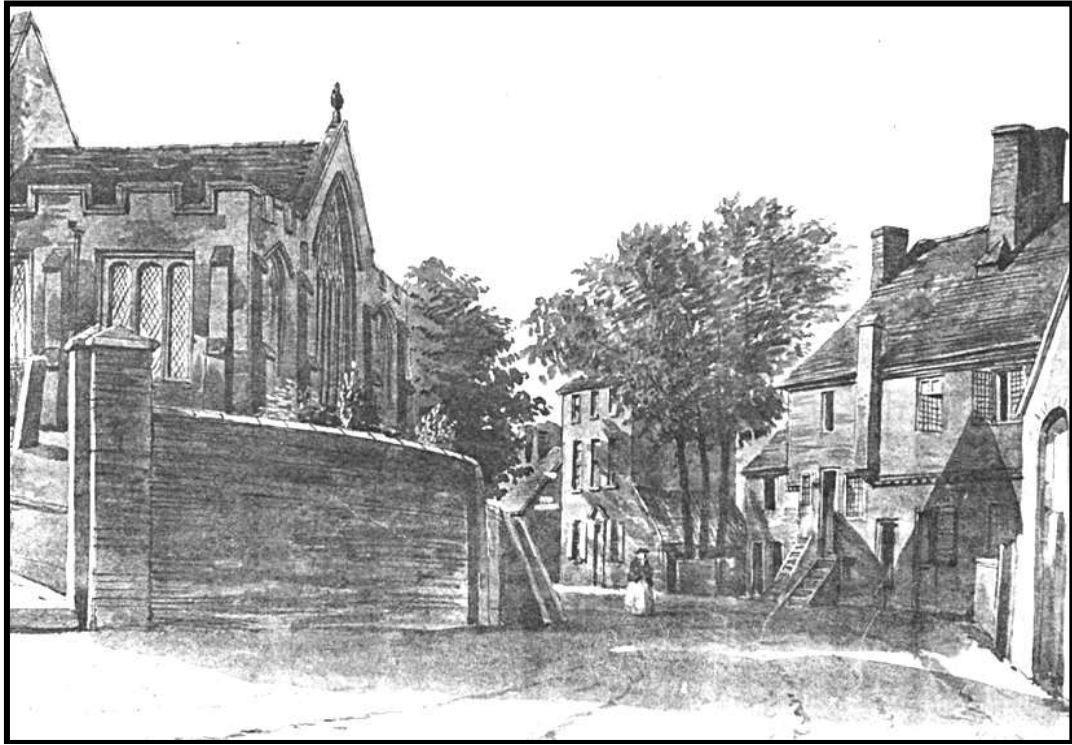


Fig 18. Coleshill Street with John Hill's house and workshop shown on the right hand side of the photograph, circa 1858.

“A butcher’s shop came next owned by one Terry Gwynn. He had a ruddy face and a good deal given to the pleasures of the bar. He wore a bluecoat school cap and a smock and drove a thick, brown pony with kneecaps, which were kept in place by straps from the collar and which we always thought was to prevent the ancient beast from falling down! Terry had several jolly, fresh faced, strong lads to help him.”

The 1841 Census Return indicated that Thomas ‘Terry’ Gwynn was aged 32 and was a Butcher by trade. He was married to Mary, who was aged 30 and they had two young children namely; Samuel, aged 3 and Ann, aged 12 months.

Ten years later, on the 1851 Census Return, Thomas was still trading as a Butcher but his family had increased somewhat.

Their first born Samuel was now aged 12 and his sister Ann was aged 10 and both attended school. However, in the interim period, four more children had appeared. These were Thomas, aged 9, Mary, aged 7, Elizabeth, aged 4, with George, bringing up the rear, aged 2. With the exception of George, the other children were also going to school. This census stated that Thomas originated from Bromyard in Herefordshire and his wife Mary came from Merevale, near Atherstone in Warwickshire. Ancestry records tell us that they were married on the 1st June 1836 by no other than James Packwood, their near neighbour in Coleshill Street. Mary’s maiden name was Baker.

By 1861, Thomas Gwynn was aged 52 and Mary was 50. He still ran his Butcher’s shop and Samuel, now aged 22, had followed in his father’s footsteps and become a Butcher. Their daughter Mary, aged 17, was a School Teacher and their youngest child, Samuel, aged 12, had begun school. No mention was made of their remaining three children, who may all have left the family home, for one reason or another.

It is known that the Gwynn’s were still in Coleshill Street in 1866 but, between then and the following census in 1871, they had moved on or retired.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

“Old Betts, William’s father, occupied the ugly red house opposite the churchyard. He was a pleasant, old-fashioned man and wore breeches and gaiters and sometimes a long smock. His wife was tall, grey and had an upright figure and a very prepossessing face.”

Thomas Betts and his family appeared on the first Census Return in 1841. He was described as a Farmer and was aged 35 at the time. His wife, Hannah, was also the same age. They had three children, the eldest being a daughter, also named Hannah, aged 15, then there was William, aged 10 and finally their younger brother George, aged 4.

He was a man of substantial means, as can be ascertained by details contained in the prospectus of an Auction which took place on the 6th June 1849 at the ‘Three Tuns’ Inn, High Street, under the jurisdiction of Samuel Kempson. No fewer than five individual parcels of land were up for sale under his name, varying in size from one acre to just over four acres.

At the time of the 1851 census, Thomas Betts was noted as being aged 56 and his wife 47, which does not really compute with the ages given on the previous census. His occupation was now that of a Road Surveyor. Daughter Hannah had moved away but their two sons were still living with them. William was stated as being aged 20, also a Road Surveyor and George was aged 14 and attending school.

