



JOSIAH WRIGHT **(Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School 1849-1863)** **by** **Keith Jordan**

Josiah Wright was born on the 5th February 1824 in Homerton, Middlesex, to a middle-class family.

His Baptism took place on the 23rd November 1828 at St. Mary's, Spitalfields, London.

His father, also Josiah Wright, was described as an 'Esquire' which, in Victorian times, meant that he was either a landed proprietor or the equivalent of a country squire.

From a relatively early age his education was based on a classical nature and he was sent up to Rugby School in Warwickshire by his father, to further enhance his knowledge. Rugby was, and still is, one of the top independent boarding schools in the Country and comes second only to the likes of Eton and Harrow. He studied under the well respected Dr. Arnold, where he was First Exhibitioner in 1842.

He followed a natural progression and, when he was 18 years of age, he was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge on the 24th June 1842, where in 1846, he eventually obtained his B.A Degree. He was placed 37th Senior Optime in the list of Mathematical Honours and was finally 11th in the first class of the Classical Tripos.

He continued with his studies and completed a Master of Arts degree in 1849. Upon leaving academia he immediately gained employment as a private classical tutor.

On the 28th May of the same year, the incumbent Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, James Eccleston, tendered his resignation. Mr Sadler, on behalf of the Trustees, acted with great speed and an advertisement, dated the 31st May 1849, requesting testimonials by the 18th June, appeared in *The Times* newspaper, the *Record*, the *Midland Counties Herald* and *Aris's Gazette*.

The response was overwhelming, but Sadler had learned from a previous occasion and, instead of dealing with each reply individually, he arranged for a stereotyped letter to be printed and this was sent out to each applicant. The letter read, as follows:-

"I beg to inform you that the Estates belonging to the Sutton Coldfield Grammar School produce, after all deductions for repairs, an income of full £330, exclusive of the School House, a large and good one, with Orchard and Gardens adjoining, containing altogether near four acres.

There are now 27 boys in the School viz. 24 parishioners, who pay 10 shillings each per Quarter and 3 from the adjoining Parishes, who pay 30 shillings each per Quarter.

I expect the Election of the Master will take place at the latter end of this month, or early in July.

I enclose a copy of the rules and regulations of the School and, on the other side, a list of the Governors. If you should require any further information, I shall be obliged to give it."

On the 19th June 1849, the School Governors met to consider the various testimonials and, after much deliberation, they drew up a short list of eleven potential candidates. The meeting was then adjourned until the 28th June.

Shortly afterwards, one of the Governors, William Alston, approached the Reverend Edwin H Gifford, the Headmaster of King Edward's School in Birmingham, for his considered opinion on the candidates. He duly advised:-

"I feel no hesitation whatever in putting Mr J Wright of Trinity College, Cambridge at the head of the list. He is totally unknown to me, but I am well acquainted with nearly all those who have given him Testimonials and their own high character and attainments give great weight to their testimony."

Wright's Curriculum Vitae included translations of three of Plato's dialogues and he was, at the time, engaged on a translation of Francis Bacon's philosophical treatise 'Novum Organum' for a proposed edition of Bacon's complete works by Messrs. Ellis, Spedding & Heath, which was eventually published in 1857.

At the meeting on the 28th June, the Governors further managed to reduce the short list to just three before adjourning.

On the 7th July 1849 the Governors met again, this time at the 'Three Tuns' Inn in the High Street. The three remaining candidates were interviewed and Josiah Wright was finally given the post.

Josiah Wright must have performed extremely well in his interview with the Governors, as he was in competition with far more experienced rivals. It should be born in mind that he had only recently completed his studies at Cambridge University and had no previous knowledge of the school environment. It may have been the case, of course, that his face fitted and he had just what the Governors were looking for at that particular moment in time. A 'Sweeping away of the old and the bringing in of the new' philosophy.

As a result of the previous Headmaster's departure under unfortunate circumstances, following his earlier arrest for non-payment of mounting debts, it had adversely affected the number of pupils attending the school. At a meeting of the Governors in December 1849, they were informed that there were now only 14 pupils remaining.

About the same time as the Governors were searching for a replacement Headmaster, Sutton Corporation had published a leaflet advertising its Upper School. It stated:-

"The Education is a sound and practical one and not the mere committing of lessons to memory. The Instruction given in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and English Grammar: Sacred, Profane and Natural History: Geography and Book-keeping. No boy can be admitted till he can read words of one syllable. Boys residing in the Parish are to be educated for 5 shillings per quarter: payment to be made in advance. Holidays, one month at Christmas, the same at mid-summer and one week at Easter."



Fig. 1 Josiah Wright as a young man.

Shortly afterwards, Wright brought out his own printed advertisement which, after setting out the names of the Trustees and referring to his own accomplishments, continued, as follows:-

“The Grammar School at Sutton Coldfield was founded by John Vesey, Bishop of Exeter, in the nineteenth year of the reign of Henry VIII (1527). Limited by its original constitution to the study of Grammar and Rhetoric, it was only in the year 1843 that it was thrown open, by a decree of the Court of Chancery, for the admission of a more liberal and varied system of education, a system which the present Headmaster is anxious to carry out to the widest possible extent.