The 1861 census saw the Betts family still living in Coleshill Street. Thomas was sharing his duties between that of being a Farmer and a Road Surveyor. He was, supposedly, now aged 60 and Hannah was 57, which looked more accurate. William was no longer living with his parents, as it is known from research into the ‘Old Sun’ public house, that their son took over as licensee from John Alldridge in 1857 and remained there until April 1869, when he died at a relatively early age. George was aged 24 and is noted on the census as being a Farmer’s son. The family employed a servant in the form of Thomas Smith, a single man, aged 20, from Bedfordshire.

The Betts family appeared again on the 1871 Census Return. Thomas was now aged 70 and we were informed that he was a Farmer with 30 acres of land and hailed from nearby Tyburn in Birmingham. Wife Hannah was aged 67 and their son George, was aged 34 and still single.

The Poor Rate Book for 1892 indicated that Thomas Betts lived at No. 12 Coleshill Street and the property was owned by Thomas Vincent Holbeche. Examination of the Sutton Coldfield Burgess Rolls show entries for Thomas Betts up until 1895, when he would have reached the grand old age of 94.



Fig 19. The ‘Ugly Red House’ where Thomas Betts lived in Coleshill Street, taken in 2010.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

“The alley separated this house from our cottages. Stewart had the first, with the forge at his back. Oh! The delight of that forge, where our leaping poles were ferruled and our hoops made. The Stewarts must have been very good and long suffering for we used to run in and out a great deal.”

The Stewart family was first mentioned on the 1841 Census Return when they were living in nearby Church Hill. William Stewart's occupation was a Blacksmith; he was aged 28 and married to Esther, aged 22. They had just had their first child, Charles, aged 8 months.

Sometime between 1841 and the next census, the Stewarts moved to Coleshill Street. William by then was aged 36 and his wife 33. They were both local people from Sutton Coldfield. Their son Charles was aged 10 and attended school. There were now, however, further additions to the Stewart family in the shape of Sarah, aged 8, Robert, aged 4 and Elizabeth, aged 2. The census for 1861 saw more changes to the Stewart family. William and Esther were noted as being 42 and 41 years of age respectively. Their eldest son Charles, aged 20, had followed in his father's footsteps and become a Blacksmith. Sarah, Robert and Elizabeth were aged 18, 14 and 12, Sarah having got a job as a Servant. The family had grown once again to include George 9, Jane 6, Ann 4, Louisa 2 and Harry just 1 month old.

On the 1871 Census Return, William and Esther are now aged 55 and 51. Sarah, Robert, Elizabeth and Jane have all moved away. Charles is single and still living with his parents. Perhaps the life of a Blacksmith did not appeal to him because his occupation was now that of a Groom. The remaining children are all at school with the exception of Ann, who was 15 years of age and possibly making the transition between school and looking for her first employment.

The Stewarts are noted again on the 1881 Census Return. It would appear that William had died in the interim period because the head of the family was now Charles the eldest son, who was aged 40. He was married to Jane, aged 39 who was born in Bromyard in Herefordshire and he had taken over responsibility for his late father's business, that of a Blacksmith. The marriage took place shortly after the last census was taken, as the couple already had four children. They were Lizzie, aged 8, and Maria, aged 6, who were both at school, together with William, aged 3 and Charles, the youngest, aged just 12 months. They had taken a lodger, who was Edward Preston, aged 53, unmarried and a Gardener by trade from Blithbury, a small village on the way to Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. Charles's mother, Esther Stewart, now a widow, was also living close by in Coleshill Street, along with one of her sons, Harry, aged 21 a Gas Stoker and a lodger named Richard Moore, a Gardener from Whittington, Staffordshire. Esther was now working for a living as a Baker.

On the 1891 Census Charles Stewart, aged 50, was still carrying on his business as a Blacksmith. His wife Jane being 49. The Stewarts were people who obviously liked large families. His parents, after all, had had nine children and Charles and Jane had seven. Lizzie had moved away by this time but this still left five more remaining at home. They were William, aged 13, Charles, aged 11, Louisa, aged 9, Harry, aged 7, and finally George, aged 5. Edward Preston was still lodging with them. The last entry on the census returns for the Stewart family was in 1901. Charles Stewart was, by then, aged 60 and Jane 59. Five of their children were still living at home and all were unmarried, which must have caused serious overcrowding. They all had jobs, however which, from a financial aspect, would have greatly helped their parents with the housekeeping. Maria, aged 26, was working as a Housemaid, William, aged 23, had taken up his father's trade of Blacksmith, Louisa, aged 19, was a Draper's Assistant, Harry, aged 17, was a Grocer's Assistant and George, aged 15, was also a Grocer's Assistant. I wonder if they both worked in the same shop. Could they possibly have worked for Aston's the Grocers, which was situated only a few doors up from where they lived?

In the Poor Rate Book for 1892 it was noted that the house, where the Stewarts lived, was owned by Mrs Emma Holbeche. Burgess Roll entries continued for Charles Stewart right up until 1907-08, when he would have been aged about 67. There was one final entry, in 1910-11, in the name of Harry Stewart, his son.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)



Fig 20. Coleshill Street in 1887. The row of cottages mentioned can be seen in the distance, on the left hand side of the street, immediately before the large three storey house described by Richard Holbeche as the 'Ugly Red House'.

“The Neales were next until they moved to the opposite side and the Woodcrafts took their place.” (for additional information on the Neale family, please refer earlier in this research.)

Joseph Neale, a local man, was found for the first time on the 1861 Census Return. He was described as head of the family and was a Shoemaker by trade. He employed two men, so business must have been more than adequate. He was 45 years of age, the same age as his wife Elizabeth, who originally came from Baxterley in Warwickshire. They had two sons, George, aged 15, who worked as an Office Boy in a firm of Solicitors and Henry, aged 13, who was still at school.

The 1871 census noted that Joseph Neale and his wife were still living in Coleshill Street and were now both 55 years of age. They had their little grandson Henry staying with them, aged 4, who had been born in Stafford.

Nothing much had changed on the next Census Return dated 1881. Joseph remained a Shoemaker and he and his wife Elizabeth continued to look after Henry, their grandson, who was by now 14 years of age and at school. It would be interesting to know the story behind this and what had happened to Henry's parents.

The Poor Rate Book for 1861 indicated that the property was owned by Thomas Vincent Holbeche.

The Woodcrafts, who followed the Neales into the rented cottage, appeared first on the 1871 Census Return. James Woodcraft, who had a very appropriate name for his occupation, was the head of the family, aged 64 and was a Wood Turner and Carpenter. He came from Millbrook, a small village near Bedford. He was married to Mary Ann, aged 56, who was born in nearby Curdworth, Warwickshire. They had four children, the eldest being Jane, aged 18, followed by sister Emma, aged 14. Both daughters were born in Coleshill, Warwickshire. The two sons were James, aged 12 and Alfred, aged 10 both were from Walmley and attended school.

The 1881 census showed the family once more living in Coleshill Street and, by now, James was 74 but still working as a Carpenter. His wife was aged 62. Their two daughters Jane and Emma had left home but the two sons were unmarried and had obtained jobs. James was aged 23 and a Labourer, whilst Alfred was aged 20 and had followed his father into the carpentry trade. Their two young nieces were also staying with them. Elizabeth Whitacre, aged 13 and Edith Whitacre, aged 2. Both were born in Cannock Chase, Staffordshire.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

Two lodgers had also been obtained to help with the family budget. They were William Paice, aged 25, who was a Coachman from Kent and his wife, also aged 25 from Coleshill, Warwickshire.

The 1891 census showed several changes. James had died around 1886-87 and his widowed wife, Mary Ann, aged 72, was head of the family but her son Alfred, aged 30 was, in actual fact, the only other member of the family still residing there.

The Sutton Coldfield Directory for 1892 included Alfred under the same occupation as his late father. The Poor Rate Book for that year confirmed the property in Coleshill Street to be owned by Mrs Emma Holbeche. The Burgess Roll for 1887 included Mary Woodcraft along with Walter Woodcraft, also a Joiner, who was probably Mary's brother-in-law. Walter died on the 2nd September 1895 and, from that point on, until the last entry in 1903, the Burgess Rolls only mentioned Clara Woodcraft, who was his widow.

“Then Joseph Reeves’ cottage came and, before him, Hooper. Hooper is the first man-servant I remember. He was a tallish, loud talking man with bad teeth and a large nose. He expectorated vehemently and did not like boys and was nothing like our old Joseph Reeves, who was the handiest man I ever met. He had a dodge for everything and I owe, I think, any little mechanical knowledge I may possess to him, for he unconsciously gave me a love for it. He was also quite a sportsman and had the true instincts of one. Vincent will remember how well he used to mark birds. He could catch rabbits sitting, knew exactly what holes they might be in and I picture to myself now how he would lie on his side with his arm up a hole. How well I remember Joseph coming round the corner at Moseley leading ‘Fairy’ to fetch me home for my holiday. I rode and he led her, as far as the ‘Swan with two necks’ and there he consigned me to the ‘Shepherds’ horse drawn omnibus to Sutton, he himself clambering on to ‘Fairy’ in rather an unhorsemanlike manner.”

The name of Joseph Reeves first appeared on the 1861 Census Return. He was a Gentleman's Servant (Valet), aged 36 from Rous Lench in Worcestershire. He was married to Sarah, also aged 36, who was born in Clun, Shropshire. They had three young children at the time of the survey, Richard, aged 3, born in Birmingham, Sarah, aged 1 and George just 5 months old, both from Sutton Coldfield. The 1871 census showed things had changed very little in the interim period, except that Joseph was aged 46 and now described as a Groom & Gardener. This would have been looked upon as a demotion in the servant hierarchy at the time. The three children were aged 13, 11 and 10 respectively and were all attending school.



Fig 21. Joseph Reeves with one of the Holbeche ponies named ‘Black Prince’, along with their liver and white spaniel called ‘Carlo’.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

The next few properties, described in the Holbeche Diary, were initially classified as being in Coleshill Street but, later on, they were re-designated as being in the High Street. They were in the same row of houses as the Holbeche residence and I have therefore included them in this research.

“On the other side of our property, in the house now called ‘Clifton’, Mr & Mrs Wadhams dwelt. He was a stout man, with very bushy whiskers, later with a beard and was fond of velvet coats. His wife had a pippin face and was rather care-worn in appearance as she kept a girls’ school. When my Father bought their property, he turned the long, narrow croft into our own fields making quite a park. In the house the two very long, inconvenient and uncomfortable rooms, now divided up, made the classrooms and dormitory.”

By studying the 1841 Census Return, it can be seen that the previous owner of the school was a Mr Thomas Clues, aged 75, in conjunction with his wife Sarah, aged 70, along with their two daughters, two Assistant Governesses and two female servants. They taught a total of 22 pupils, ranging in age from seven to fifteen years.