Having resided at Cambridge for the past few years, he has watched with interest the change which has been gradually working and at length accomplished there in the course of Academical instruction and is consequently prepared to make the studies at Sutton Coldfield serve as an introduction to the present University Scheme, as well as to all professional or general pursuits.

By the institution of new Triposes at Cambridge for the Moral and Physical Sciences, opportunities of improvement and distinction are at length afforded to those who possess inclination for these branches of learning and there is little doubt that a change of a similar character will speedily be effected at Oxford. In accordance therefore with these alterations, and with the extended requirements of the age, it is the plan at Sutton Coldfield, in the place of an exclusive application of Latin and Greek, to encourage each boy in the prosecution of those studies for which he may appear peculiarly fitted. Thus reward and advancement may be obtained by proficiency, as well in History, the Modern Languages, or Natural Science, as in the more regular courses of Classics, Mathematics and Divinity. The Classics themselves will be taught, not merely with a view to refinement of scholarship, but rather as a means of imparting general knowledge, of cultivating the taste and of enlarging the mind.

The business of each day commences with prayer and the reading of the Scriptures, the study of which occupies a prominent place in the School System.

In point of beauty and healthfulness of situation there are few places of education in England superior to Sutton Coldfield. The town lies about midway between Birmingham and Lichfield: and the School House stands on a hill outside the town and within a few minutes walk of its noble park, which affords a most delightful place of recreation and exercise to the members of the School.

<u>Yearly Expenses</u>	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
<i>School Instruction, including Mathematics,</i>			
<i>French and German</i>	26.5.0	<i>Entrance</i>	2.2.0
<i>Board and Lodging</i>	<u>63.0.0</u>	<i>"</i>	3.0.0
<i>Total</i>	89.5.0		

A Quarter's notice is expected previous to the removal of a pupil."

Two years after securing his position, Wright was instrumental in the establishment of a school library and the giving out of prizes to the boys for good work.

At a Governors' meeting on the 16th December 1850 he persuaded them to subscribe a sovereign each towards the library and the prizes and, at the same time, the Clerk to the Governors was requested to write to the Trustees with a similar request. A sovereign was a coin minted in gold and its worth today would be in the region of £135.00, so this was not an inconsiderable amount for the Governors to donate.

Following his success with both of these aims, Wright next wrote to the Warden of Sutton Corporation proposing that the Corporation, of which he had recently been elected a member, should provide an exhibition for a Grammar School boy to go up to University. Although this idea was initially looked upon favourably, the £50 cost per annum proved to be a stumbling block.

At the same meeting, the Governors received a complaint from Mr Paul Moore, who attended in person, that the school hours were not sufficient for the boys' instruction. The Governors resolved that Mr Wright be requested to consult with Mr Gifford, the Headmaster of King Edward's School in Birmingham whether any, and, if so, what, alteration could be made in the school hours with advantage and report at the next Meeting.

The annual inspection of the school that year was carried out by the Reverend R W Essington, Vicar of Shenstone and the Reverend W K Riland Bedford. The former reported:-

"I have examined the boys at the Sutton School and I was much pleased to find that Mr Wright had, in the management of his pupils, carried into practice the system which he had so well laid down in his Prospectus."

There were now 19 pupils attending the school.

At a Governors' Meeting on the 19th December 1851, the members present were advised that Mr Gifford's recommended school hours had been implemented by the school, following a proposal made the previous year. The new hours were now, as follows:-

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Monday	9.00-12.00	12.45-3.00
Tuesday	9.00-12.00	12.45-3.15
Wednesday	9.00- 1.00	Half holiday
Thursday	9.00-12.00	12.45-3.00
Friday	9.00-12.00	12.45-3.15
Saturday	9.00-12.00	Half holiday

During the three winter months, the school started an hour later and finished 15 minutes later, lunch being from 12.30-1.00.

The number of pupils attending the school had reduced to 18.

The 1851 Census Return shows Josiah Wright to be living in the High Street. He was described as being a Master at a Grammar School and he employed two servants. They were Elizabeth Thompson, aged 34, a widow from nearby Wishaw in Warwickshire and Samuel Venables, aged 31, from Ingestre in Staffordshire.

As mentioned earlier, Wright came from a middle class background and, as such, would have immediately felt comfortable amongst the top echelons of Sutton society. He was, of course, a class beneath the likes of Sir William Edmund Craddock Hartopp of Four Oaks Hall, Sir John Shawe Manley of Manley Hall and Sir Francis Lawley of Canwell Hall, to name but a few. These personages, however, he would have met on a fairly regular basis at business meetings, discussions and dinners. His advice would have been regularly sought by the Corporation, not just on educational matters, but also on matters appertaining to the town itself.

On the 20th April 1852 Josiah Wright was married at St. Mary's, Staines, Middlesex. It is not known how he met his wife, Jane Octavia Govett. What is known, however, is that she came from Staines, which was quite near to the area in which he grew up and, perhaps, she was a childhood sweetheart. They were both aged 28 at the time of their marriage.