It is not inconceivable, in view of their ages, that shortly after the census was completed, the Clues decided to retire.

The 1851 census certainly confirms that, by then, Mrs Wadhams had taken over the running of the school. Emma Wadhams was aged 38 and came from Handsworth. She was assisted by three Governesses, aged 25, 21 and 20 from Coventry, Bow in Middlesex and Cornwall respectively, together with two female servants. They taught a total of 29 pupils, ranging in ages from four to eighteen years. William Wadhams, her husband, did not appear to have been involved with the school, as he was a Farmer, although it was not known what acreage he had or where his land was situated. He was aged 31 and was born in Perry Barr, Birmingham.

The 1861 census showed that the school was no longer in existence. William Wadhams, now aged 40, had retired from farming and no occupation was given for his wife Emma, aged 47. Instead they had several people lodging with them. Firstly, there was Thomas Gittoes, a 57 year old Iron Founder from Minsterley in Shropshire, followed by his unmarried daughter Martha Gittoes, aged 19 from West Bromwich. There was also Elizabeth Wearing, a 29 year old married woman, designated a Founders Wife, from West Bromwich and Mary Wearing, her recently born daughter, aged just four months. Finally there was Elizabeth Morley, also from West Bromwich, only 12 years old, who was engaged as a Nurse Maid, obviously to assist in the care of the young child.

The Poor Rate Book for 1861 confirmed that William Wadhams was the owner of the property. The Sutton Coldfield Directory for 1854 described the establishment, run by Emma Wadhams, as a Ladies Boarding School.

“A low white stuccoed beer house, the ‘Beehive’, occupied the site of the new shops. I am not sure that Abraham Lamsby really lived there. At any rate he was generally to be seen in its vicinity. He was supposed to be a lambs-tail cutter by profession and wore a broad skirted coat, sometimes a smock, knee breeches, worsted stockings and thick shoes. He was a well set up man and a really remarkable figure.

Part of Aston’s house was burned down in 1866, strange to say the night before the adjoining property was sold. Aston’s house or rather houses have been re-built. They were nasty squalid places; salt butter, strong cheese and sweets were in close proximity to drapery and boots, while the part nearest to our own house was filled with cheap toys. We never fancied sweets or anything else that came from Aston’s, as it was invariably of an inferior quality.”

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

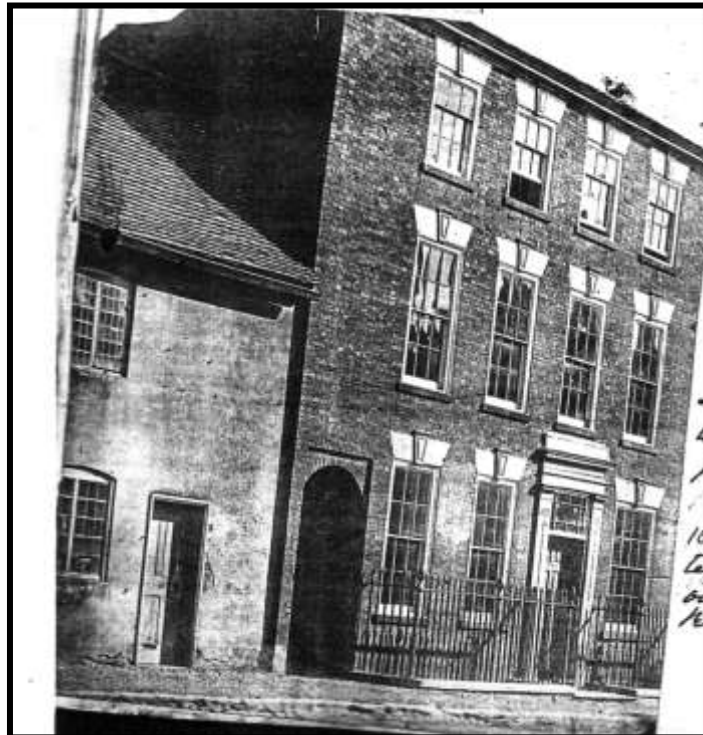


Fig 22. The building from which Emma Wadhams ran her little private school. The property was later purchased by Vincent Holbeche. Photograph taken circa 1865.

In the Sutton Coldfield Directory for 1850, Edwin Aston was listed as a Grocer & Tea Distributer and Glass & China Dealer. In the Francis White & Co. Directory for the same year they stated he was a Grocer & Tea Distributer, Baker & Flour Dealer and Linen & woollen Draper. This fits in with Richard Holbeches's description of his premises. It would appear that he was a 'Jack of All Trades'.

The Aston family first appeared on the 1861 Census Return. Edwin Aston was stipulated as being the head of the family and originated from Birmingham. He was aged 45 at the time and his occupation was described as a Draper and Grocer. He was married to Mary Aston, aged 41, who was also born in Birmingham. All of their six children were born locally in Sutton Coldfield. Their children were David, aged 13, Rhoda, aged 12, James, aged 10, Thomas, aged 8, Mary, aged 6 and George, aged 3. They also had living with them Miss Elizabeth Upton, their niece, aged 22, from London.

On the 1871 census Edwin was by now aged 55 and his wife 56. With the exception of their eldest son David, who had moved away, all their other five children were still living with their parents at home. James and Thomas were working in the family business as a Draper and Grocer respectively, whilst Mary and George were attending school. In addition, they had two other people staying with them namely; John Weston, aged 78, a widower, who was Edwin's brother-in-law from Wolverhampton and James Upton, aged 20, his nephew from Aldridge in Staffordshire, who was also a Grocer.