On the 22nd June 1852 the Corporation resolved to close down their Upper School and to give £30 per annum towards the salary of a second master at the Grammar School, who could also have the use of the Upper School Master's house. In exchange the Corporation were to be allowed to send boys to the Grammar School free of charge or a nominal sum.

The Corporation's School Committee considered the matter further and recommended that the Grammar School should take twelve boys, six from the Corporation's school free of charge and six from elsewhere at a fee of £2 per annum. They also considered that the Upper School Master's house was unsuitable for the Grammar School second master and that £20 per annum should be paid in lieu.

The Corporation duly accepted the recommendations, which Mr Wright was in full agreement with and the proposals were approved by the Governors at an extraordinary Meeting on the 26th October 1852.

An advertisement for a second master was duly placed in the *Midland Counties Herald* in November. The wording was, as follows:-

“Required a Master in this School. Preference will be given to a married graduate of Oxford or Cambridge who can bring a few boarders with him. He will receive at least £60 a year, together with an excellent House (with Garden Croft etc.) rent free, capable of accommodation for 30-40 boarders. Address, with full particulars but without Testimonials, to J Wright M.A., the Headmaster.”

The successful candidate was the Reverend Thomas A Ackland M.A., a late Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge. At the same time a Mr Bray was taken on as master for the English Department. Ackland's principal subject was to be Mathematics.

Unfortunately, by the end of the year, the number of boys at the school had declined to 13, less than Wright had inherited when he started.

Thomas Ackland did not stay at the Grammar School for very long, probably due to the fact he had so few pupils to teach and was unable to fully use his talents. When the Governors held their annual meeting on the 23rd December 1853, they approved the appointment of Richard Yeld, formerly of Dudley Grammar School, to replace him as second master.

At the annual inspection of the school, however, there was good news regarding the number of pupils, which had now increased to the giddy heights of 29. This total was made up of 23 parishioners, 3 from an adjoining parish and 3 boarders.

The inspection, a year later in December 1854, elicited the comment from the Vicar of Shenstone:-

“I have only to add that the progress of the boys during the year has been very considerable and the tone of the school seems to be such as we would expect to find in an Establishment conducted by a pupil of the great Schoolmaster of his age, the late Doctor Arnold.”

In 1855, the number of boys attending school remained the same at 29. Parishioners totalled 19, with 2 from adjoining parishes and 8 boarders. By 1856, this had increased to 34 boys made up of 19 parishioners, 3 from adjoining parishes and 12 boarders.

The 1856 classical examination was conducted by Lonsdale Pritt, the Headmaster of Solihull Grammar School. He remarked:-

“The boys performed their work with an accuracy and intelligence which clearly showed that they had been most skilfully and carefully instructed. I feel sure that were the course of Education pursued by Mr Wright more generally adopted, the cry which has arisen against the use of classics in general education would be speedily silenced and they would be allowed to be what they really are when taught as Mr Wright teaches them at once the most valuable means of mental discipline and culture and the soundest substratum that can be laid for the reception of further knowledge.”

Mr Howard S Chavasse, a local surgeon, conducted the examination in Chemistry and Natural Philosophy (Physics).

He stated:-

“I consider that the amount of information they possess is more than would be expected generally from those of a similar age.”

Writing in his diary, Richard Holbeche remarked on Josiah Wright, as follows:-

“Mr Wright, the Headmaster of the Grammar School, was a rigid disciplinarian and believed in the efficacy of the cause. In private life he was agreeable, but he was too aristocratic in his view for a middle class school. It is related of him that one morning he was discovered, armed with a nice, fat, floggable boy named Bond, by a local tradesman. Mr Wright motioned the intruder away saying, “Leave us alone in our disgrace”.

This attitude appears to have been passed down to the second master, Richard Yeld for, in early 1857, one of the parents complained about the excessive corporal punishment of his son. The matter was informally investigated by the Governors who decided on behalf of the teacher. However, Mr Barnett was still not satisfied and took private court proceedings against Yeld for damages for assault but, once again, the verdict was given in the defendant's favour. Despite his success in defending the case against him, however, Yeld resigned at the end of May the same year.

It should be born in mind that, in Victorian times, teachers were often very strict and, by modern standards, much more a figure of fear. Children would soon learn to do what the teacher ordered; otherwise they would receive a sharp rap across the knuckles with a ruler, or a clip around the ears. The cane, or birch, was also used frequently; on the hand or the bottom or sometimes across the legs.

1857 saw the appointment of Mr C R Honey, an undergraduate of Trinity College, Dublin, as second master in succession to Richard Yeld.

By 1858 there were 28 pupils at the school and this increased to 32 boys the following year.

1859 was a very busy year for Josiah Wright, as he had just been elected Warden of the Sutton Corporation, a post he was to fill for three consecutive years.

Sarah Holbeche, in her diary on the 2nd November, made a short pithy entry on the subject, as follows:-

“Mr Wright elected Warden!”