When the 1881 Census Return was issued, the Aston family could still be found living in Coleshill Street, but there had been many changes in the interim period. Edwin and Mary Aston had both died and the head of the family was their son George, aged 25, working as a Grocer. He had married Emma, aged 27, who was from Handsworth and they had four children, who were Bernard, aged 5, Edwin, aged 4, William, aged 1 and recently born May, only 3 months old. They also employed two Domestic Servants named Fanny Tunstall, aged 19, and Elizabeth Young, aged 15, both from Burton-on-Trent in Staffordshire. They had, in addition, taken in four lodgers, as follows; C H Hill, aged 24 who was single, and a Commercial Clerk, from Birmingham and the Hewitt family comprising Sam and Emma, aged 32 and 30 respectively. Sam was also a Commercial Clerk from Birmingham, his wife being from Worcester and they had a young son named Fred, aged 6, who had been born in Sutton Coldfield and was attending school.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

In Sarah Holbeche's Diary, she also mentioned the Aston family. She stated that "*On the 26th January 1866 Aston began to pull down and restore the old buildings – as below.*" She then followed this with a little hand-drawn sketch.



Fig 23. Sketch by Sarah Holbeche of Edwin Aston's properties 1866.



Fig 24. Row of shops, previously owned by Edwin Aston. Photo taken in 1887.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

Last, but certainly not least, is the Holbeche family itself.

On the 1841 Census Return the head of the family was Thomas Holbeche, aged 65, who was described as being of Independent Means. He was, in actual fact, a Solicitor. In 1794, at the age of 22, he had moved from Coleshill to Sutton Coldfield as an articled clerk. Over the next five years he qualified as a Solicitor and joined Mr Croxall in his thriving legal business. He became a member of the 'Warden and Society' and was elected Warden when he was only 26 years of age. In 1802 he married Sarah Gamble, who was a local girl, and they moved into 'Ivy House' in the High Street. In 1817 the family moved into 1-3 Coleshill Street, having purchased the property for an amount of £1,700, from the Reverend John Riland. The 1841 census showed that six of his fifteen children were still living with him namely; Mary, aged 30, Elizabeth, aged 30, Jane, aged 25, John, aged 20, Helen, aged 15 and Frances also aged 15. He was a widower, his wife Sarah having died the same year as the census was taken. John was the only person in employment, as a Land Agent. Thomas Holbeche employed three female servants and one male servant.

The 1851 Census Return showed that Vincent Holbeche was the new owner of 1-3 Coleshill Street and head of the family, his father Thomas having died in 1848, aged 76. Vincent was also a Solicitor and married Emma Addenbrooke of Kingswinford, Staffordshire in 1845. He was aged 44 at the time of the census, but his wife was much younger at 26. They had three children, who were Thomas Vincent, aged 5, Edward, aged 4 and Richard aged just eight months. Three Domestic Servants were employed to assist Emma namely; Hannah Freeman, aged 25 from Abbots Bromley in Staffordshire, Emma Holloway, aged 25, from Wednesbury also in Staffordshire and Ellen Chatterway, aged 48 born in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Vincent Holbeche was aged 55 when the 1861 census came out, Emma being 36. They now had seven young children, but only five were at home at the time. They were Richard, aged 10, Aemilian, aged 9, Emma Gertrude, aged 5, Arthur, aged 5 and Edith aged just 6 months. All were attending school with the exception, of course, of Edith.

Thomas Vincent had moved on, as had Edward, who had just left home at the tender age of 14 to serve at sea and didn't return for seven years. Thomas Vincent, also a Solicitor, became Sutton Coldfield's first Town Clerk. He died on the 23 January 1904 at the age of 58. The family continued to employ three Domestic Servants namely; Ellen Postow, aged 27, from Herefordshire, Elizabeth Thurstan, aged 24, from Pattingham, Staffordshire and Elizabeth Smith, a local girl, aged 23.

The 1871 Census Return saw numerous changes. Vincent Holbeche had died in 1867 leaving his wife Emma as head of the family, although she was not at home at the time of the census and so could not be included. The children mentioned were Aemilian, aged 19, who was now a Banker's Clerk, Emma Gertrude, aged 15 and Arthur, aged 15. Also staying with the family were Frances Raven, aged 35 from Kingswinford in Staffordshire and her young daughter Frances M, aged 8. Three servants were noted as being Esther Taylor, a Cook, aged 28, and two Housemaids named Sarah Gough, aged 21 and Mary Hack, aged 20.

The 1881 Census Return saw the Holbeche family still residing at 1-3 Coleshill Street, although greatly reduced in numbers. Emma Holbeche remained the head of the family and was now aged 57. Only one of her children was living with her, this being Emma Gertrude, aged 25 who was still unmarried. Also listed was nephew Albert E Addenbrooke, aged 15 and three servants namely; Ellen Greaves, aged 23, from Thurmington, in Leicestershire, Harriet Twyford, aged 23 from Rochford, Near Tenbury Wells and Frank Brown, a local lad, who was designated as a Page.