Also, as the number of boys in the school had doubled since he had become Headmaster, he put before the Governors an ambitious scheme for enlarging the school, with an estimated cost in the region of £1,000. (approximately £130,000 in today's money)

He was particularly concerned that a few of the boarders slept at the School House and the remainder were in the large house occupied by the second master (this was highly likely to have been No. 10 High Street, which later was demolished to make way for the Midland Bank building) and he thought it preferable that they should all be under one roof. He also wished to increase the numbers at the school even further and to attract boys of a higher social standing. Wrights middle class upbringing keeps coming to the fore!

The scheme was an ambitious one as it proposed to erect on the site of the present School Room an Ante Room or Waiting Room, which in wet weather could be used as a Playroom (or also as a Dining Room for day scholars) with conveniences for caps, coats etc.

On the next floor would be a Dining Room for the Boarders, with access to the main house and the room below. The third floor was to have Dormitories for about 14 boys. At the end of the present building, it proposed to erect a new School Room 50 foot long x 20 foot wide x 16 foot high, in a parallel line with the back of the house, having access from the Ante Room.

There would also be a room above, which would provide Dormitories for another 20 boys and another floor with 20 additional beds.

It also proposed to add a second Masters Bedroom, with Housekeepers Room, and a Lavatory with cisterns for soft water and self acting water closets.



Fig. 2 A modern day view of the front elevation of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, similar to as it would have appeared in Josiah Wright's day. (Photograph was taken in 2003.)

The Governors considered the proposal at a Special Meeting on the 31st December 1859 and approved the plan in principle.

George T Robinson, an Architect from Leamington Spa, was commissioned to prepare the plans. Three tenders were obtained for the work, all of which were considerably in excess of the proposed outlay of £1,000.

Eventually revised plans and specifications were drawn up and tenders requested once more. The lowest quotation was for £1,050 submitted by Messrs. J Hardwick & Son of Bradford Street, Birmingham.

The Contract was signed on the 14th July 1859 and J Hardwick & Son agreed to complete the work by the 15th November 1860. Unfortunately, due to bad weather and other delays the work was not completed until April 1861. The total revised cost of building work amounted to £1,714. 4s. 0d.

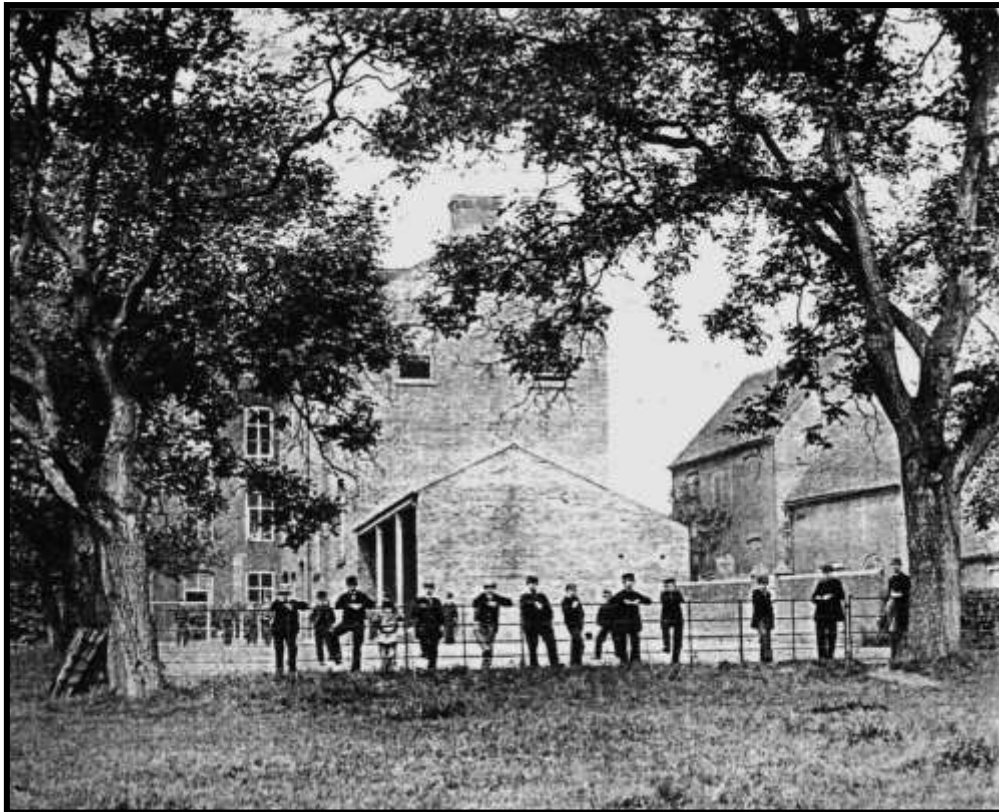


Fig. 3 View to the rear of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Circa 1861, showing the new extension and some of the boys who attended the school.

The Census Return for that year (1861) showed that Josiah Wright and his wife, both aged 37, were residing at the Schoolhouse on the Lichfield Road, which was then classified as the High Street, but was generally known as the Turnpike Road.

This property came about due to the foresight of Paul Lowe, an earlier Headmaster of the school, who was the incumbent between 1724 and 1764 and it was his idea to erect a new School Building.

He approached the Corporation, who agreed to finance the purchase of a suitable piece of land and to contribute £400 towards the cost of building a School and a Schoolhouse. In March 1727, Lowe negotiated the purchase of a parcel of land called 'Bulls Croft' from Joseph Marler, a Weaver from Tamworth.

The property in question was built in 1729 and is the original part of the present school, being the central Georgian portion of the imposing 3-storey residence fronting onto Lichfield Road. (See Fig. 2)

In 1843, Mr Sadler, acting for the Trustees, was required to insure the property, which he did via the Norwich Union Insurance Company of Bennetts Hill, Birmingham. The agreed sum insured was for £2,140. The Schoolhouse itself was covered for £850 and was described as:-

"A dwelling house, of brick and tile, presently occupied by Mrs Barker, (widow of Charles Barker, the Headmaster between 1817 and 1842) and a Storeroom, adjoining, also of brick and tile. A Knife House and Stable with lofts over, all adjoining each other. A Loose Box and Gig House, Fuel House and Piggeries, all adjoining each other and of brick and tile. The Gig House having a pipe stove. Cow Shed and Cart Hovel, adjoining each other and of wood and thatch."

A further insight into the building was obtained at the time of an Auction of James Eccleston's household furniture and effects, which took place between the 11th and 13th June 1849. The differing rooms were fully listed, as follows:-

Attics, Housemaid's Room, Servant man's Room, Yellow Room, Fushia Room, English Master's Room, Pink Room, Night Nursery, Day Nursery, Tapestry Chamber, Spare Room, Dressing Room, Best Bedroom, Landings, School Room, Study, Library, Drawing Room, Dining Room, Entrance Hall, China Pantry, Butler's Pantry, Cellars, Yard, Lower Dining Room, Kitchen and Brewhouse.

In all there were a total of 11 Bedrooms.

Turning our attention, once more, to the 1861 Census Return, Wright's occupation was described as a Headmaster (Grammar School) and Warden. He was now, however, a family man with no fewer than four young children, all born in Sutton Coldfield.

Walter G Wright	Son	Aged 7	Scholar
Charles G Wright	Son	Aged 6	Scholar
Marian L Wright	Daughter	Aged 5	Scholar
Bernard C Wright	Son	Aged 3	Scholar

Wright was a believer in a comfortable life and this was shown by the number of servants he employed, no fewer than 8 in total. They were:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Where Born</u>
Anne Cotman	Governess	Unmarried	47	Governess	Yarmouth, Norfolk
Elizabeth Thompson	Servant	Widow	43	Cook	Wishaw, Warwickshire
Louisa Brandon	Servant	Unmarried	25	Nurse	Sutton Coldfield
Sarah A Smith	Servant	Unmarried	32	Housemaid	Comberford, Staffs
Sarah A Jeffreys	Servant	Unmarried	34	Housemaid	Sutton Coldfield
Mary Bromwich	Servant	Unmarried	18	Kitchenmaid	Sutton Coldfield
Annie Bromwich	Servant	Unmarried	15	Nursemaid	Preston-on-Stour, Glas
Thomas Poole	Servant	Unmarried	23	Footman	Ludlow, Shropshire

Elizabeth Thompson was an old family retainer who had been with Josiah Wright since his earlier days in Sutton, having appeared on the Census Return 10 years previously. He obviously liked her cooking!

The 1862 annual inspection and examination was undertaken by the Reverend H V Hodge of Middleton and he reported:-

"I hope it may be some set off against the discouragement which you, in common with every other Master experience, to receive a favourable opinion of the result of your labours during the last half year. On examining the pupils I found them as well acquainted with their books as I should expect to find the same number in any other School where pains had been taken to make them intelligent as well as ready. Some, of course, are boys of greater promise, intellectually, than others, but I am satisfied that labour has been bestowed on all. As for the examination in Divinity, a subject sadly neglected in my day, I was equally surprised and pleased to see the accuracy with which the questions put to the School at large were answered."

In early 1863, however, Josiah Wright decided to establish his own private school at St. Leonards-on-Sea in Sussex. Like his predecessor, he had been unable to attract many boarders to Sutton and therefore was

unable to increase his salary. His salary, in actual fact, was now less than it had been when he had been appointed in 1849, with little prospect of improvement. He gave in his notice in February to take effect on the 16th July.