Emma Holbeche, now aged 67, was still listed on the 1891 Census Return, along with her son Richard, aged 40, who had just returned from India and retired from the army, having reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The following year he was to write his very insightful diary describing the local people and the conditions that prevailed in the middle of the 19th century. Two of his sisters were also living with him and his mother namely; Emma Gertrude, aged 35 and Edith, aged 30, both spinsters. Three servants; a Cook, Footman and Housemaid completed the household. Shortly after the census was taken, Emma Holbeche died of bronchitis and Richard, as the appointed legal executor, had to oversee the sale of 1-3 Coleshill Street, in order to abide by the trust provisions and to enable the proceeds to be divided between all of the children. The auction, arranged by William Fowler & Pemberton, took place the following year on the 6th July 1892 at the Royal Hotel, High Street, thus bringing to an end the long association of the Holbeche family with Sutton.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

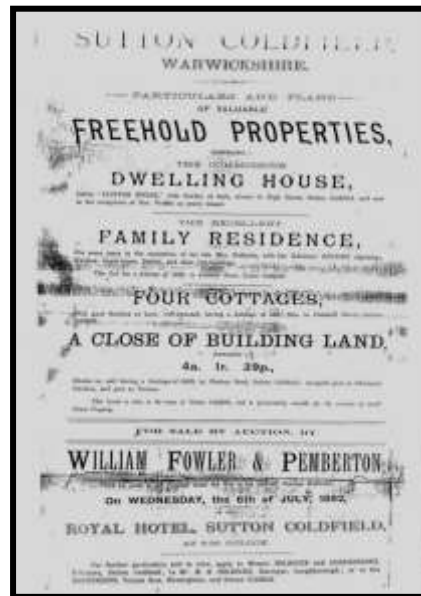


Fig 25. Auction particulars produced by William Fowler & Pemberton on behalf of the Holbeche family 1892.

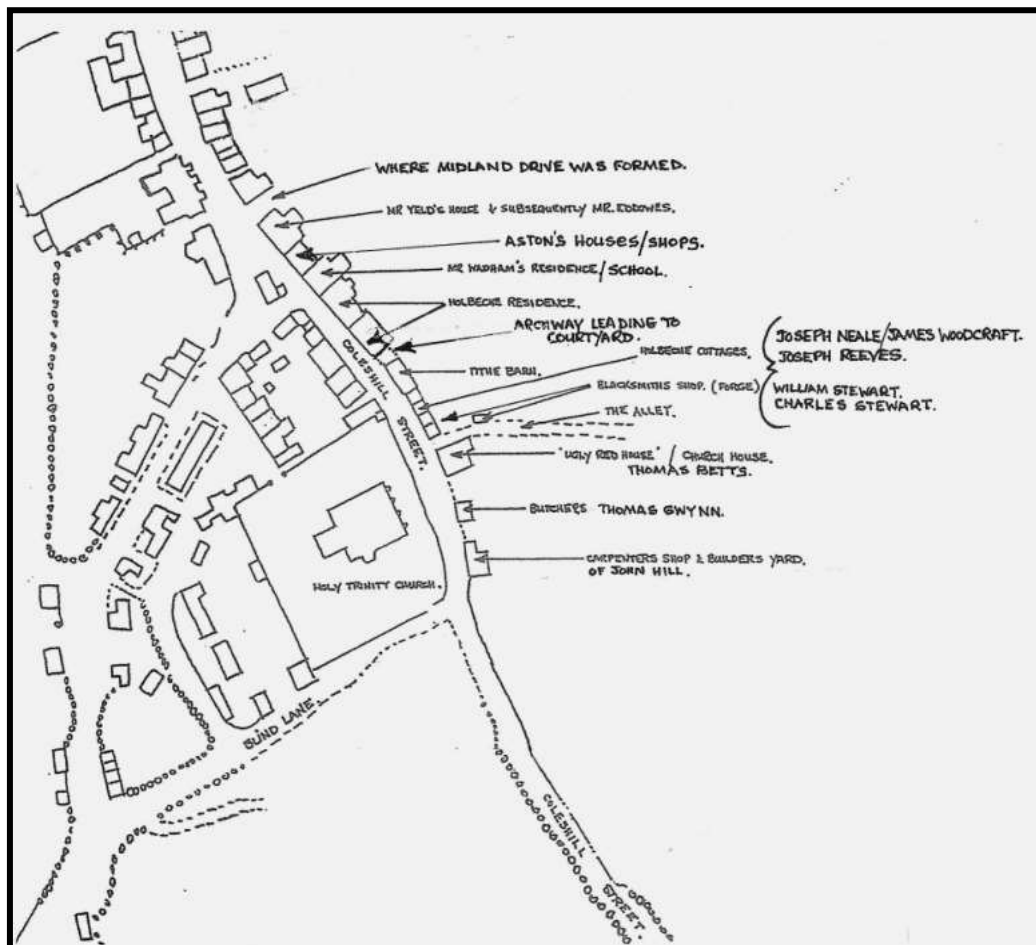


Fig 26. Hand drawn sketch plan by Keith Jordan indicating where the various individuals had lived on the upper part of the street, where it joins High Street, from the descriptions provided by Richard Holbeche in his diary, Not to scale.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

Another prominent citizen who lived in Coleshill Street was John Charles Skelton, who lived at 'The Knoll', which was on the same side of the road and quite close to 'Coleshill Lodge', once the home of the before mentioned Miss Lucy Ryland.

He was the only son of Captain John Skelton and was born in Bow, London in 1845. At the age of 14 he was apprenticed to Major Henry Williams, iron manufacturer of Wednesbury. After six years learning his trade he joined Messrs. Edwards Bros., iron manufacturers of Birmingham. Shortly afterwards he moved again, this time to Messrs. Stokes & Co., who were tanners based in Rugeley, Walsall and Birmingham.