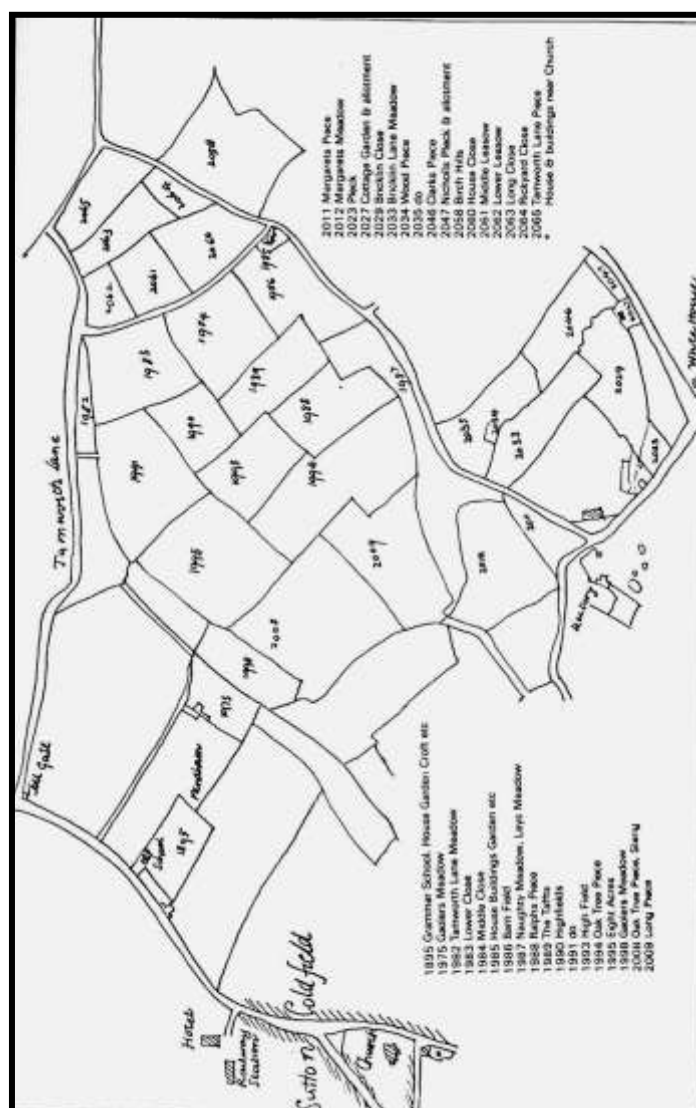
An extraordinary meeting of the Governors was held on the 20th March, during which they expressed their regret at receiving Wright's resignation and their very high appreciation of the services which he had rendered to the School over a period of 14 years.

Sarah Holbeche, made an entry in her diary in April, when she remarked:-

“Mr Wright left the Grammar School to be succeeded by the Reverend Albert Smith, a junior master at King Edward’s Grammar School in Birmingham. The Charity Act reversing the Will of the Founder, whose will it was that the Master should be a layman. May the successors equal their pre-decessors in their many good qualities.

Mr & Mrs Wright left Sutton, amid the regrets of their neighbours, for St. Leonards.”

It would seem therefore that Wright left the school a little earlier than intended and did not, in fact, serve his notice out.



In addition to his other accomplishments, Josiah Wright was credited with the editorship of a 'History of Greece, in Greek' for use in schools and also wrote 'David, King of Israel', which had a more popular appeal.

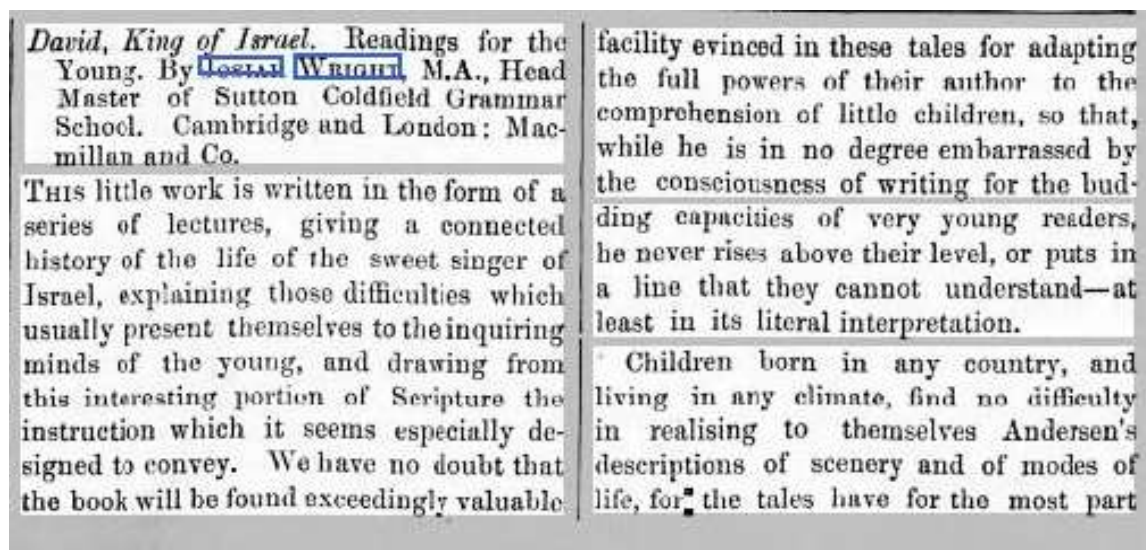


Fig. 5 Extract from Lady's Own Paper, dated Saturday 29th December 1860, advertising his work 'David, King of Israel'

Shortly after he left Sutton Coldfield to start a new life in Sussex, he was ordained as a Deacon and subsequently as a Priest in 1865.