In 1870 he went to live in Sutton and very soon began to take an active part in the affairs of the town. He was married in December 1872 to Anna Brentnall, the third daughter of George Brentnall Esq., who was a well known Suttonian. In 1877 he was one of the chief promoters of the first musical society formed in Sutton, which was known for many years as the 'Philamonic Society'. He was also, amongst other things, the Hon. Treasurer of the Sutton Coldfield Provident Dispensary and played a prominent part in the establishment of the Trinity Working Men's Club. He was a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and was elected rector's warden in place of Thomas S Eddowes, after the latter had tendered his resignation due to ill health.

In 1888, John Skelton arranged for his own house to be built, which he called 'The Knoll'. The property had an unusual aspect in that the front door and main windows all faced down Coleshill Street rather than facing the street in the normal fashion. Due to the elevated nature of the site, he would have benefited from an excellent view from his property across the southern part of Sutton Coldfield. One does wonder, however, whether certain connections in the Borough Planning Department were brought to bear to bring about this state of affairs! It certainly caused a dilemma elsewhere because, when the Burgess Rolls were produced each year, the property was never listed under Coleshill Street.

On the 1891 Census Return John Skelton was mentioned as head of the family, aged 46. Already quite prosperous, his occupation was not noted as being in the iron industry or the tanning trade, but was described simply as a Farmer. Possibly he had decided to invest in the acquisition of land, quite a wise decision, in view of the expanding nature of the town. His wife Anna was aged 43 and they employed one domestic servant named Emma Perks, aged 21, who was born locally. They did not appear to have had any children, which was quite unusual at the time.

The 1901 census showed John Skelton and Anna still living at 'The Knoll'. Their ages were now 57 and 54 respectively. John's occupation was now more in keeping with his early career history, as he was described as a Manager of a Tanning Yard. Once more a single domestic servant was employed, this time in the form of Emma Croft, aged 20, from Brownhills, Staffordshire.

John Skelton continued to live at 'The Knoll' until his death on the 18th August 1927, aged 82. He left an amount of £28,549 in his Will, which would be the equivalent today of over £1.8M.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)



**Fig 27. 'The Knoll', Colehill Street. Residence of John Charles Skelton J.P.
Circa 1900.**



Fig 28. John Charles Skelton J.P. with his wife Anna. Circa 1905.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

Another important building to be found in Coleshill Street was the Provident Dispensary which was situated on the corner, at the junction with Rectory Road.

As the population of Sutton grew, so public health became more of an issue. With the overall quality of the water declining and the town's stream resembling an open sewer in the 1870's, pressure gradually grew for matters to be resolved. When the Borough of Sutton Coldfield was established via a Charter, a newly elected Corporation was formed in 1885. One of the first things to be decided was the appointment of a Medical Officer for Health and, subsequently, his annual reports showed that pure water, good drainage and dry houses were achieving much better public health. A huge stride forward was achieved in 1892, when the construction of the Shenstone Pumping Station was completed and Sutton benefited from its first tapped water supply.

Illness created a great deal of misery for all those who could not afford doctor's fees or the purchase drugs. From the late Victorian period, however, most Suttonians paid an annual subscription to the Provident Dispensary. Many of the doctors in Sutton gave part of their time to offer consultations at the dispensary and the medicines they prescribed were obtained there.

The foundation stone for the building was laid on the 27th June 1888 and Thomas Vincent Holbeche, the first Town Clerk, agreed to be one of the guarantors to the Bank for any overdraft needed to build it.

The dispensary was supported by different institutions, some of which are listed below:-

Sutton Municipal Charities.
Sutton & District Football League.
Trinity Monday Sports.
Bishop Vesey Grammar School Operatic Society.
Sutton College Hospital Saturday Fund.
Maney Allotments Association.
Various churches and chapels.

The following doctors offered their services on a voluntary basis:-

Howard Cant, Honorary Secretary.
Sir Robert M Simon, M.D. (Cambridge), F.R.C.P. (London), Consulting Physician.
Sir T F Chavasse, M.D. (Edinburgh), F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon.
J O Tunstall, D. (London), M.R.C.S.,
G P Jerome, MB, (London), M.R.C.S.
Thomas Betteridge, M.B., BC (Cambridge), M.R.C.S.
Thomas Alex Brown, M.B., C.M. (Edinburgh), M.R.C.S.
Howard S Chavasse, M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P. (London)
Charles York Flewitt, M.B., Ch.B (Birmingham), M.R.C.S.
Robert John Adamson, L.R.C.P., L.M.I.
Richard Clayton-Morris, L.R.C.P., G.L.S. (Edinburgh)
Harold Edward White, M.B. (London), M.R.C.S.
Frederick Charles Barlow-Eberhardt, L.R.C.P. (Edinburgh), L.F.P.S (Glasgow)
Edward Milward Knott, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (London)

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

Over a period of approximately 60 years the dispensary proved invaluable to the inhabitants of Sutton. In 1948 a maternity hospital was set up in a converted mansion in Anchorage Road, which was named 'Oakhurst' and high rates of infant mortality became a thing of the past. It also signalled the demise of the Provident Dispensary, which closed its doors the same year. It remained empty for a number of years before being demolished sometime around the mid 1950's.



Fig 29. Provident Dispensary at the corner of Coleshill Street and Rectory Road shortly after it was built. Circa 1890.



Fig 30. Provident Dispensary in 1955, shortly before it was demolished.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

Richard Holbeche, in his diary, described Sutton as being quiet and rural. As he was talking about the mid-1800's, during his childhood years, this is quite understandable, because the population of the town was only in the region of 4,500.

In those days if you wished to reach your destination you walked, unless you were a yeoman or gentry, when you might have been lucky enough to own a horse and to therefore ride.

The overall situation then was quite different and not at all like it is today. Take away things which we now take for granted, such as excellent transport links via trains, buses, cars and even pedal cycles, together with facilities we look upon as basic necessities in the form of gas, electricity, piped water supplies, good drainage, warm insulated homes, paved streets and smooth tarmac roads and you would have been left with Richard Holbeche's view of Sutton at the time.

In 1862, however, a railway link was forged between Birmingham and Sutton and immediately the nature of the town began to change. By 1891 the population had almost doubled to approximately 8,700 and, by the turn of the century, this figure had increased substantially to around 14,300. In 2011, the latest calculation to hand, showed the number to be 95,107 and by now this will, almost certainly, have reached the 100,000 mark. Richard, writing in 1892, made specific mention that things were not as they were and regretted that the gentle times he had experienced were long gone.

Everywhere in Sutton was affected and Coleshill Street was no different. More houses were built and, as the population increased, no longer would anyone be able to know and describe nearly every individual who lived in the street, in the same way Richard had done in his diary.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

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Maps

Cover Page. 25 inch Survey Map 1886 enlarged to scale 1:1250. Norman Granville Evans 1979. Sutton Coldfield Local Studies Section.
Fig. 1 Hand drawn sketch of the area bounded by High Street, Mill Street and Coleshill Street by Keith Jordan, based upon the Ordnance Survey Map (3rd edition) dated 1914 by Alan Godfrey.
Fig. 2 Map of Sutton Coldfield Town in 1765 by John Snape, reproduced with additional information provided by Norman G Evans 1974. Sutton Coldfield Local Studies Section.
Fig. 10 Ordnance Survey Map dated 1886 by Alan Godfrey.
Fig. 17 Ordnance Survey Map dated 1886 by Alan Godfrey.
Fig. 26 Hand drawn sketch plan by Keith Jordan.

Photographs

(The following photographs are all taken from Keith Jordan’s Photographic Collection.)

Fig. 3 Front elevation of 1-3 Coleshill Street circa 1950.
Fig. 5 Looking upwards towards the trap door leading from the tythe barn and granary, taken in 1995.
Fig. 6 The great archway, which led from the street into the yard, taken in 1995. Note the original exposed stonework behind the rendering.
Fig. 7 Property at the corner of Blind Lane and Coleshill Street, the home of Charles and Sarah Smith and Charles Beard. Circa 1950’s. The house was demolished in 1959.
Fig. 8 ‘Coleshill Lodge’ can be seen on the left hand side of the street before Holy Trinity Church. The photograph was taken circa 1860, about the time Lucy Ryland was in occupation.

COLESHILL STREET (Continued)

Photographs (Continued)

Fig. 9 The house where Miss Lucy Ryland lived. Photograph taken approximately 130 years later in 1996.

Fig. 11 The row of cottages in Coleshill Street where H E Shaw and the Misses Shaw lived and worked. The photograph was taken circa 1970's.

Fig. 12 The sandstone house in Coleshill Street, which was occupied by Mr Thomas Eddowes when he first came to Sutton. The property in question is the upper one on the left hand side in the photograph, taken in 2012.

Fig. 15 Charles Smith's house in Coleshill Street, taken in 1950's.

Fig. 16 Row of old cottages in Coleshill Street, with steps up to their front door. April 1939.

Fig. 19 The 'Ugly Red House' where Thomas Betts lived in Coleshill Street, taken in 2010.

Fig. 20 Coleshill Street in 1887. The row of cottages mentioned can be seen in the distance, on the left hand side of the street, immediately before the large three storey house described by Richard Holbeche as the 'Ugly Red House'.

Fig. 24 Row of shops, previously owned by Edwin Aston. Photograph taken in 1887.

Fig. 29 Provident Dispensary at the corner of Coleshill Street and Rectory Road shortly after it was built. Circa 1890.

Fig. 30 Provident Dispensary in 1955, shortly before it was demolished.

(The following photographs are all taken from the Holbeche family papers Ref: BCOL Q942 496082 HOL.)

Fig. 4 Rear view of Holbeche residence circa 1850.

Fig. 13 James Packwood, curate of Holy Trinity Church circa 1850.

Fig. 14 Charles Smith.

Fig. 21 Joseph Reeves with one of the Holbeche ponies named 'Black Prince', along with their liver and white spaniel called 'Carlo'.

Fig 22 The building from which Emma Wadhams ran her little private school. The property was later purchased by Vincent Holbeche. Photograph taken circa 1865.

Fig 23 Sketch by Sarah Holbeche of Edwin Aston's properties 1866.

Fig. 18 Coleshill Street showing the house and workshop of John Hill, circa 1850's.
Norman Evans Collection, Sutton Coldfield Local Studies Section.

Fig. 25 Auction particulars produced by William Fowler & Pemberton on behalf of the Holbeche family 1892. Lieutenant Colonel Richard Holbeche (Author of the Holbeche Diary) by Janet Jordan. October 1998. Ref: BCOL Q942 496092 HOL

Fig. 27 'The Knoll', Coleshill Street. Residence of John Charles Skelton J.P. Circa 1900. An Armchair and the Price of Peace by H W S Osborne (edited by Geoffrey Howell). Published by Bannister Publications Ltd., Derbyshire 2017.

Fig. 28 John Charles Skelton J.P. with his wife Anna. Circa 1905. An Armchair and the Price of Peace by H W S Osborne (edited by Geoffrey Howell). Published by Bannister Publications Ltd. Derbyshire 2017.

(please note that all references are from Sutton Coldfield Library).