It seems a strange coincidence that Wright did this almost as soon as he had left the school. Could it have been that he felt unable to proceed earlier, due to the constraint of the 'Will of the Founder' which Sarah Holbeche referred to in her diary? Perhaps we will never know the answer, or will later research unveil the truth?

The school that Wright established was situated at 'Barham House', St. Leonards-on-Sea and the Census Return for the Hastings area in 1871 provided the following information:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Where Born</u>
Josiah Wright	Head	Married	47	Schoolmaster	Homerton, Middlesex
Jane D Wright	Wife	Married	47	-	Staines, Middlesex
Bernard C Wright	Son	Unmarried	13	Scholar	Sutton Coldfield
Margaret R Wright	Daughter	Unmarried	9	Scholar	Sutton Coldfield
Emma Sampson	Governess	Unmarried	42	Governess	Bristol, Somerset
Emma Southgate	Servant	Unmarried	27	Cook	Bromley, Kent
Anne Buss	Servant	Unmarried	27	Housemaid	Brightling, Sussex
Mary Dennis	Servant	Unmarried	22	Housemaid	Hollington, Sussex
Charlotte Mitchell	Servant	Unmarried	25	Housemaid	Hastings, Sussex
Harriett Brett	Servant	Unmarried	16	Kitchenmaid	Camberwell, Surrey
William Capelden	Servant	Married	50	Butler	Keston, Kent

It can be seen from this that Wright did not stint himself when it came to his home comforts as he continued to employ numerous servants. On this occasion he even had a Butler to tend to his every need!

In addition to above, there were also listed 32 pupils of various ages who attended his private school.

It is not known precisely when Josiah Wright decided to leave the teaching profession, but it was sometime between 1871 and 1881. The Census Return for 1881 showed that the family were still residing in St. Leonards-on-Sea, but they had moved to a smaller property named 'Rosemount'. His occupation was no longer that of a Schoolmaster but was described as a 'Clergyman without Cure for Souls.'

In those times, there were more Clergy than there were Parishes and obtaining a Parish with sufficient income was difficult, hence the term 'A clergyman without his own parish' (without cure/care of souls).

Josiah and his wife were now 57 years of age and, because of their smaller property, only four servants were now considered necessary.

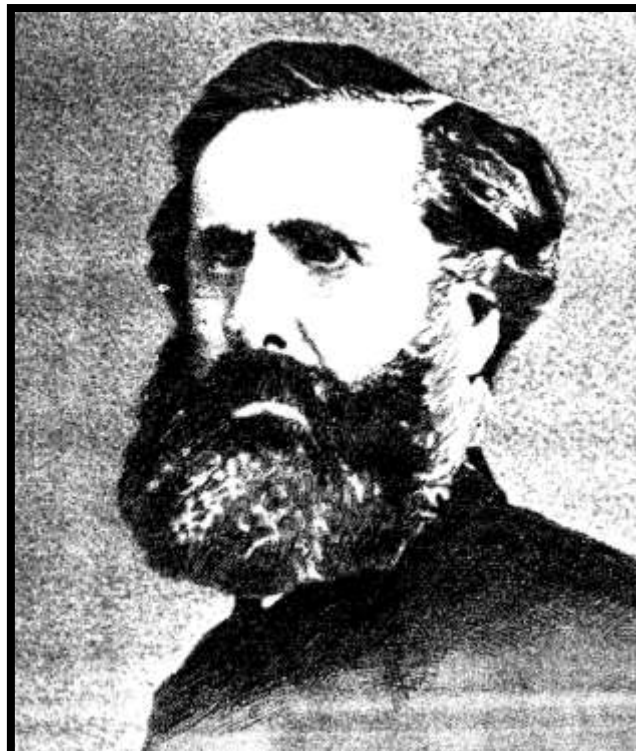


Fig. 6 Josiah Wright in later life.

Full particulars on the census are, as follows:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Where Born</u>
Josiah Wright	Head	Married	57	Clergyman without Cure for Souls	Homerton, Middlesex
Jane D Wright	Wife	Married	57	-	Staines, Middlesex
Walter G Wright	Son	Unmarried	27	-	Sutton Coldfield
Marian L Wright	Daughter	Unmarried	25	-	Sutton Coldfield
Bernard C Wright	Son	Unmarried	23	-	Sutton Coldfield
Margaret R Wright	Daughter	Unmarried	19	-	Sutton Coldfield
Edith Halliard	Visitor	Unmarried	25	-	Kent
George Pitcher	Servant	Married	48	Butler	Sydenham, Kent
Harriett Duffield	Servant	Unmarried	28	Cook	Horsham, Sussex
Amy M Hodges	Servant	Unmarried	25	Housemaid	Watford, Hertfordshire
Rose E Cooke	Servant	Unmarried	13	Kitchenmaid	Tunbridge Wells, Kent

The Census Return for 1891 provides us with our final look at the Wright family. Josiah and his wife were now both 67 years of age, Wright is described as a Clerk in Orders, a chiefly legal and formal way of acknowledging a Priest or Deacon.

They were still living at 'Rosemount' and four servants continued to look after their needs.

Josiah Wright died a few years later at East Molesey, Surrey in 1894, at the age of 70. He was survived by his wife, also a son and daughter.

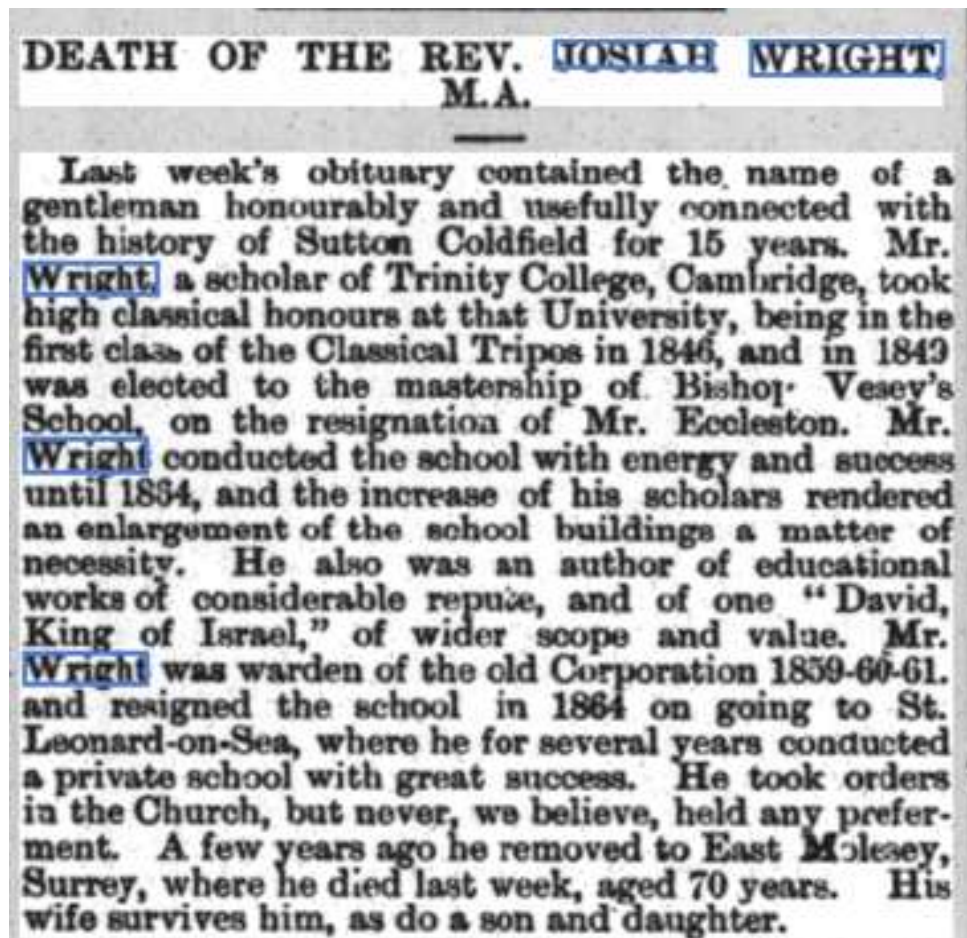


Fig. 7 Obituary for Josiah Wright in the Warwickshire Herald dated Thursday 7th June 1894.

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'The Illustrated Holbeche Diary' by Janet and Keith Jordan. 1996. Ref No. BCCL Q942.496092. HOL

Copy of the original Holbeche Diary in the Holbeche Family Papers. Ref No. BCCL Q942.496082. HOL

Sarah Holbeche Diary. Ref: No. BCCL Q942. 496081. HOL

Census Returns

1851 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.
1861 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield
1871 Census Return for St Leonards-on-Sea, Hastings.
1881 Census Return for St. Leonards-on-Sea, Hastings.
1891 Census Return for St. Leonards-on-Sea, Hastings.

Photographs

Fig. 1 Josiah Wright as a young man. Taken from the copy of the original Holbeche Diary in the Holbeche Family Papers.
Ref No. BCCL Q942.496082. HOL

Fig. 2 A modern day view of the front elevation of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, similar to as it would have appeared in Josiah Wright's day. (Photograph taken in 2003)
Keith Jordan's Photographic Collection.

Fig. 3 View to the rear of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Circa 1861, showing the new extension and some of the boys who attended the school. Taken from the copy of the original Holbeche Diary in the Holbeche Family Papers. Ref: BCCL Q942.496082. HOL

Fig. 4 Plan of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and the School Estates. 1868.
'A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School – The first 375 years' by Kerry Osbourne 1996.
Ref No. SH.48.34. BLS

Fig. 5 Extract from the Lady's Own Paper, dated Saturday 29th December 1860, advertising Josiah Wright's work 'David, King of Israel'. www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Fig. 6 Josiah Wright in later life. 'A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School – The first 375 years' by Kerry Osbourne 1996. Ref No. SH.48.34. BLS

Fig. 7 Obituary for Josiah Wright in the Warwickshire Herald dated Thursday 7th June 1894.
www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk