

THE REVEREND
ALBERT SMITH M.A.
(Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's
Grammar School 1863-1902)
by
Keith Jordan

In early 1863, Josiah Wright informed the Governors of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School that he would be leaving during the summer to establish his own private school down in Sussex.

The Governors subsequently held an Extraordinary Meeting on the 20th March to discuss the situation and, as it was considered likely many of the new applicants for the vacant position would be ordained, they asked Thomas Eddowes, the Treasurer, to enquire of the Charity Commissioners if the 'Rules and Regulations' could be amended to remove the requirement for the Headmaster to be a layman and also the stipulation that any potential candidate should be a graduate.

In addition, they wished to know if the Under-master's salary could be altered and if lesser qualifications would be acceptable than the present rules allowed.

These questions were brought about by the fact that, in the Governors' opinion, there was a desire amongst some of the inhabitants of the town, that a lower class of education should be introduced into the school.

The Charity Commissioner's reply was quite prompt and in it they stated:-

"The Commissioners would be disposed to consider that a new scheme should allow of the Master being either a Layman or a Clergyman in Holy Orders, not having, or being allowed to have, a cure of souls.

FILE NOTE: In other words, he should not be a working cleric with his own ministry which, of course, would not have been compatible.

They would suggest that, as some test of fitness, he should be as heretofore a graduate of some university in England or Ireland. They would not wish to dispense with this requirement. As to the qualification and salary of the Under-master, they would consider that matter when properly brought before them."

Sutton folk decided that they also could not let this opportunity pass them by without arranging for a petition to be drawn up and presented to the Governors. In the typically flowery language and long sentences of the time, they stated:-

"We, the undersigned, being residents of the Parish of Sutton Coldfield, and taking a deep interest in everything calculated to promote its welfare, and especially in the education of its youth; and being aware that in consequence of the resignation of Mr Wright you will soon be called upon, in the

exercise of your trust, to make new arrangements, think this is a favourable opportunity respectfully to request of you to take into your earnest consideration, whether some scheme may not now be adopted to meet the wishes of those who have long thought that the education, at present given in the School under your direction, is not sufficiently practical and commercial.

We are anxious not to be misunderstood in this matter as undervaluing the benefit of a good Classical Education; but, while freely admitting that this is in the highest degree advantageous to those who are intended for professional pursuits and who have leisure and opportunity to follow out the foundation of a complete education to its legitimate results, we wish to draw your attention to the fact that the great majority of the youth educated in your School are intended not for Professional, but for Commercial or Agricultural pursuits; and that therefore a merely Classical Education leaves them thoroughly unfitted to grapple with the difficulties which beset their career, and immeasurably inferior, in all practical matters, to those who have not had the advantage of so ambitious an education.

With these views we earnestly and most respectfully ask that, without neglecting the Classical department, ample provision may at the same time be made for those boys, and we venture to think that they will be a rapidly increasing number, whose avocations are likely to be such as to require the advantages of a sound English education independent of the Classics."

In other words, to put it more succinctly, could the School in future concentrate on subjects more likely to be of value to the boys, such as English and Arithmetic than the present concentration on Greek and Latin!

The petition was signed by almost 100 people, amongst them being Dr. George Bodington, Samuel Kempson (Auctioneer), Charles Cooper (Valuer) and the Reverend Gilbert Robinson M.A., the first Vicar of Walmley.

The Governors met again on the 11th April and resolved to recommend to the Charity Commissioners that the Rules and Regulations be changed to include a revision to the education system to meet, as far as practicable, the wishes of the people of Sutton.

They also agreed to draw the petitioner's attention to the importance of, once more, requesting the Corporation of Sutton Coldfield to begin paying the £47 per annum to the Headmaster for instructing an English Class which, since the year 1830, had ceased to be paid by them.

Later the same month, the vacancy at the School was advertised in the '*Times*', the '*Standard*', the '*Civil Service Gazette*' and the '*Athenaeum*'.

Unfortunately, the wording of previous advertisements was inadvertently followed, which referred only to a 'Master' being required. This naturally led to many enquiries as to whether the post was for a 'Master' or a 'Headmaster'. Eddowes therefore had a printed reply prepared to send to the various applicants. This reply provided the following supplementary information:-

"I beg to inform you that the estates, forming the endowment of the Sutton Coldfield Grammar School, produce, after all deductions for repairs and expenses, property tax and sinking fund, an income of a full £300, exclusive of the School House (a large and very good one), with Orchard and Gardens adjoining, containing about four acres.

FILE NOTE: £300 in 1863 would have the equivalent purchasing power of approximately £40,000 today.

The School and Master's House have recently been enlarged and improved, at an expense of nearly £2,000; to defray the capital and interest of which, the above mentioned sinking fund, (extending over thirty years), has been created.

FILE NOTE: A 'Sinking Fund' is a strategic way to save money by setting aside a certain amount each month to be used over a period of time to pay for future works and repairs.

The Under-master's salary of £100 a year has to be paid out of the £300.

There are now twenty-two boys in the School: viz, eighteen parishioners, who pay ten shillings each per quarter; and four from the adjoining parishes, who pay thirty shillings each per quarter. These fees are in addition to the £300 a year.

There is ample accommodation for forty boarders.

I expect the Election of the Head Master will take place at the latter end of next month, or early in June.

I enclose a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the School, which are proposed to be altered according to the alterations in red ink; but I cannot say, at present, whether such alterations will be confirmed by the Charity Commissioners.

On the other side, is a list of the Governors.

If you should require any further information, I should be happy to give it."

The response was excellent, with 91 enquiries and 54 applicants. These came from all parts of the British Isles, which included destinations as far apart as the Isle of Man, Guernsey, Plymouth, Alnwick, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Caernarvon and Armagh.

Nevertheless, a brace of applicants came from a source much closer to home. Two teachers from King Edward's Grammar School, Birmingham forwarded their Curriculum Vitae. The first was the Reverend Edward Harris, the Assistant Classical Master and the other was the Reverend Albert Smith, the Headmaster's Assistant.

Both Harris and Smith asked the Reverend Charles Evans, the Headmaster of King Edwards, for a testimonial. He did not, however, fully adhere to their wishes, but instead wrote a letter to the Governors, which stated:-

"They have both discharged their duties here to my entire satisfaction: they are both sound and accurate scholars, in the manner and attainments quite equal to the position which they are seeking.

Mr Smith has the advantage of long and varied experience and from his acquaintance with the details of this school, would bring a great deal of valuable knowledge to bear upon the administration of Sutton, and in the event of a second or Commercial Department being introduced would, I have no doubt, organise such a Branch with ability and success.

Mr Smith is, I think, likely to become a very valuable Head Master."

Charles Evans, having been put in a very awkward position by having two members of his staff applying for the same position, seemed to have dealt with the matter quite well.

The Governors duly assembled once more at Eddowes' office in the High Street on the 23rd May 1863 to consider a short list of four candidates. They were the Reverend L L Ackland, the Reverend F C Clarke, the Reverend F C Simmons and the Reverend A Smith.

From this, it can be seen, that the proposed amendment of the Rules and Regulations to allow the appointment of a clergyman to the post of Headmaster, was a sound one.

The Governors resolved that the Charity Commission be informed that the election of the Headmaster would take place on the 27th June. At this meeting, the Reverend Albert Smith was chosen, subject to the rules being amended as necessary.

Albert Smith was born in Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire in 1834, the son of George and Ann Smith. This is a small village located in the Sparkenhoe Hundred, with its name deriving from the high situation, on a hill, overlooking four counties. At the time of his birth the population of the area would only have been in the region of 300.

He was educated at Shoreham School, now called Lancing College, in West Sussex, which is situated east of Worthing on the south coast of England. It was initially founded in 1848 by Nathaniel Woodward and is now a public school.

It would appear that, during his stay there, he was universally admired for both his academic achievements and sporting prowess.

Upon leaving Lancing College he went up to Lincoln College, Oxford, where he obtained a First Class Honours Degree in Latin and Greek, as well as Honours in Mathematics in 1856.

After leaving Oxford, his first teaching post was at King Edward's School, Birmingham, where he filled various positions in both the English and Classical Departments until becoming Headmaster's Assistant in 1859. During this period he had worked for and obtained his Masters Degree and had also been ordained.

On the 1st January 1863, Albert Smith married Frances Elizabeth Taylor, aged 23, at St. Philip's Church, Birmingham, when he was aged 29.

Frances was the eldest of seven children born to Thomas and Catherine Taylor of Bennetts Hill, Birmingham. Her father was a Surgeon and originated from Redditch in Worcestershire, his wife being born in Leeds, Yorkshire.

Mr E H Gifford, the recently retired Headmaster of King Edward's School, gave Albert Smith a glowing reference:-

"Mr Smith is of a remarkable gentle and kindly disposition and is beloved and respected, both by his pupils and his colleagues. It is evident to all who know him that in the discharge of duty he is animated by the highest motives and his whole character and conduct as a Clergyman and a gentleman are such as to exercise a most salutary influence on the moral tone and habits of his pupils."

Taking all things into consideration, it would appear that Albert Smith was a kind and compassionate man, empathic to others, as well as being very intelligent and a good sportsman. This was a very powerful combination indeed and one that reinforced why he was chosen as the successful candidate.

The formal application for the amendment of the Rules and Regulations was submitted to the Charity Commissioners for their consideration, at the beginning of July.

In the meantime, Josiah Wright, Albert Smith's predecessor, was getting ready to leave Sutton.

Samuel Kempson, a well known Valuer in the area at the time, was asked to provide a figure for his fixtures and fittings. These he calculated to be worth a total of £160.2s.6d. The Governors agreed to pay out of this amount the sum of £17.17s.0d., for grates and chimney pieces, which left Smith with an outstanding liability of £142.5s.6d. This was the equivalent to almost nine months of his salary, so it was not a very auspicious start for him.

In the meantime Smith, fired with enthusiasm for his new position, gave immediate thoughts to the way he would like to run the school. He suggested to the Governors that it might be a good idea to divide the school into two Departments, Classical and English, on the lines of his old school, King Edward's. He also wondered if Latin might be dispensed with, at the option of parents.

An Extraordinary Meeting was held on the 8th August to consider these suggestions. However, the Governors wisely felt that they should act as a restraining influence on the fervour of the young Headmaster. They decided that:-

"The school was not yet large enough, nor the funds sufficient, to admit two Departments."

It should be born in mind that, with the opening of the railway line from Birmingham to Sutton in 1862, the number of people living in the parish was increasing at a pace and it is thought that the Governors had it in mind to review the situation at a later date.

Albert Smith officially took up his post, shortly afterwards, on the 11th August, with Mr Pope, the Under Master to Josiah Wright, continuing in his position.

On his first day as Headmaster, Albert Smith started a School Register. This showed that there were 20 existing pupils, with another 9 starting about that time. Amongst the names listed were the following boys:-

<u>John Barnaby Cull</u>	aged 14, the son of J H Cull, himself a Schoolmaster, who had previously run his own school in the High Street. John Cull went up to Oxford at the end of 1868.
<u>Ralph Sadler</u>	the younger son of Richard Sadler, the late Clerk to the Trustees of the school. He left to go on to Rugby School in 1864.
<u>Robert Colmore</u>	the son of Thomas Colmore, one of the Governors of the school.
<u>Charles Colmore</u>	Ditto.
<u>Edward Webster</u>	the son of the Reverend Montague Webster.

One interesting fact the Register revealed was that a third of the boys had '*father deceased*' as part of their entry and almost half of these had previously attended '*Dame Schools*'. These were small private schools, usually run by a woman and were completely independent of any official control and were often old fashioned and ill-equipped.

The particular dames mentioned were Miss Shaw, Mrs Shyrte, Miss Thrup, Miss Shardlow, Mrs Vaughton and Miss Filkins.

Most of the boys were in the 12-14 age bracket, the youngest being just 8 and the oldest 16.

When the Governors received a reply from the Charity Commissioners, they found that they did not approve of the Classics being dropped by any pupil, as this interfered with the character of the school as a Grammar School.

Albert Smith, in addition to his teaching duties and managing the school's estates, also offered his services as a private tutor, at least in the early days of his career at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School.

Francis James Chavassee, the son of Thomas Chavassee, an eminent surgeon and local doctor in Sutton who lived at 'Wylde Green House', situated on the corner of Sutton Road and Wylde Green Road, started to keep a diary upon attaining his 16th birthday on the 27th September 1862, just under a year before Albert Smith took up his new appointment as Headmaster.

Francis Chavassee was small for his age, due to having contracted measles, which resulted in complications. This subsequently left him with a curvature of the spine, for which he had to take frequent remedial exercises. As a result, he was unable to attend full time school from about the age of ten.

His father naturally wanted the best for his son and thought that private tuition would be the best way forward. He had a number of tutors including William Felton of Walmley and Monsieur de Lattre. In order for him to master Latin and Greek, which were necessary subjects for Francis to go on to university, a suitable tutor needed to be found. After much discussion, Albert Smith was chosen.

The following extracts have been taken from the diary in question, which provide a fascinating insight into his association with Albert Smith, in addition to giving a feel for the times in the mid 1800's:-

17th August 1863

"Went for the first time to Mr Albert Smith and arranged which book I should begin to read etc. Like him very much indeed."

2nd September 1863

"Went to Mr Albert Smith who showed me his collection of butterflies, which I suppose is a fine one. He has a few beetles. Sutton Park will be a good place for him to catch some more."

19th September 1863

"Went to Mr Albert Smith. He met me at the door to ask me to put off my lesson until Monday as he has friends come to see him, which of course I did. He seemed very sorry to be obliged to put me off but, of course, it did not matter."

7th October 1863

"Went to Mr Albert Smith. Had a very short lesson as 'the doctors were in the house'. Papa had to go down in the evening and brought word that Mrs Smith had a little boy."

FILE NOTE: This would have been Ernest A Smith, Albert Smith and his wife's first born.

9th November 1863

"Went to Mr Albert Smith. He took me into a field to see his boarders set off a fire balloon but alas it would not go higher than the house. It was improperly balanced I think."

2nd December 1863

"At my Latin and Greek nearly all day. Walked with Miss F H to Sutton, but did not go till 7.00 pm, as Mr Smith had written to ask me to come an hour later. I did not get home again until nearly ten at night, nevertheless I had a very good lesson, though I am sorry to say that I did not manage my Greek very well. I hope to do better next time. I intended to have come home by train, but I got there just too late, as I saw the train move off as I came to the top of the road."

6th January 1864

"Went to AS. Found him out, but he came after I had stayed a few minutes. In the middle of my lessons Mrs Garnett came and he was obliged to go to her. She kept him for more than half an hour, so I had not time to finish my Cicero."

17th January 1864

"In the evening learned 16 Articles and got up again two chapters of Hebrews and said them to Mamma. They came back to me very soon. It is very lucky that I have kept up my Articles, for AS says I shall want them when I go to Oxford, as every undergraduate is required to know them."

28th January 1864

"Went to AS. Called at the Reading Room on my way home and saw the 'Times'. Papa and Mamma went to a party at Albert Smith's."

24th February 1864

"Went to AS. Had a good lesson. He hopes to have 20 boarders by Midsummer and to number in all about 50, a large increase."

26th February 1864

"Worked for AS, but not feeling very well. Did not get through so much as I should have liked. The 'Latin Verses' being new to me, I found took me a long time. I have a big hill to mount before I am ready for Oxford, but perseverance. What seems at first insurmountable, may often be done little by little."

23rd March 1864

"In the afternoon, went to see the sports at the Grammar School. It turned out a lovely afternoon and I enjoyed myself very much. After all the racing etc. was over, we got up an impromptu race, each with a small boy on his back. Williams won and I got second. The second prize was three pence, but J Cull coolly walked off with it. Had tea with the boys and afterwards AS gave me my lesson. He had rather a bad cold."

23rd April 1864

"We had a good game of cricket, Sutton against the Grammar School. Mr Salter's bowling was very effective and he virtually won the match for the School. He bowled several and myself among the number, first ball. I had the luck, however, to catch him out in his innings, after he had made about 56 runs. Enjoyed myself very much, although I felt that I was a great muff. Had tea at AS and had my usual lesson and got home about 10.00 pm."

FILE NOTE: The Mr. Salter referred to was the Assistant Master at the school, who had replaced Mr Pope.

3rd July 1864

"Went to AS. Just before I started, there had been a very heavy shower of rain and on the Dam the water lay right across the road. AS got wet through in coming from Mr Kittoe's."

FILE NOTE: This would almost certainly have been the Reverend Edward Hooper Kittoe, the Vicar of Boldmere.

7th July 1864

"Went to AS. Verses, I think, a little better. Felt rather despondent, but AS encouraged me. He thinks it would be a good plan for me to try to get to university."

31st August 1864

"Went to AS and got through my work satisfactorily. He does not seem to be at all well. People say that his domestic life is not all that could be desired. Poor fellow, would that he knew where to go for comfort and consolation."

25th October 1864

"Papa spoke to me about going to AS as a boarder at Christmas."

26th October 1864

My father went up to speak to AS about my going into the house (he means the Grammar School) at Christmas and arranged it with him."

FILE NOTE: Francis Chavasse spent six months at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, as a boarder, commencing in 1865, in order to intensify his studying for the entry examination to Oxford University.

1st November 1864

"Went down to AS. Mrs AS was confined on Sunday with a little girl. She was going on, he said, very nicely."

FILE NOTE: This would have been Albert Smith's second child, Beatrice M Smith, born on the 30th October.

8th November 1864

Went to AS. In the evening went to see the fireworks at the School. They had £8 pounds worth. Came away about 9.00 pm."

30th January 1865

"Trow drove me up to AS about 10.30 am. Showed my work to AS and worked the rest of the day. Went to bed about 10.30 pm. I have Salter's old room at the top of the house. I had a fire: it was certainly very kind of Mrs Smith. Snow very deep."

FILE NOTE: This was the commencement of his boarding period.

16th February 1865

"Mr & Mrs Smith were to have gone to dinner at Wylde Green (the Chavasse family home), but the weather was so rough that Archer refused to take them. I dare say they were not sorry, for they were out at Mrs Chadwick's ball last night and did not get home again until 4.00 am in the morning."

16th March 1865

"The first day at the races and the road thronged by an immense rabble. AS took all the boys to the races and even Salter went."

5th June 1865

"Drove AS and Willie over to Weeford to fish in a brook – Lord Bradford's. Willie and I caught nothing but Mr Smith caught five or six."

13th October 1865

"My last day at home. Wished AS goodbye and thanked him for all his kindness. He and Mrs S gave me a beautiful silver butter knife."

FILE NOTE: Francis Chavasse was going up to Oxford to study at Corpus Christi College.

Albert Smith's tutelage of Francis Chavasse was therefore very successful and, furthermore, later on in his career, Francis achieved great heights by becoming Bishop of Liverpool (1900-1923).



Fig. 1 Francis James Chavasse when he was aged 14.

The annual examination of the school for 1863 was conducted by Francis Curtis M.A., an Assistant Master at King Edward's School who, by chance, had been one of Smith's referees. He reported that the school was divided into three classes. The top class was examined on the Old Testament and Curtis commented:-

"The intelligence and proficiency displayed by the boys was very striking – their Divinity was remarkably well done; and in both Greek and Latin subjects they showed an accuracy of grammatical knowledge, which must have been the effect of much and careful preparation."

The second class fared somewhat worse and his opinion was:-

"Not containing any boys of more than average talent."

The third class did not impress him either:-

"The boys were very unequal in point of capacity."

All the boys were given an arithmetic paper, which had previously been set at King Edward's School and Francis Curtis described the results thus:-

"This was the least satisfactory part of the Examination. Although most of the boys seemed well acquainted with the proper method of working the different sums, they were frequently careless and inaccurate."

The report ended, however, on a more positive note:-

"I was very favourably impressed with the general deportment of the boys and the intelligent interest which most of them seemed to take in their work. I feel assured that the school, under the able direction of its present Headmaster, has entered a course of renewed prosperity and success."

Full marks must be given to Curtis for standing by his former colleague and giving him a mostly positive review. It would seem, however, that Smith had plenty of work ahead of him to improve the overall standard of the school.

At the end of February 1864, Charles Adderley managed to persuade the Charity Commissioners to agree that boys could be admitted to the school who did not intend to learn Latin and Greek. At the same time they inserted a new provision that parents could opt out of instruction in the Church of England catechism, if they objected on conscientious grounds.

A little later on in the same year, Mr Pope resigned as Undermaster to Albert Smith and Smith replaced him with Mr W Salter B.A., of Clare College, Cambridge.

The 1864 Examination of the school was conducted by the Reverend William H Poulton of Queens College, Birmingham. He mentioned in his report that all pupils in the first class did creditable papers in Euclid and Algebra, but in the viva voce they were not quite so successful owing, he thought, to their being somewhat nervous.

The second class had been split into two divisions, in the first of which he stated:-

"A fair average knowledge was shown."

Referring to the second class:-

"The work was fairly done."

The third class also performed creditably in History and Latin, but in Scripture he said:-

"There was a very great difference in the numbers of marks obtained by the first and last boys."

The only real item of note in 1865 was that the Schools Inquiry Commission conducted an investigation of Endowed Schools.

Schools were asked to complete two questionnaires. The first questionnaire was required to be answered by the Governors and the second by the Master of the School.

The Governors' paper contained 65 questions, while the Headmaster's included even more. The Governor's questionnaire was returned at the beginning of July, but there is no note of when Albert Smith completed his.

The 1865 annual Examination was conducted by Mr J Collins B.A., Assistant Classical Master at King Edward's, Birmingham. His report reflected well on Albert Smith and showed what a good influence he was having. Collins commented, as follows:-

"I found the boys in the 1st class not only translated their Virgil and Xenophon into good idiomatic English, but seemed to possess a good sound knowledge of the Greek and Latin Grammar. In Divinity and History they passed a good Examination."

Thomas Eddowes kept regular half-yearly accounts for the Governors and also for the Headmaster. By way of example the accounts for the first half of 1866 is set out below.

T.S. Eddowes the Treasurer in account with the Trustees				
Lady Day Account 1866				
1866	Receipts		Payments	
January	½ yrs. Divd Sinking Fund	2. 2. 2	Property Tax ½ year due	
April 4	Burk ½ years Rent	3. 3. 0	20 March 1866	4. 4. 3½
May 2	Smith, Carrier do	8. 10. 0	Sinking Fund ½ year due	
11	Goodwin do	7. 6	Lady Day 1866	23. 6. 8
23	Wilkins Geo do	72. 10. 0	Treasurer ½ years Salary	
28	Joseph James	10. 10. 0	due L.D. 1866	10. 0. 0
July	Smith Thomas Mrs.	73. 0. 0	Revd. J Westley Davis	
	Hill John	22. 0. 0	½ yrs stipend as under	
	Smith Albert	12. 10. 0	master to Midsr 1866	50. .0. 0
			Bodington & Lewty (per	
			Shaw) ½ years Interest on	
			£1,400 due Lady Day	30. 19. 6
			Balance paid Mr Smith	86. 2. 1½
		<u>£204. 12. 7</u>		<u>£204. 12. 7</u>
Thos. S. Eddowes in account with The Revd Albert Smith				
Dr			1866	
By Balance of Lady Day a/c 1866	86. 2. 1½		May 15 By Cash	20
By Undermasters Salary paid by			23 do	60
Mr Smith	50. 0. 0		July 2 do	10
			allowed Wilkins for pigs	
			bought by you from him	9. 16. 0
			½ yrs Rent due LD/66	12. 10. 0
			Subscription to Garnett	
			Testimonial	2. 0. 0
			Balance due to Mr Smith	21. 16. 1½
		<u>£136. 2. 1½</u>		<u>£136. 2. 1½</u>

Fig.2 Half-yearly accounts for Bishop Vesey's Grammar School for 1866, prepared by the Treasurer Thomas S Eddowes.

1866 was an uneventful year as far as the school was concerned and the months passed smoothly by until it was time once more for the annual Examination. This was conducted by Francis Curtis M.A., who undertook the task previously in 1863. He was now Classical Master at Liverpool College and he was assisted by James Yates of King Edward's School and the Reverend Montague Webster.

The school was now divided into four classes and Curtis was not very complimentary about the bottom class's Latin. He stated:-

"The first two boys were satisfactory but the general run, so to speak, were below the average. The deficiencies I remarked were in the grammar and parsing and I should recommend special attention to these points with boys of that age.

I ought, at the same time, in justice to say that some of these boys seemed to have more than a common share of natural dullness."

Of the bright boys in the top classes Curtis commented:-

"The particular boys have exhibited results which could not have been attained without great care and attention being bestowed upon them."

The overall conclusion appeared to be that if the boys did well the masters were to be congratulated, but if they did badly it was the boys own fault!

It is interesting to note at this stage the succession of Under-masters passing through the school. Firstly, there was Mr Pope (1863-64), Mr W Salter (1864-65) and the Reverend J Westley Davis (1866). However, this trend was halted by the Reverend F A Goddard, who succeeded Westley Davis, and continued in his post for the next 11 years.

In a letter to the Governors dated 20th December 1867, the Headmaster raised the matter of the income achieved from the school estates. In this letter he stated:-

"I think that the question of raising the income of the school might well engage the attention of the Trustees. The annual income from the land is but little in excess of the income derived in 1834 and I believe Mr Cooper estimates the value at considerably more than is paid by the present tenants."

It would, of course, have been in Albert Smith's interest if the income was greater. The Governors considered whether the rents could be improved at their meeting later the same month but the matter was deferred.

Early in 1868, the Headmaster proposed a very ambitious scheme for the Charity Commissioners to consider.

The Royal Hotel, which had opened to a great fanfare in May 1865, overlooked the new Sutton Coldfield Station, the Birmingham to Sutton branch line having been completed a little earlier in 1862.

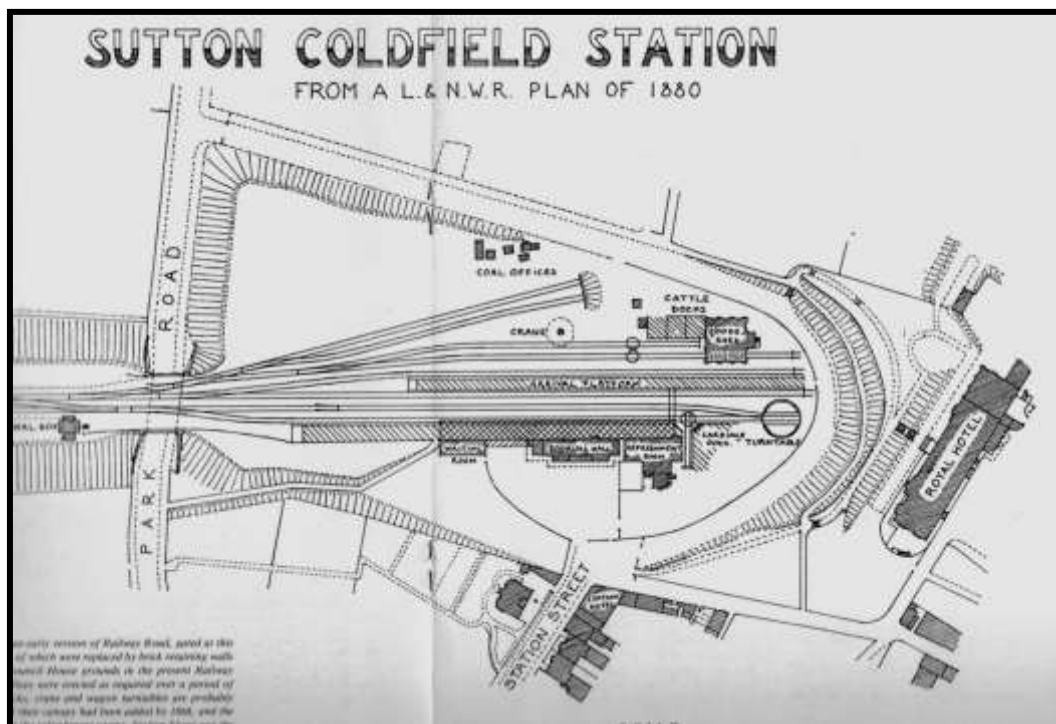


Fig. 3 L. & N.W.R. Plan of 1880 showing Sutton Coldfield Station and the Royal Hotel.

A group of businessmen, who had initially promoted the railway, set up the Sutton Royal Hotel Company, speculating that Sutton would become a popular resort, in similar fashion to Buxton or Royal Leamington Spa.

In the event, this proved not to be the case, for whatever reason, and a lot of money was lost by the shareholders. As a result, it was available for sale with vacant possession.

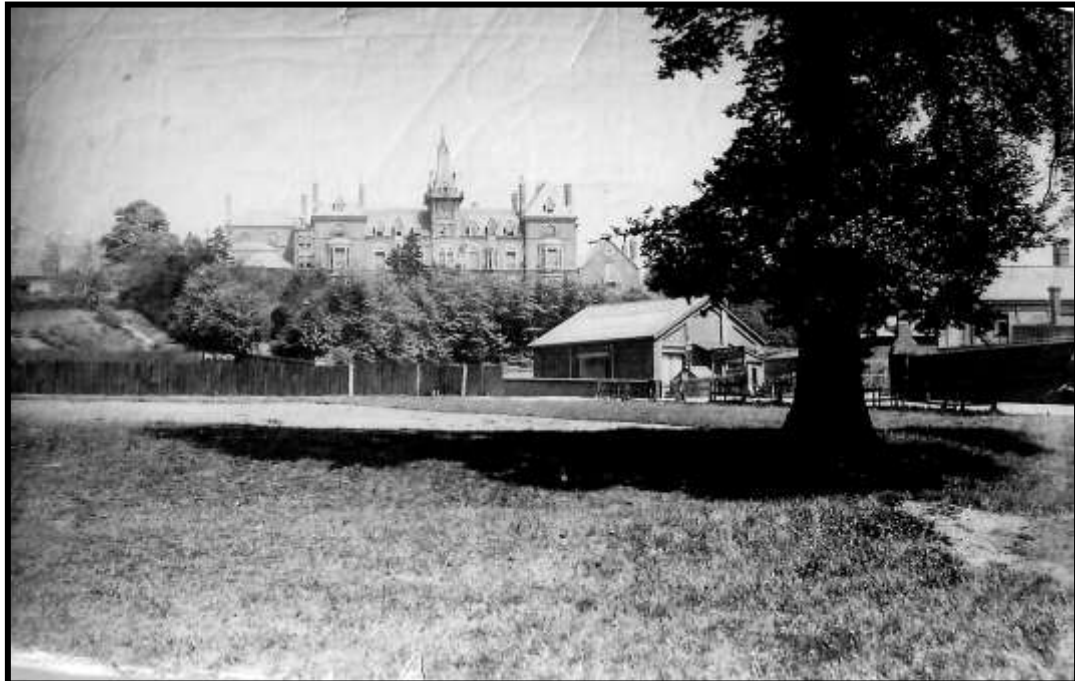


Fig. 4 Photograph of the rear elevation of the Royal Hotel, circa 1890's.

In a letter to the Commissioners, Albert Smith laid out his plans, as follows:-

"There is in the Parish of Sutton Coldfield a large building, lately used as a hotel, but at present vacant. It can be purchased on very advantageous terms.

It is proposed to convert this building into a Middle Class School, in connection with, and as an extension of, the Grammar School. It would accommodate at least one hundred boys, together with the requisite staff of masters. There would be an abundance of class rooms, a few Studies for the elder boys, and a Chapel attached to the building.

It is intended that the charge for Boarders is not to exceed £40 per annum.

The premises would not answer as a School by themselves because:-

- 1. If rooms were appropriated for a master's family, the accommodation for boys would be curtailed, whereas success with low terms depends on numbers.**
- 2. There is only a very small space for a playground and no land to be obtained in the neighbourhood, except at an exorbitant price.**

The Grammar School premises, which are situate at a distance of two hundred yards from the Hotel, and which under the proposed scheme would still be retained, can provide accommodation for the Headmaster's family, and for twenty five additional boys.

There are also adjoining it thirteen acres of land for playground.

A good Middle Class School is decidedly wanted in the neighbourhood and Sutton Coldfield is an excellent locality for the purpose, because it is very healthy, easy of access and within a few miles of Birmingham.

It is proposed to raise money (£7,000) by means of a Limited Company to purchase the Hotel and let it to the Headmaster of the Grammar School, the Company receiving a Capitation Fee upon each boarder in the building by way of rent."

In fairness to Smith this was a bold move indeed and one that could have transformed the school as we know it. It was, however, an extremely large sum involved (approximately £850,000 today) and also very much dependent upon the number of boarders that could be attracted to the School.

Perhaps the Charity Commissioners looked at the situation in very similar fashion, because the reply which Smith received from the Secretary was not very helpful. He stated:-

“The Board cannot entertain a proposal of the kind you have forwarded except at the instance of the Trustees. If they will apply, suggesting any arrangements they think proper under the circumstances, the case will be laid before the Board who will consider whether the things desired are lawful and whether they are expedient. I return your proposal in case you may require it.”

The sale of the Hotel was in the hands of the Birmingham Financial Company Limited and, by the middle of March 1868, they were pressing for a decision.

A special meeting of the Governors was convened on the 8th April and Smith wrote them a letter enclosing a copy of the proposal, with the following additional particulars:-

“1. That the Title of the School, thus extended, should be the Sutton Coldfield Grammar School and College.

2. That the lower rooms in the Hotel buildings should be used as School Rooms for all the boys and the present School Room be converted into a Dining Hall.

3. That the character of the School should in no way be lowered. It is a School of the Second Grade now and I intend to maintain it as such.”

Unfortunately for Smith his high hopes were quickly dashed. Only three Governors deigned to attend the meeting and, according to Eddowes’ minute on the subject, his proposal was rejected. The minute read:-

“Mr Smith’s proposal, having been laid before the Meeting and read and the matter having been fully discussed, no resolution upon the subject was proposed.”

As a matter of interest, the Royal Hotel never flourished, although it remained in business until the 1890’s when it was used as a Sanatorium. It closed in 1902 and the building was converted once more, this time for use by the Corporation as municipal offices.

In the summer of 1868, Charles Cooper, Valuer, was asked to advise on the possibility of increasing the Governor’s income from the School’s Estates, following Albert Smith’s suggestion at the end of the previous year and he duly submitted his report on the 19th September.

His suggestions were considered by the Governors, some of which were acted upon and some were not.

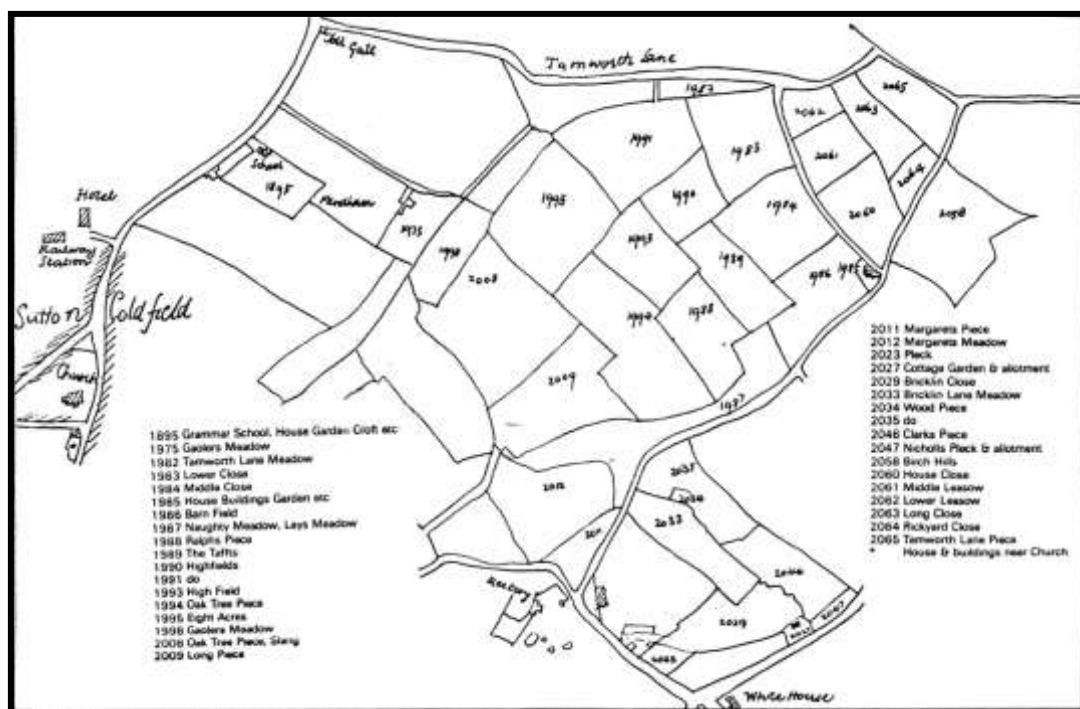


Fig. 5 Plan of the School Estates 1868.

The Examination of the School in 1868 was conducted once more by Francis H Curtis M.A., who had carried out this task on two previous occasions. In his report he repeated the comment he made two years ago.

"Most of the second class and the whole of the third class were decidedly deficient in respect of accuracy, knowledge of the grammar and parsing. I have recommended to Mr Smith that greater attention be given to these important points. It is perhaps fair to add that there seemed to be a larger average than usual of dull boys in these two classes."

In June 1869, the Headmaster brought out a printed School List. There were 69 pupils in the school, which were divided into six classes for 'General Work' and into four divisions for Mathematics and Arithmetic, of which 52 also took French and 2 took German.

In addition to Albert Smith and the Reverend Goddard as second master, there were two assistant masters, Mr T H Bee of the Saltley Training College and Monsieur de Lattre, who taught Modern Languages and Drawing.

Finally, there was a reminder to parents that the School would re-assemble on Saturday 21st August, when every boy was expected to return.

That same year the Endowed Schools Act was passed. It was enacted to attempt to reform the abuses prevalent in Endowed Schools, mainly due to the lack of effective governing bodies and the freehold tenure of the Headmasterships.

The Act conferred on a special commission very wide and drastic powers, in order to reorganise ancient endowments. From the evidence of the report it would seem that Bishop Vesey's Grammar School was both ahead of its time in the reform of its curriculum and also fortunate in having two Headmasters of the calibre of Joseph Wright and Albert Smith. Perhaps in the inactivity of the majority of the Governors the School was open to criticism, but even here it had a small handful of Governors, such as Sir Charles Adderley and the

Reverend W K Riland Bedford who were conscientious, hardworking and selflessly committed to the school's interests.

The 1869 Examination Report was again undertaken by Francis H Curtis and, for once, he criticised the Headmaster. He commented, on the third class, as follows:-

"The general average was the decidedly inferior to that of the senior classes. This is, however, necessarily the case in schools of this description where the lower classes have a considerable admixture of boys who leave school for business before attaining the higher divisions. In the present instance I am partly inclined to attribute the defect of the class to their attempting books too difficult for young beginners and I have accordingly recommended to the Headmaster a change in this respect."

Only the Rector and the Reverend Kittoe attended the Governors' meeting in December 1870 and no business was transacted.

It is known at this point of time, however, that the 1870 accounts showed an improvement in rent achieved, following Charles Cooper's earlier report and the action taken. The total rent payable increasing to £514, compared with £395 in 1868, which would have made Albert Smith quite content.

The Governors managed to muster a quorum for a meeting in January 1871. Two of the Governors had died the previous year and James Timmins Chance, who was a tenant of Sir John Hartopp and living at Four Oaks Hall, together with Dr. Thomas Chavasse of 'Wylde Green House' took their place.

During 1871, the National Census Return was completed and this provided useful insights into Albert Smith and his family.

1871 CENSUS RETURN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Where from</u>
Albert Smith	Head	Married	37	Headmaster of Grammar School and Curate of Canwell	Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire
Frances Elizabeth Smith	Wife	Married	31	-	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Ernest R Smith	Son	-	7	-	Sutton Coldfield, Warks
Beatrice M Smith	Daughter	-	6	-	Sutton Coldfield, Warks
Francis H Smith	Son	-	3	-	Sutton Coldfield, Warks
Archibald G Tweedie	Assistant	Single	24	Assistant Master	St. Helier, Jersey
James H Ashburner	Boarder	-	15	Scholar	Birkenhead, Cheshire
Frederick Barker	Boarder	-	11	Scholar	Melbourne, Australia
Charles Cullwick	Boarder	-	14	Scholar	Birmingham, Warwickshire
George E Davies	Boarder	-	16	Scholar	Tipton, Staffordshire
Walter Evans	Boarder	-	16	Scholar	Kington, Herefordshire
Charles Greaves	Boarder	-	16	Scholar	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Theodore C Pile	Boarder	-	14	Scholar	Barbados, West Indies
Henry A Smith	Boarder	-	13	Scholar	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Sarah Hawley	Servant	Single	22	Maid	Chaddesley Corbett, Worcs
Mary Francis	Servant	Single	30	Cook	Aberhafesp, Wales
Mary A Fisher	Servant	Single	18	Nurse	Hill, Sutton Coldfield, Warks
Anne Repington	Servant	Single	20	House Maid	Coleshill, Warwickshire
Elizabeth Fisher	Servant	Single	17	Kitchen Maid	Hill, Sutton Coldfield, Warks
Thomas Leyland	Servant	Single	18	Footman	Leigh, Worcestershire

In addition to being Headmaster of the Grammar School, Albert Smith was noted as being Curate of Canwell, although it is difficult to understand exactly what his duties were in this respect. They certainly could not have been very onerous.

A more accurate description would probably be Assistant Curate. These were clergy who helped out the incumbent rector or vicar handling clerical tasks, such as assisting with certain parts of a service or, in an emergency, conducting a service in the rector's absence.

This would not have been the position in Smith's case, as Canwell did not have its own Church until 1911 when Canwell Priory Church was built as a private chapel to the Hall. It is now known as St. Mary, St. Giles and All Saints Church. Any parishioners that wished to attend service would have had to travel to Holy Trinity Church in Sutton.

In Smith's time, Canwell was just a scattering of isolated houses and farms, with no village and no centre of habitation at all. The centre of employment for the area would have been Canwell Hall. This was sold in 1872 to A B Foster Esq. At the time, there were 193 people living in Canwell and 38 houses. Most, if not all the people, worked at the Hall or on the Estate, which extended for over 3,000 acres.

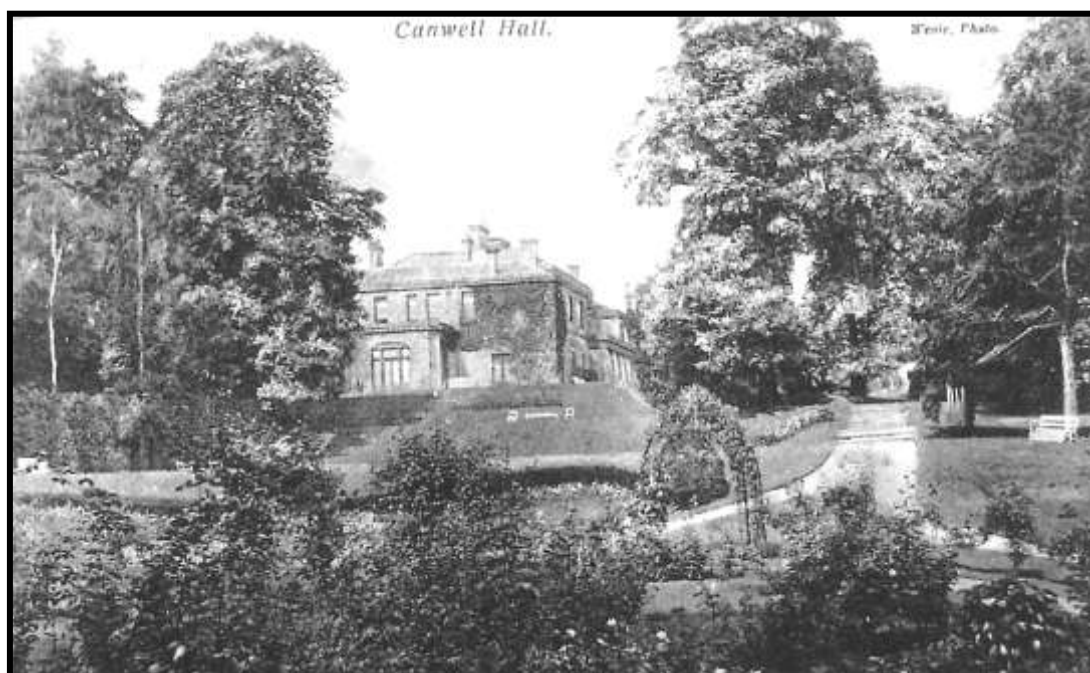


Fig. 6 Canwell Hall (side elevation) circa 1900.

The title of Baron Wenlock of Wenlock in the County of Shropshire was created in 1831 for Sir Robert Lawley, the 6th Baronet of Spoonhill. The Lawley baronets were descended from Sir Thomas Lawley, the son of Francis Lawley of Spoonhill, near Much Wenlock and, until 1851, the family seat was at Canwell Hall in Staffordshire.

It can also be seen by studying the Census Return that, even as early as the 1870's, communications Worldwide were improving at a pace. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School was able to reach out to far flung countries such as the West Indies and Australia, in their quest for boarders.

Even Archibald Tweedie, the Assistant Master at the time, was from St. Helier in the Channel Islands.

It would be interesting to know fully the story behind how Theodore Pine from Barbados became a pupil at the school. I do not think he was a native West Indian, so it could be he was from a family who had made their fortune from the sugar trade.

Sugar plantations in the Caribbean were a major part of the economy of the islands during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and for almost 100 years Barbados remained the richest of all the European colonies in the region.

It could not be completely ruled out, however, that the boy may have been 'coloured'. Plantation owners were very often not adverse to having relationships with the female workers on their estates and this resulted in many illegitimate children being born.

If only one could venture into the past, what intriguing stories might be revealed!

Finally, it can be ascertained that Mr & Mrs Smith had three young children, varying in age from 3 to 7 and they employed six servants to assist them in the running of the private quarters and the school.

The following two years saw steady progress under the stewardship of Albert Smith, with the number of pupils steadily rising.

The Examination for 1871 was conducted by A C Irvine M.A., Master of Queen Mary's School, Walsall and it was again confined to Latin and Greek.

His comments on the boys were:-

"The construing in all the classes was well done, the answers in parsing most satisfactory. I may add that not only did the viva voce answers display intelligence and proved that the boys had been well grounded, but their papers were neatly and legibly written and very fairly done."

Albert Smith must have been well pleased with the report.

There followed a period of relative calm at the School, other than the sad death of two of the Governors. These were the Reverend George W B Adderley, after serving 52 years in office, and John Peel.

The new Governors elected to replace them were Francis Stafford Pipe Wolferstan of Tamworth and Sampson Samuel Lloyd of Moor Hall, a director in his family's banking company and who later became the Member of Parliament for South Warwickshire.

The 1872 Examination was overseen by the Reverend A Stilgoe Newman B.A. of King Edward's School, Birmingham, together with J Westley Davis M.A. of Tamworth Grammar School and it too was very encouraging.

Newman remarked:-

"It has seldom been my lot to listen to such spirited translations from any school as was displayed by the First Class in their rendering of some of the passages from the Poet Aeschylus and the Odes of Horace."

Westley Davis commented:-

“The work in arithmetic, algebra and trigonometry was generally neatly written and set forth in a fair and lucid manner.”

The School's Estates brought in a tidy revenue but, conversely, expenditure on repairs and maintenance etc. also had to be taken into account. Albert Smith's annual income was affected by these fluctuations, as can be seen from the set of figures over the period 1870-1873.

Albert Smith's Income for the year 1870	£207 16s 9d
Albert Smith's income for the year 1871	£423 3s 7d
Albert Smith's income for the year 1872	£299 12s 11d
Albert Smith's income for the year 1873	£229 3s 2d

The large discrepancy between the years 1870 and 1871 was explained by the fact that there was an amount of £119 arrears of rent carried forward from 1870 and paid during the following year.

Albert Smith therefore took a lively interest in estate management and the affairs of the various tenants, as the more efficiently they were run the more income he was likely to receive.

This can be seen from a letter Smith wrote to Thomas Eddowes in August 1873, as follows:-

“My Dear Eddowes, Many thanks for the cheque. I see no mention is made of the amount due from Mr Jerome for the removal of the rick of hay. I hope it is not quite forgotten, as the act of removal was certainly unjustifiable and I think we are fairly entitled to some compensation. But you will no doubt see to this. Believe me, yours sincerely, Albert Smith.”

The 1873 Examination of the School was done by the Reverend P E Monkhouse, whose report was concise and to the point.

“As the success obtained in the Local Examinations is evidence of the careful training of individual boys, so the results of my examination prove that a more than average standard is maintained throughout the School.”

The same year Ernest Albert Smith, the Headmaster's elder son, became a pupil at the school. He celebrated his 10th birthday on the 7th October.

The number of boys at the School now exceeded a hundred and the Governors resolved that Thomas Eddowes be authorised to act with the Headmaster in further correspondence with the Endowed Schools Commissioners regarding the enlargement of the present School Buildings.

At the beginning of April 1874, Thomas Eddowes received the long awaited letter from the Endowed Schools Commission informing him that they had instructed Charles H Stanton, one of their Assistant Commissioners, to visit Sutton Coldfield for the purpose of making an enquiry into their case and to see the Trustees of the Grammar School.

A special meeting of the Governors was convened to meet Stanton on the 17th April and no fewer than 5 Governors attended (an almost unheard of number!) which was chaired by the Rector.

The minutes recorded that:-

"Mr Stanton had an interview with the Trustees for nearly three hours and inspected the school house and premises. Mr Stanton applied for a copy of the resolution appointing the Rev Albert Smith Head Master in 1863. Mr Stanton took copies of the Rules and a copy of the accounts furnished to the Charity Commissioners and general information was supplied to him. Mr Stanton seemed to think this Trust would not be satisfactorily dealt with until an enquiry had been made into the Corporation."

Stanton had previously written to Eddowes asking him to:-

"Refer me to the quarter from which I can obtain some information as to the provision made by the Corporation for the Elementary Schools in the parish."

In July, Eddowes was in correspondence with the Endowed Schools Commission, in which he answered their queries about the School's finances.

The annual Examination of the School at the end of 1874 was conducted by the Reverend C E Cooper B.A., who was the Assistant Master at King Edward's School in Birmingham. He concluded his report by saying:-

"As far as I can judge, the School is in a very satisfactory condition. There seems to be no neglect of careful elementary teaching, while the higher classes enjoy a high classical education which, of course, is the only sound basis."

By the beginning of March 1875 the Endowed Schools Commission had been disbanded and had become part of the Charity Commission. In a letter to the Sutton Corporation they stated:-

"I am instructed by the Charity Commissioners to inform you that they have under consideration the case of the Sutton Coldfield Grammar School, with a view to its re-organisation. The Commissioners are inclined to think that, as a preliminary step to the negotiations in reference to the case, it will be necessary for them to ascertain what funds are likely to become available for the improvement of the school for, upon this, any proposals they may make for its future consideration, must largely depend."

From the enquiries which were made by the Endowed Schools Commissioners last year, the Commissioners have reason to think that it will be desirable, if not necessary, to provide new or to extend the present accommodation at the School, for which an outlay will have to be incurred too large to be raised out of the present Endowment, already burdened with a debt which will not be paid off until 1892."

The Commissioners are aware that the Corporation has already shown its interest in the Grammar School, and its desire to promote its efficiency, by offering an annual grant for providing exhibitions in connection with it. I am therefore instructed to enquire whether the Warden and Society are willing to make a substantial provision out of their corporate funds, part of which is already applicable to educational purposes, towards improving the higher education of the town."

The Corporation discussed this letter at a meeting on the 12th April, during the course of which Dr. Bodington supported the proposal. Thomas Eddowes pointed out that it was important that there should be no delay and Dr. James Johnston suggested that, if the Corporation provided funds for the Grammar School, some of its members should be appointed as Governors. He considered that this would be an opportunity to try to restore the Corporation to the position which it had held under Bishop Vesey's First Charter.

In August, an *'Outlines of Scheme'* was published, apparently drafted by the Endowed Schools Department, in conjunction with the Corporation, along lines suggested by Mr Stanton when he met the Governors.

The proposals envisaged radical alterations to the school itself, as well as to its Rules & Regulations, as described below:-

**DETAILS OF 'OUTLINES SCHEME' PROPOSED BY THE ENDOWED
SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT FOR BISHOP VESEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
ISSUED AUGUST 1875**

- 1. A new School Room and Class Room** and other necessary buildings including, if possible, a **Second Master's House**, to be built on a site belonging to and to be given by the Society, near the existing School, sufficient to leave space for future enlargement of the buildings and to provide a **Playground** and **Cricket Field**.
- 2. Towards the building**, the Society to contribute £5,000. The Society to provide an **Exhibition Fund** on the terms proposed by them in the Scheme submitted to the Charity Commissioners in 1869.
- 3. The School to be a Boys' Day and Boarding School. Tuition Fees**, including all extras except Greek, to be between **£6 and £10 a year**. **Greek** to be taught at an extra fee of **£3 per year**.
- 4. Main subjects of instruction to be English, Latin**, at least one **Modern European Language, Mathematics and Arithmetic, Chemistry and Physical Science** (to which subject special attention to be given), **Drawing, Vocal Music and Drilling**.
- 5. Boarding Fee** (not including Tuition Fee) not to exceed **£50**.
- 6. Age Group to be 8 to 17**, or later with special permission of the Trustees and Head Master.
- 7. Head Master to be appointed by and dismissible at the pleasure of the Trustees**.
- 8. Head Master's salary to be £150** and Capitation Fee on each boy to be between **£3 and £5**.
- 9. Head Master to appoint and dismiss all Assistant Masters**.
- 10. Scholarships** to be established in the School, to be competed partly by Boys in Public Elementary Schools in Sutton, entitling the holder to freedom from tuition fees in Grammar School.
- 11. The Governing Body** to consist of:-
 - The High Steward of Sutton.
 - The Warden of the Corporation.
 - One person nominated by the Warden and Society.
 - Two persons selected from the parents of day boys actively using the School.
 - Six persons to be selected by the present Trustees.

However, details of the Scheme must have leaked as, earlier on the 8th July, a meeting of the inhabitants of Sutton was convened by the Churchwardens, who resolved by a large majority that:-

"The Corporation ought not to appropriate money for enlarging the Grammar School, or erecting new buildings, without first consulting the wishes of the inhabitants."

The Rector and Mr John Chance formally requested Thomas Eddowes to call a meeting of Governors on Saturday the 7th August to consider these proposals, however no Governors attended at the stipulated time and the meeting was adjourned until the 17th August.

Amongst other items on the Agenda, the question of the new Scheme was duly discussed and it was decided to set up a sub-committee, consisting of the Rector, the Reverend Kittoe, Mr Lloyd and Mr Chance to confer with the Corporation's Committee. The inclusion of the Reverend Kittoe was quite a shrewd idea, as he belonged to both bodies and, it was hoped, he would be able to act as a sort of buffer if things became heated.

The joint committee met at the Moot Hall on the 4th September and agreed some '*Amended Outlines of Scheme*', which were subsequently published in printed form.

**PROPOSED '*AMENDED OUTLINES OF SCHEME*', AS AGREED BY THE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE 4TH SEPTEMBER 1875**

1. That a new School Room and Class Room and other necessary buildings be erected.
2. It was considered not desirable, however, that the present site of the Grammar School be abandoned, but that the existing buildings be utilised as far as possible in any extension which may be decided upon.
3. That a sum towards the cost of the building and an Exhibition Fund should be contributed. No figure, however, was actually mentioned.
4. That the School be a Boys' Day School. Tuition Fees to be set at £6 per year, to include the following subjects of instruction:-

English, Latin and Greek, at least one modern European Language, Mathematics and Arithmetic, Chemistry and other branches of Physical Science, Drawing, Vocal Music and Drilling. Greek to be an option with the parents.
5. That the Head and Second Masters be allowed to take boarders
6. As per Item 5 of the original 'Outline Scheme'.
7. As per Item 6 of the original 'Outline Scheme'.
8. As per Item 7 of the original 'Outline Scheme'.
9. As per Item 8 of the original 'Outline Scheme'.
10. That the Head Master appoint and dismiss all Assistant Masters with the concurrence of, and subject to an appeal to the Governing Body.
11. As per Item 10 of the original 'Outline Scheme', but with the word 'partly' deleted.
12. That in admission to the School, preference be given to the sons of inhabitants and that the order of admission be by priority of application. All vacancies remaining after such admissions to be filled up by competitive examination.
13. That the constitution of the Governing Body to be left to the Endowed Schools Department, with the exception that elective members be elected by the ratepayers instead of by the parents of boys using the school.

Sutton Corporation met on the 27th September and approved Items 1, 2 and 3 of the '*Amended Outlines of Scheme*' but resolved that consideration on Items 4–13 should be deferred, pending hearing from a deputation of Parishioners upon the whole Scheme.

A special meeting of Governors was called for the 27th November to consider the matter further, but only Colonel Bagnall and Mr Chance attended and the minutes merely record a suggestion that:-

'The meeting with the Parishioners should be held without delay'.

The 1875 examination of the School was conducted by the Reverend Francis A Goddard M.A., who had been the School's Second Master from 1866 until the summer of 1875, when he had been replaced by the Reverend Robert Wilson B.A. of Trinity College, Dublin.

As he had only left the school a few months previously, it came as no surprise that his report was a good one. He ended his report by saying:-

"I may be perhaps permitted to remark that, having been so recently connected with the school, I can speak from former knowledge of most of the boys examined by me that I have observed in very many the evidences of most marked progress and that I can, with confidence, express my belief that the general standard of scholarship in the school is constantly advancing and that its present condition is very satisfactory."

It should be noted that the Headmaster's second son, Francis A Smith, born on the 30th June 1867, became a pupils at his father's school the same year, aged 8.

The '*Amended Outlines of Scheme*', with further amendments recommended by the Joint Committee, were approved by the Town Corporation at a meeting on the 13th March 1876.

**FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO SCHEME, AS AGREED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE
AND APPROVED BY THE CORPORATION ON THE 13TH MARCH 1876.**

1. Tuition fees to be increased to a maximum of £10 per annum and the boarding fees to £60 per annum.
2. It was proposed that the Governing Body should comprise:-

Four members to be elected by the Corporation.
Four members to be elected by the Ratepayers.
Four members to be co-optative.
3. The Chairman to have a casting vote.

At a special meeting of the Governors, held on the 24th March and attended by only a bare quorum of three members, the amended scheme was approved.

They also resolved to request Francis Willmot, a Land Agent and Surveyor of 6, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, to view the premises and report fully to the Trustees on the following :-

"As to the necessary extension and requirements of the School and the probable cost."

Some of Willmot's findings, which were contained as part of a lengthy report, issued at the end of May, included the following remarks:-

1. I find the Schoolroom is too small for the boys now attending. The present number stands at 105, of which 16 are boarders.
2. The Classrooms, one of which is much too small, are situated too close to the Domestic Offices of the School House and the approach from the Schoolroom is inconvenient. The Lavatory and Latrines are inefficient and not at all in accordance with property sanitary requirements.
3. The Boys' Dining Room, adjacent to the School, is much too small for its purpose, besides being dark, ill ventilated and badly approached.
4. The Dormitories for the Boarders are too small and difficult to access. The Closet accommodation is bad and there is no Bathroom.
5. The whole of the modern buildings have been erected in a very slight and unsubstantial manner, the object having evidently been to enclose the largest amount of space with the least expenditure of money.

He went on to say that the population of Sutton was increasing and that the proposed railway to Walsall and Wolverhampton, passing through Sutton, would also have a further positive effect.

He was of the opinion that no new school building would be adequate, unless it was designed to accommodate at least 250 boys.

He proposed three alternative methods of dealing with the problem and, in the order of preference, these were as follows:-

(a) Abandon the present School and Schoolhouse completely and erect new buildings on a suitable site elsewhere. The estimated cost he calculated to be in the region of £14,000, plus the cost of the land.

(b) The Trustees to acquire the property known as 'The Firs' and field to the north of the School belonging to the Trustees of the late Mr Mendham and erect between the present Schoolhouse and the 'The Firs' a suitable School with Classroom, Lavatories etc. and utilise 'The Firs' as a residence for a Second Master. The estimated cost he calculated to be in the region of £8,700, plus the cost of site to be acquired.

(c) The Trustees to acquire the 'Swan Inn' belonging to Mr Edkins and the adjacent Shop and Cottage belonging to Mendham's Trustees. These properties to be pulled down and new school buildings erected. The estimated cost he calculated to be in the region of £7,200, plus the cost of the sites to be acquired.

The Governors' sub-committee received Willmot's report at Eddowes' office on Saturday the 27th May. It is not known what their official views were as they were not recorded, but it is safe to say that the large amounts of money required to complete any of the schemes put forward, precluded any chance of their success in being adopted.

The annual Examination of the School in 1876 was conducted by Mr N Bodington M.A., who was a Fellow and Tutor of Lincoln College, Oxford. In his summing up, he remarked:-

"The general results appear to me very satisfactory and such as to show thorough efficiency in the School."

At a special meeting held on the 6th February 1877, the Governors appointed Sir Charles Adderley, the Reverend W K Riland Bedford, Colonel John Bagnall and the Reverend E H Kittoe as the four co-optative Governors to serve on the new board, when the proposed scheme was eventually passed.

The Draft Scheme was finally published in printed form by the Charity Commission in April. It dealt not only with the Grammar School but also the Corporation's elementary schools, all of which were to be managed by the same board of Governors, under the name of the 'Sutton Coldfield Grammar School Foundation'.

The Charity Commission envisaged:-

"As soon as is convenient, the Governors, either by altering or adding to the present school buildings or by acquiring or erecting other buildings, upon some convenient site, in or near the parish of Sutton Coldfield, shall provide for the Grammar School proper school buildings suitable for not less than 100 day scholars and 50 boarders and planned with a view to convenient extension".

The elementary schools of the foundation were to be conducted as public elementary schools under the Elementary Education Act of 1870, which had originally been passed in an attempt to establish an elementary school, subject to official inspection, in every parish.

To finance the scheme, the Corporation were required to transfer to the newly constituted Grammar School Foundation their existing schools, together with the sum of £15,000 and one half of the remainder of their yearly income.

The Governors met in early June and approved the scheme. This was not at all surprising, even though only four of them would eventually sit on the new board, since all education in Sutton would, in future, be conducted under the Grammar School Foundation, mainly at the Corporation's expense!

The Corporation was, of course, totally opposed to the proposed scheme. The Warden gave an address on the 12th June 1877, in which he pointed out that from 1869 to 1875 the average income of the Corporation was £3,337 12s 9d and the average expenditure was £3,542 2s 3d, of which £1,524 was spent on education.

Since this showed that the Corporation was already running at a loss, they could not afford to lose £15,000 of their capital and half their general income.

Although the Ratepayers' Association had been instrumental in having the scheme formulated, there was now vehement public agitation against it, particularly amongst the poorer classes, who were quite satisfied with the existing state of things.

The Corporation had also recently spent a considerable amount of money on extending elementary education in Sutton and a large part of the population was not interested in having improvements to the Grammar School at the public expense.

At a public meeting, a resolution against the proposed scheme was passed by an overwhelming majority and a subsequent petition against the scheme was widely supported. In the face of such opposition, the Charity Commissioners had no choice but to abandon their proposals.

In December that same year Charles H Stanton, now the Secretary of the Endowed Schools Department, began working on a revised scheme for the Grammar School alone. Amongst other things, he was concerned that the Headmaster should not be any worse off under it.

He duly wrote to Eddowes to enquire what the Headmaster's terms and conditions of employment were and what his total income was.

Eddowes' reply showed that the net rents received by Albert Smith for 1874, 1875 and 1876 were £219 7s 5d, £258 0s 9d and £262 5s 9d respectively, but that he did not know what tuition fees the Headmaster received.

The 1877 Examination was conducted by J Hunter Smith M.A., Assistant Master at King Edward's School.

Only Latin and Greek in the top three classes were covered and, as a result, only 22 of the boys out of a total of 108 were examined. He did, however, provide a fairly comprehensive report, as follows:-

"The first class consists of two boys, one of whom shows the results of sound and accurate teaching and might, I should think, if he had the stimulus of emulation, blossom into a thoroughly good scholar. The other, I understand, devotes his time to mathematics rather than to classics but, though not so sound as his classmate, he would not discredit the fifth form of an average first grade school.

In the second class, there are three boys reading Greek, none of whom show much appreciation of the language and I should think two are too old to derive much advantage from pursuing the study.

Eight are learning Latin, seven of whom I examined, one being absent. In this subject, the class as a whole showed very fair proficiency.

In the third class, I examined twelve boys who obtained a very fair average number of marks. One little fellow, Rose, being, I should think, a boy of considerable promise.

On the whole, as far as I can venture to give an opinion, after a somewhat hasty examination, I judge the school to be in a healthy condition, but am decidedly of the opinion that the general culture of the boys suffers from the attempt to teach Greek to boys not destined for the University."

1878 passed quietly by with nothing much to report except for the usual annual Examination of the School. In this instance it was carried out by the Reverend Arthur Inkersley B.A. whose report was short and to the point.

"The results of the whole Examination have been very satisfactory, whether the intelligence and proficiency of the higher boys in each class is considered, or the evidence of careful instruction given by the entire number of boys."

In April 1879, the Charity Commission produced an amended draft scheme for the Grammar School. In the accompanying letter they stated:-

"The Trustees are doubtless aware that chiefly in consequence of local opposition the Commissioners have thought it advisable with the view of proceeding without delay to the completion of the Grammar School Scheme to omit from the published draft all those clauses which deal with the Elementary Schools of the Corporation of Sutton and to postpone for the present the consideration of their case.

For the same reason they have reluctantly felt compelled to abandon the provision for the higher education of girls."

The scheme retained the requirement that the Corporation should provide £15,000 for new school buildings and made no alteration to the composition of the new Board of Governors.

A special meeting of the Governors was held on the 9th May to consider the new scheme and they instructed Eddowes to assure the Commissioners that the scheme in its present form was satisfactory to them.

A few minor alterations were made to the scheme between April and July and another special meeting was called in early August to enable the Governors to formally approve the amendments.

The Corporation were, however, still fighting the proposal to transfer £15,000 of its funds to the Grammar School Foundation on the grounds that:-

"The Estate of the Grammar School is capable of great improvement, its landed property being very suitable for building purposes and, as such, is rising in value with that of similar property in its locality, which advance in value has of late years been great and is promising to be still greater, whilst the income of the Corporation is not more than necessary and indeed, at the present, unequal to meet the requirements of its various objects, objects well calculated to promote the benefit of the inhabitants generally of the Royal Town and Lordship of Sutton Coldfield."

The 1879 Examination of the School was conducted by J Westley Davis M.A., the Headmaster of Tamworth Grammar School. Westley Davis later became a Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and also Vicar of Walmley. He reported that:-

"The standard attained is, in many instances, a very creditable one, while a noteworthy feature in the state of the School is the level and thorough character of the work tendered by the general rank and file of the classes.

I have met with no one instance of thorough incompetency, every boy has evidently been well and carefully grounded in his work, understanding rather grammatical principles than learning his subjects by rote."

An income tax return, completed in October 1880, showed that the Headmaster's average salary for the previous three years was £280, excluding capitation fees.

The Undermaster still received £100 per annum and Thomas Eddowes remained on £20, the same salary that his predecessor first received in 1844!

The previous year the Under-master, the Reverend Robert Wilson, was replaced by Mr G R B Webster. He, however, did not stay long as, in 1880, he himself was replaced by the Reverend Archer.

The 1880 Examination was conducted by Hyla M Rose B.A., who had previously been a pupil at the School in 1868.

The decline in the number of boys attending the School, at this point in time, had become extremely disappointing for Albert Smith, for more than just financial reasons.

During 1880 and 1881 the overall figure for boys attending School in each of these years was 84 and from the Census Return for 1881 it can be ascertained there were 10 boarders. As long ago as 1870 there were as many as 80 boys at the School and this steadily increased to its peak of 115 in 1876.

The Headmaster must have suffered many sleepless nights thinking about how the situation could be reversed.

1881 CENSUS RETURN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Where from</u>
Albert Smith	Head	Married	47	Headmaster of Grammar School	Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire
Frances Elizabeth Smith	Wife	Married	41	-	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Ernest Albert Smith	Son	Unmarried	17	Scholar	Sutton Coldfield, Warks
Francis Hubert Smith	Son	Unmarried	13	Scholar	Sutton Coldfield, Warks
Arthur Dudley Smith	Son	-	3	-	Sutton Coldfield, Warks
Evelyn Frances Smith	Daughter	-	7mths	-	Sutton Coldfield, Warks
Major W M Dunn	Boarder	Unmarried	32	Second Master of Grammar School	Brierley Hill, Staffordshire
Herbert E Barker	Boarder	-	16	Scholar	Sutton Coldfield, Warks
John Howard Miles	Boarder	-	15	Scholar	Birmingham, Warwickshire
George B Moseley	Boarder	-	14	Scholar	Ireland
Charles Bill	Boarder	-	14	Scholar	Aston, Warwickshire
George W Booker	Boarder	-	11	Scholar	Westfield, Sussex
Walter H Matthews	Boarder	-	10	Scholar	Buckingham, Bucks
Arthur P Fitzmaurice	Boarder	-	13	Scholar	Ward End, Warwickshire
Benjamin H Eberhard	Boarder	-	11	Scholar	Harborne, Birmingham
Albert E Eberhard	Boarder	-	10	Scholar	Northampton, Northants
Walter, William	Boarder	-	9	Scholar	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Anne Pearson	Servant	Unmarried	35	Cook	Amblecote, Worcestershire
Mary Jenner	Servant	Unmarried	37	Nurse	Amblecote, Worcestershire
Bertha Jenner	Servant	Unmarried	20	Under Nurse	Amblecote, Worcestershire
Ada Jenner	Servant	Unmarried	25	Housemaid	Amblecote, Worcestershire
Emily Lewis	Servant	Unmarried	16	Under Housemaid	Kempley, Gloucestershire
Elizabeth Haynes	Servant	Unmarried	16	Kitchen Maid	Aldridge, Staffordshire
William Anderton	Servant	Unmarried	18	Footman	Sutton Coldfield, Warks

The Census shows us that Albert Smith and his wife Frances had four children staying with them, varying in age from 7 months to 17 years. In addition, their elder daughter, Beatrice, who would have been 16 years of age at the time, was either away at school or not present when the Census was taken.

They employed no fewer than 7 servants, comprising a cook, two nurses, three maids and a footman, so Smith was certainly not anywhere close to being destitute!

Mary, Bertha and Ada Jenner must have been sisters and they all came from Amblecote in Worcestershire, although it now falls within the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley in the West Midlands. Perhaps they were recommended to the Smith family by Anne Pearson, as she also initially lived in Amblecote.

The Second Master at the time was Major W M Dunn, who came from Brierley Hill in Staffordshire and was currently boarding at the School.

By November 1881, the new Scheme for the Grammar School had passed through all its proper stages, the Corporation's appeal having been dismissed.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria was pleased to declare her approval of the scheme on the 29th June 1882 and it was to come into operation when all the Governors had been appointed. This brought to a close the participation of the Trustees.

The Meeting was due to be held on the 24th July and the Headmaster wrote a letter to the Clerk, Thomas Eddowes. In this letter, he stated:-

"The Meeting summoned for today will probably be the last that the present Trustees of the Grammar School will ever hold. I shall therefore be very much obliged if you will at the Meeting express to them for me how gratefully I have appreciated the kind consideration and generous sympathy that they have always evinced towards me during the 19 years of my official connection with the School.

While, of course, for many reasons I heartily welcome the inauguration of the new Scheme, I, at the same time, deeply regret that by its coming into operation my official relations with the present Trustees will be severed. A regret, however, that is tempered in some measure by the fact that several members of the old Board will still have a place in the new Governing Body.

In taking leave of the Trustees I can heartily assure them that it will be my aim to endeavour to secure from the new Governing Body the same confidence to which I have every reason the present Governors have always reposed in me."

It was sad, however, that his sentiments were not shared with the people to whom they were intended, as none of the retiring Governors were present at the time of the Meeting.

The School Register, at this juncture, gave details of the boys who attended the School in the last year of the old scheme.

They were the sons of the following parishioners:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
James Fawdry	Baker
Edwin Jenkins	Farmer
Charles Lloyd	Builder
Thomas Cattell	Farmer
Henry J Wright	Grocer
Major Moseley	Retired Army Officer
Benjamin H Eberard	Ironmaster
Edward Jackson	Secretary of a Wagon Works
J B Fenby	Engineer
William J Rushton	Maltster
George Moore	Brass Founder
Henry Preston	Plane Manufacturer
Paul Taylor	Draper
A E McKean	Banker
Henry Butler	Merchant
William Jones	Draper
Walter Mountford	Toy Maker
John Richards	Publican
David Aston	Purse Manufacturer
Mrs Yarwood	Surgeon's Widow
Alfred Bradburn	Merchant
Henry Edwards	Farmer
Samuel Hall	Merchant

It can be seen from this information that the parents were all solidly middle class.

No Agricultural Labourers, Blacksmiths, Carriers, Cobblers, Railway Personnel etc. were, of course, to be found.

As previously indicated, under the new scheme 12 Governors were elected to the Board. These were divided into the following categories:-

4 Elected by the Warden and Society

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>General Notes</u>
Henry Duncalfe	Surgeon	Tudor Hill	Was Warden of Sutton from 1882-1886. He also bequeathed money to the School for a prize for academic excellence, which is still given out today.
Lepard Crockford	Undertaker & General Draper	Doe Bank	Was an Alderman and was Mayor of Sutton in 1897.
Arthur Winkler Wills	Toolmaker	Wylde Green	-
Dr. James Johnston	Medical Practitioner	'Goldieslie', Many	Was Warden from 1886-1889.

4 Cooptative

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>General Notes</u>
Lord Norton	Peer of Realm	'Hams Hall', Minworth	Was elected Chairman
(previously Sir Charles B Adderley)	-	-	-
Reverend Edward Hooper Kittoe	Rector	-	Vicar of Boldmere
Colonel John Nock Bagnall	Retired Army Officer	'The Moss', Shenstone	-
		-	-
Reverend William Kirkpatrick	Rector of Sutton	The Rectory	-
Riland Bedford			-

4 Elected by the Ratepayers of Sutton

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>General Notes</u>
Charles Hugh Edwards	Solicitor	The Driffold	-
Charles James Harcourt	Brass Founder	'The Sycamores', Maney	-
Samuel Allen Taylor	Button Maker	'The Laurels', Four Oaks	-
Reverend Thomas Mirams	Rector	Bissell Street, Birmingham	Vicar of St. David's Church

An interesting side note was the fact that five of the new Governors had sons who attended the School, in all a total of 18 boys.

The new scheme fixed the Headmaster's salary at the very stringent level of £150 per annum, half what he had been awarded at the time of his original appointment, plus a capitation fee of not more than £5 per pupil.

However, because this would obviously have entailed a large deduction in Smith's salary, a special interim provision was made whereby he would be able to continue to receive the balance of the income of the old endowment.

At the same time, Thomas Eddowes was re-appointed as Clerk to the Governors and his salary was raised to £30 per annum.

The end of September 1882 saw an amount of £15,147 17s 1d held in trust on behalf of the Governors of the School by the Official Trustee of Charitable Funds, following the transfer of this figure from the Corporation.

Clause 36 of the new scheme required the Governors to:-

"Prescribe the general subjects of instruction, the relative prominence and value to be assigned to each group of subjects, the arrangements respecting the school terms, vacations and holidays, the payments of day scholars and the number and payments of boarders."

The Governors sought the views of the Headmaster, who went to some trouble to provide them with a printed report.

Albert Smith's Report stated:-

"With reference to Clause 36 of the Scheme, I would observe:-

- 1. That the general subjects of instruction are sufficiently defined in Clause 50. They are Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, Geography and History, English Grammar Composition and Literature, Mathematics and Latin. At least one Foreign European Language, Natural Science, Drawing, Drilling and Vocal Music. Greek may be taught at an additional fee.**

That, as far as practicable, it is desirable that they be adopted.

The branch of Natural Science to be taught in the School should, in my opinion, be Chemistry for the elder boys only and for the younger boys, Botany or Elementary Physics generally.

2. The School Terms may well be arranged as at present e g:-
1st Term from about 20th January – 20th April.
2nd Term from 6th May – 1st August.
3rd Term from 20th September – Christmas.
3. The Vacations at present are seven weeks in the Summer, one month at Christmas and three weeks after Easter. This, I believe, is the average amount given by the Grammar Schools in the neighbourhood and may reasonably be adopted for the future. Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day and the Warden's Choice Day have been observed as whole holidays and the Queen's Birthday and that of the Prince of Wales, have generally been observed as half holidays.
4. The Fees to be paid by Day Scholars is a question of extreme difficulty. On one hand there are the educational requirements of Clause 50 to be carried out. On the other hand, the means of the parents of boys attending the School demand consideration. The minimum fee allowed by clause 43 (£4 per annum or £5 per annum for non-parishioners) will be utterly inadequate to provide the necessary teaching power and the funds for other expenses. The maximum fee, if imposed, (£8 per annum or £10 per annum for non-parishioners) would probably tend to exclude certain boys, whose parents would think they could not afford to pay it.

To carry out the requirements of clause 50, the staff of Assistant Masters should be, as follows:-

1. A Second Master.
2. An Assistant Master.
3. A Foreign Language Master.
4. A Drill Sergeant.
5. A Drawing Master.
6. A Natural Sciences Master.
7. A Vocal Music Master.

The first four only are provided at present. Drawing being taught by the Foreign Language Master.

It must also be borne in mind that a considerable sum will be required for the following matters:-

1. Prizes.
2. Fuel and Cleaning School.
3. Examiners' Fees.
4. Printing and Advertising.
5. Additions to School Plant.
6. Incidental Expenses.

For the payments of Assistant Masters and other School expenses, I think that a sum of at least £450 a year should be forthcoming.

I would suggest that, to begin with, the Fees should be fixed at £2 5s 0d a Term (£6.15s 0d per year) with a deduction in the case of two or more brothers. An exemption in whole, or in part, from the payment of School Fees should be made for really clever boys, not exceeding ten per cent.

There should be a charge of £1 15s 0d per year for Stationery, as at present.

An Entrance Fee for new boys might well be imposed in the form of a slightly heavier payment for the first Term of a boy's attendance.

I am assuming that, for a year or two, in fact, until such time as the new buildings ordered by the Scheme are paid for, there will be a considerable sum available for School Expenses, derived from Dividends arising from money received from the Corporation.

I observe that, in the Grammar Schools of neighbouring towns, the Fees are, as follows:-

Atherstone	£6 for under 14 year olds. £8 for over 14 year olds. £1 1s 0d Entrance Fee.
Coventry	£6 6s 0d, Greek £4 4s 0d, German £2 2s 0d.
Lichfield	£8, Greek and German £3 each.
Tamworth	£6, £7, £8 according to Classes.
Solihull	£9
Walsall	£6
Coleshill	£8 8s 0d, £1 for Modern Languages.
Birmingham	£6 Middle, £9 Upper.

I may state for the information of the Governors that the average payment made by the day boys for last Term was at the rate of a little over £4 10s 0d per annum, exclusive of the charge for Books and Stationery.

In addition, the Corporation paid £66 a year for 12 boys including a portion of the charge for Books etc.

As to the number and payments of Boarders it will, I think, be unnecessary at present for the Governors to make any arrangements further than those already defined by Clause 43.” (The payment to be required from a Boarder, exclusive of the tuition fees, shall not exceed the annual rate of £35 in a hostel, of £60 in the house of the said Albert Smith, or £50 in the house of any other Master).

The Finance Committee considered the Headmaster’s suggestions, which were largely adopted with effect from 1883.

The Sites Committee then had the task of recommending a site for proper school buildings suitable for not less than 100 Day Scholars and 50 Boarders, together with a built-in plan for possible extensions in the future.

They considered three possible sites and reported to the Governors, as follows:-

“The first site is that of the present Grammar School. This, however, your Committee consider inadequate as it now is and although it might be enlarged by purchase of adjoining land, they consider that the cost of such land (now occupied by buildings) would make such an addition quite prohibitory, even if the land could be obtained, which is doubtful.
On the one side, property belonging to the Mendham family could certainly not be acquired until the death of the present Proprietor and its marketable value would be £700, more or less.

FILE NOTE: This was on the north side of the School.

On the other side, the land is partly occupied by the White Swan Inn, at present let on lease to Messrs Smith Brewers and the estimated value of this land, premises and lease would be not less than £2,000. There is also a small shop standing on land intervening between the present School building and the White Swan Inn, which might be acquired, but at considerable cost. Your Committee estimate the total cost of this scheme at between £3,000 and £4,000. Such an outlay would lock up a considerable of Capital and your Committee cannot recommend the adoption of this site. Moreover, if the present School Buildings are removed to any other side, the land on which they now stand, having considerable frontage to the Lichfield Road and forming part of the Main Street of the Town, would let readily on lease or command a good selling price at no very distant period, which would justify the Governors acquiring other land for the purposes of erection.



Fig. 7 The 'White Swan Inn' Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, now called the 'Old Swan' in 1895. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is visible to the rear of the premises.

The second and certainly more eligible site is on the present School Estate, east of the railway to Lichfield, but this would entail a very considerable outlay in the formation of roads, roughly estimated at £1,300. It would occupy at least an area of 8 acres at present producing a rental and therefore diminish the income of the Headmaster and would necessitate, for the purpose of a sufficient approach, the acquisition of land belonging to Mr Sadler, estimated to cost £200, making in all a preliminary outlay of some £1,500.

The third alternative, which your Committee unanimously recommend for your adoption, is a field belonging to Mr Sadler adjoining the present School land and contiguous to the Town and having access to the Tamworth Lane. This land is now on the market and therefore immediately available.

It contains 6 acres and is on sale at £200 per acre, which your Committee consider a very reasonable price. There is every probability that by acquiring this land for the purpose of erecting new School Buildings and eventually leasing or selling the site of the present Buildings, the Grammar School Estate would be materially benefitted."

FILE NOTE: The land in question was near to the corner of Lichfield Road and Tamworth Road, behind the site of the previous Sutton Court Hotel, now converted into luxury apartments.

Before making a final decision, the Governors instructed the Committee to consider other possible sites. The Sites Committee duly looked into five other possibilities, as follows:-

1. The Moat House, with 8 acres of land could be purchased for £5,000 as its owner, Richard Hurst Sadler, had put the property up for sale by auction in August 1882 but it had not fetched the reserve price. This, however, was considered to be too expensive.
2. Mr E Jenkins' estate, consisting of a house and 9 acres of land was available for £4,500, but this was objected to as being too far from the Town.

3. Another possibility was 7 acres of land on the east side of the Birmingham Road in Wylde Green opposite to Station Road belonging to the Scott family and available at £350 per acre, but the Committee thought the frontage to be too narrow and the price excessive.

4. A fourth alternative was 6 acres of land at the top of Maney Hill, also belonging to the Scott family, but this too was ruled out because of the distance from the Town.

5. Finally, the existing School site of 3 acres was re-considered, but the Committee thought that this land could be sold at a better price than the £200 per acre on offer for the Tamworth Lane site. They therefore saw no reason for departing from their original recommendation.

Early in 1883, the Governors resolved that the Headmaster's capitation fee should be £3 per boy, per annum, which was the minimum figure set under the new Scheme. They also decided to award four scholarships a year, the holders of which would, upon the annual payment of £3 per head, be entitled to education in and all the privileges of the School for a term of 2 years. £15 per annum was also set aside for School prizes.

Until a suitable site for the School was finally decided upon and building work commenced, the Governors were receiving dividends from the £15,000 transferred from the Corporation.

In January 1883 the Headmaster wrote to Thomas Eddowes claiming that, under the terms of the 1864 Rules and Regulations, he was entitled to the balance of this income. His claim was entirely without merit, as the Rules and Regulations referred to only related to the School Estates.

Lord Norton in replying on behalf of the Governors commented:-

"There should be a clear understanding that the Headmaster had no entitlement to the dividends."

The claim by Albert Smith, however, appeared to be a tactical move on his behalf, while the Governors were considering whether to grant his son, Ernest, an Exhibition to University, as recommended by the 1882 Examiner of the School. When the Governors agreed to grant an Exhibition of £50 for three years, the Headmaster withdrew his claim.

The Exhibition given to the Headmaster's son also gave rise to some adverse publicity locally. A note of criticism appeared in the correspondence column of the *'Sutton Coldfield and Erdington Times'*. The proprietors of the paper, wishing to make an issue of the matter, duly wrote to Thomas Eddowes requesting a reply on behalf of the Governors.

Eddowes diplomatically replied:-

"The matter referred to in your letter was not formally discussed at the Meeting of the Governors yesterday, but I think their opinion is generally that they are not called upon to answer an anonymous correspondent."

Unfortunately, the relationship between Albert Smith and some of the Governors became somewhat strained after these events.

Easter 1883 showed that the Headmaster employed 5 Under-masters at the school, namely:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Mr Dunn	Second Master	£120 per annum.
Mr Taylor	Assistant Master	£ 80 per annum.
Mons de Lattre	Modern Language and Drawing	£ 80 per annum.
Mr John Turner	Chemistry	£ 40 per annum.
Mr J E Clark	Vocal Music	£ 21 per annum.

There was some dissatisfaction voiced with regards to the ability of the second and assistant masters and so, in February, the governors resolved that:-

“The Headmaster be informed that the Governors were ready to place at his disposal sums of £100 and £150 for the hiring of two Under-masters in lieu of Mr Dunn and Mr Taylor.”

The Headmaster’s reply to the Clerk to the Governors was:-

“In appending conditions to their resolutions, I must be permitted to point out that the Governors are apparently attempting to assume authority which the new Scheme neither gives nor contemplates.”

No room for any misunderstanding there then!

Under the new Scheme, The Headmaster was required to produce an annual report and so, in July 1883, he commented, as follows:-

“The introduction of Chemistry as a branch of study, under the very able instruction of Mr John Turner, has been a great success. The boys take much interest in their lessons and several of them are beginning to show an intelligent appreciation of the subject. The want of a laboratory will make itself felt when the boys, as is intended next term, begin to be instructed in Analysis.

The Vocal Music is not so satisfactory , partly because of the want of room and partly because, as is always the case, there are a good many boys who either are unable, or think themselves unable, to sing at all.”

Later in the same year another teacher, in the form of a Mr Skinner, was taken on, despite the fact that the number of boys in the school had fallen to just 60.

Also in 1883, the Sites Committee reported that negotiations had been entered into with the Trustees of the Mendham family for the purchase of the Cottage and Shop adjoining the present School House, resulting in an offer being made by the Mendham Trustees to sell the same to the Governors for £600, plus all expenses.

The Committee unanimously recommended that the present Grammar School site, with the addition of the Cottage and Shop, would now be a proper and suitable site for the contemplated School Buildings.

This recommendation was accepted, although the Governors would have liked to purchase some land in addition to the Cottage and Shop.

In June, Charles Stanton, the Assistant Charity Commissioner, visited Sutton to view the proposed site of the new buildings. He also, at the special request of the Headmaster,

agreed to see another site of about 9 acres upon which stood a house suitable, with some alterations, to become a Headmaster's residence.

This was a reference to 'Moat House', which the Governors had previously rejected.

The following month, Mr Jethro A Cossins, an Architect of Warwick Chambers, Corporation Street, Birmingham advised the Sites Committee on the merits of the possible sites under consideration for the new school.

He had two objections to the site at the corner of Lichfield Road and Tamworth Road.

Firstly,

"The buildings would have to be placed at a considerable distance below the level of the Lichfield Road and there would therefore be no means of disposing the sewage, which would have to be deposited in a receiver at the lowest part of the ground and, as the boys would have to spend most of their hours out of school close to the receptacle for the sewage, I consider it unsuitable."

Secondly,

"There was no frontage onto the main road, whereas an attractive exterior towards an important thoroughfare must help considerably to attract public attention to the School."

Neither was Cossins in favour of the proposal to buy the adjoining shop and cottage and to extend the present school buildings. He stated:-

"On examining the existing buildings, I find the School, bedrooms etc. to be so defective in construction, bad in arrangement and already so out of repair that it would be quite necessary to rebuild every part of it."

The house is in better condition and might be allowed to stand but the shape of the ground, even if the adjoining cottages were to be purchased, is not well adapted to receive the new buildings and is too small in extent."

The proposal which Cossins recommended was the purchase of 'Moat House'. He commented, as follows:-

"I have considered how the present fine old house may be combined with the necessary new buildings to form an agreeable, harmonious and imposing whole."

Cossins report immediately spread confusion into the whole question of which site was the most suitable.

Over the summer period, the Sites Committee looked closely into the costs involved between the various suggested alternatives. After due deliberation, the Sites Committee came to the conclusion that neither alterations to the present school site nor the '*Moat House*' site could be afforded

The existing school site, after all the work had been carried out, would have left a deficiency of £2,110. The purchase of '*Moat House*' would have cost even more, with the deficiency increasing to £3,710.

At the same time as these events were unfolding, another incident occurred between the Headmaster and the Governors, which highlighted the rift which had arisen between them.

The New School Scheme required that an abstract of the audited accounts be published in the local papers. However, in addition to this summary, more precise details of the masters' salaries had found their way into the papers and this prompted the Headmaster to write to the Governors.

"In furnishing to the newspapers reports of your meetings, may I venture to suggest that, for the future, such matters as the details of the salaries of the Assistant Masters may be carefully withheld? It is hardly fair to the masters themselves that the amounts of their salaries should be paraded before the public in the columns of the local papers while, in my opinion, it is calculated to do serious mischief to the position of the School."

The Governors replied that they had only supplied the information required by the scheme.

It appears that even in those early days there were 'whistleblowers' in our midst!

At their quarterly meeting in October 1883 the Governors, despite the Site Committee's views, unanimously resolved to adopt the '*Moat House*' site for the new school and instructed Thomas Eddowes to negotiate with Richard Sadler for the property. They also applied to the Charity Commissioners for their approval, together with their advice regarding the potential financial deficiency.



Fig. 8 'Moat House' front and south side elevations 2009.

The Charity Commissioners, however, declined to advise the Governors and replied:-

"It lies with the Governors and not with the Commissioners to select a site or to determine whether or not the present buildings should be altered or added to. Under any circumstances the Board would feel a difficulty in expressing an opinion on the respective merits of the Schemes before them for which the funds at the disposal of the Governors are insufficient."

Putting this into the bluntest of terms, they were really saying - don't pass the buck onto us as you *'sink or swim'* as a result of your own decisions!

At their last meeting of the year, the Governors instructed the Sites and newly formed Estates Committee, to reconsider the whole question of the new school site.

In February 1884 another spat occurred between the Headmaster and the Governors. In a letter to them, he wrote:-

"I desire to draw your attention to an Article which appeared in the *'Sutton Coldfield & Erdington Times'* a few weeks ago, contrasting the number of boys at present in the School with the numbers in previous years.

The information on which that Article is based was, in part, supplied by me to Mr Eddowes for the use of one of the Governors by whom, I understand, it was very properly communicated to the general body, but I must beg leave to express my surprise that it should have been allowed to be forwarded, without any explanation, to the Editor of the aforesaid newspaper, to be dealt with by him at his discretion."

The Governors replied that:-

"They had not furnished any particulars or details to the newspaper."

After this episode, the Governors decided to exclude reporters from their meetings. Unfortunately, this led to an article appearing in the *'Sutton Coldfield & Erdington Times'*.

"That august body, the Governors of the Sutton Coldfield Grammar School, held their quarterly meeting on Wednesday, but with closed doors, consequently we are unable to give anything but the most meagre report.

With a view to supplying information of what is being done with a public trust, the Proprietors of the Times asked for their reporter to be allowed admittance, but the Governors came to the decision that it was not desirable for the proceedings to be reported – at least that was the information vouchsafed to our representative, who for the space of half an hour, had been intently studying the panels of the door and the mural decoration at the top of the landing.

If not able to give our readers an account of the meeting of the Governors we can, at least, express our congratulations on the marked efficiency and steady progress made in the Grammar School.

There are now 58 pupils, or only about half there were six or seven years ago. It may be said that this is not progress but a retrograde movement but, to compensate for this, it is satisfactory to learn that the number of boarders is double what it was last term – there are now two."

This was quite a 'tongue in cheek' piece and also quite a funny one!

FILE NOTE: For full details of the number of boys attending Bishop Vesey's Grammar School during Albert Smith's term of office, please refer to ADDENDUM NO. 2 situated at the end of this research.

Also early in 1884, Jethro Cossins produced his third report providing full details of the proposed new buildings on the 'Moat House' site, which afforded accommodation for 100 day scholars and 50 boarders.

He made the observation that:-

"The Dining Room and Dormitories were so placed adjoining the house of the Headmaster, as to be easily within his control and superintendence, but at a sufficient distance to prevent undue interference with the privacy of his household."

Unfortunately, however, the estimated cost had now risen to an unprecedented £12,000. (equivalent to £1.6M today)

At this point in time it was known that some of the Governors were still dissatisfied with the two senior Under-masters at the School.

Mr Charles Edwards, a Solicitor, who had been elected to the Board in 1882 as one of the 'Ratepayers of Sutton', proposed that the power of appointment should be taken away from the Headmaster, but he later withdrew his proposal before a vote could be taken.

This subject, amongst others, gave rise to some very acrimonious and rather undignified correspondence in the '*Sutton Coldfield & Erdington Times*'.

Charles Harcourt, a Brass Founder, who had been elected to the Board at the same time as Charles Edwards, started the whole course of events off by saying that the cost of education was cheaper under the New Scheme than it had been under the old one.

The Headmaster, who should have known better, wrote in to refute Harcourt's figures, which were certainly inaccurate.

Unfortunately, he went on to make a comment about the teachers:-

"In seeking to raise ill-feeling against me, Mr Harcourt and Mr Mirams, (the Vicar of St. David's Church in Birmingham) have in their speeches, as reported in last week's paper, very carefully suppressed certain points which common fairness should have suggested to them to mention.

It is perfectly true that the Governors have made representations to me with regard to improving the teaching power in the School. It is also true, though neither Mr Harcourt nor Mr Mirams states it, that the Governors' representations have been considered by me and that I am only awaiting to hear from them how the increased expenditure necessitated by such a change is to be met, before deciding what steps I shall take in the matter."

This letter drew responses from both of the Governors. The Reverend Mirams' reply was indignant but reasonably polite.

"Mr Smith's letter contains two very serious charges. My first thought was to answer them by silence, but such a course might be misunderstood.

Will Mr Smith kindly let me know how I sought to raise ill-feeling against him? I should be sorry so far to forget myself and my Christian calling as to go out of my way to raise ill-feeling against any man and should consider such conduct quite incompatible with gentlemanly action and kindly feeling.

To carefully suppress facts which ought, in common fairness to be mentioned, is, if possible, a more serious matter, but this charge is as reckless and unkind as the other.

A great deal might be said as to the manner in which the Governors' representations have been considered by Mr Smith, but I forbear and will simply meet his allegations by one fact which I took care to verify by reference to the Minute Book. On February 7th 1883 a resolution was passed that the Governors were prepared to give considerably increased salaries, so as to ensure more efficient assistant masters.

Mr Smith will pardon me when I say that I do not think it is at all within his province to enquire how any increased expenditure in the management of the School is to be met, before loyally endeavouring to carry out the long felt and often expressed desire of the Governors as to the teaching power of the School.

I am deeply sorry Mr Smith should so stand in his own light and should have so completely mistaken what was said at the meeting. There was no bitter or ill-feeling manifested, except by one or two disturbers of the meeting, which was otherwise characterised by unanimity."

Charles Harcourt's reply was far longer and certainly more acerbic, an extract of which is included here.

"I am not concerned to resent the imputation of untruthfulness, which the Headmaster has made in his dealing with me. I simply ask that they may be remembered. I may utilise his indiscretion.

Why the Headmaster should have attacked me for having made this statement may be a puzzle to many.

In the letter addressed to you by 'A Mother', which appeared in your issue of the 23rd, the following sentence occurs: "My feelings were entirely against the Governors, whom I considered entirely and solely responsible for the degeneracy of the School."

The Headmaster does not want this idea to be dissipated. He would prefer that the Governors should act as a buffer between himself and the public. All the unpopularity is to be theirs; all the popularity his! Thus when I show that education under the New Scheme is cheaper than under the old, he resents my interference as a personal affront. I have dared 'to come 'twixt the wind and his nobility'. That, of course, is unpardonable. It was clearly seen that, unless the attendance of pupils should increase, the Institution would not be self-supporting. Recognising this the Governors represented to the Headmaster the necessity there was to improve the teaching power. But how did he meet with the Board? He simply treated it with contempt. He made no promise; he could say nothing.

At length, a resolution was unanimously passed placing £150 per annum at his disposal, as a salary for a Second Master, in lieu of the gentleman who occupied that position. So far as we know he paid no attention to this, he remained obstinately silent.

At one of the subsequent meetings, when Mr Charles Edwards asked him whether he was disposed to appoint another Second Master, he rudely replied 'that is my business' and he asserted 'the Governors know they cannot afford £150 for a Second Master!' That is all we got from him. If the Board, in passing the resolution of which I have made mention, trespassed upon the prerogative of the Headmaster; he, no less in seeking to pass judgment upon the soundness of our financial arrangements, exceeds his powers. That is our business.

Now I want to know why, if the Headmaster is so anxious about the pecuniary condition of the School, three masters should be maintained, when two masters would, in the present condition of the School, be abundantly sufficient? Let the third master be discharged, apply his salary, or a portion of it, to increase the salary of the Second Master and this very difficult problem, over which the Headmaster is so puzzled and anxious, is solved.

I have now done with the Headmaster's letter. I have not done with him. Your readers will recollect that of the £15,000 placed to our credit by the Charity Commissioners, £9,000 now remains, yielding a revenue of £270 per annum. Had it not been that this interest was available, the Governors could not have found sufficient funds to carry on the School, which at present involves a loss of £150 per annum.

Now it is hardly credible, but I assure it is a fact, that the Headmaster, the gentleman who is so 'sincerely' anxious for the welfare of the School, actually claimed this £270 per annum for himself! He had not the shadow of a right to it, there was not the remotest justification for his demand and I need hardly say he did not get it. He, however, did his 'level best'.

It was not his fault that the School was not reduced to hopeless insolvency, while he pocketed these funds, in addition to the disproportionate amount he already takes from the income."

The newspaper editor must have been delighted with this 'washing of dirty linen' in public, which proved to be far better than having a reporter present at the meetings!

As far as the Under-Masters were concerned, the Headmaster's view prevailed and later in the year the Governors fixed the combined salary of the two senior assistants at £200 per annum.

There are inevitably two sides to any argument but, I must admit, to being somewhat sympathetic with Mr Smith's stance in the matter. It must have been very uncomfortable for the teachers under his leadership to be talked about in the public domain in that fashion. It must also be remembered that these were his colleagues who he saw and worked closely with every day and it was the Headmaster who had offered them their posts in the first place. It would therefore have been a natural reaction for him to offer them his full support.

The fact that the matter was later resolved in his favour does, to a large extent, show that the steps he took were the correct ones.

There can be no doubt, however, that he made a grave error of judgment when he attempted to obtain the interest on the School's deposited capital and have it transferred over to himself.

In May 1884 Mr Cossins reported that if the new School was built to accommodate 20 instead of 50 boarders, the cost would be halved to £6,000. The Charity Commissioners, however, were not prepared to agree to this deduction unless the Headmaster was consulted. Albert Smith's opinion was that 35 boarders was a minimum number and the Governors decided to put the scheme out to tender on that basis.

I'm not too sure how Smith arrived at this figure because the maximum number of boarders at the School at any one time was 24, which was back in 1876 and the current figure was just 2.

In June, on the recommendation of the Sites Committee, the Governors rescinded all previous resolutions relating to the School site and resolved to build a new School for 150 pupils and a Headmaster's house with accommodation for 35 boarders, in the middle of one of Handley's fields, close to where the extension to Boswell Road would meet the extension to Cemetery Road, near to where the present Whitehouse Common First School is today.

In his annual report to the Governors, the Headmaster mentioned that:-

"Of the ten boys sent in for the Cambridge Local Examination at Wolverhampton, nine received Certificates, two passing in the First Class. The average of passes for the whole of England was not quite 73%.

The instruction given in Chemistry and other branches of Natural Sciences continues to be appreciated by the boys and is extremely valuable. The Vocal Music is unsatisfactory and I strongly

recommend its discontinuance, for a time at all events. It interferes with other more important work and has itself to be taught under unfavourable conditions.

The number of boys at the School remains at about 60. The hopes that I entertained of a considerable increase have from a variety of causes, unfortunately, not been realised."

The Governors accepted the Headmaster's recommendation to discontinue Vocal Music, despite the fact that it was a compulsory subject laid down by the New Scheme.

The School at this point in time was divided into seven classes and the 1884 Examiner, the Reverend J Price M.A., Vicar of Selly Oak, made the following comments:-

"I was glad to find plenty of instances in every class of boys who have been well taught and are able to do credit to their Teachers. On the whole, you may be fully assured that there is excellent work being done in your School and there are many boys who show that they profit from it."

In July, Charles Stanton, the Assistant Charity Commissioner, visited Sutton to view the proposed site of the new school. The Governors accompanied him, pointed out the position they envisaged the buildings would be erected and the costs involved.

The Headmaster objected to the plan and stated his reasons in a letter to the Charity Commissioners on the 27th August 1884.

"The site on the School Estates, as selected by the Governors for the new buildings, in my opinion, stands condemned on these grounds:-

There will probably be some difficulty and certainly considerable expense as far as the supply of gas and water and the disposal of the sewage are concerned.

The distance from the railway stations is too great and the site is too far removed from the centre of the Town.

If the school buildings were erected on this site, I believe that, for many years to come, the number of day boys would be considerably under the present average. The position, likewise, would be inconvenient for the Assistant Masters living in the Town and for visiting Masters coming by train.

If the School were not within a short distance of the station many boys, who come to school by train, would prefer going to the High School at Birmingham or to the Grammar School recently opened at Aston by the Governors of the Birmingham School.

King Edwards High School, with its wealthy endowment, its excellent Masters, its considerable percentage of free scholarships and its proximity to the central station (the school at the time was situated in New Street, not far from High Street) is very formidable for the Sutton Coldfield School to engage with. The Aston Grammar School also has similar advantages with, in addition, its School Fee of only £3 per year and its 30 per cent of free scholarships."

The Headmaster ended his letter by reviewing the other three sites, dismissing the Boswell Road and present school sites and coming down firmly in favour of the 'Moat House'.

The full text of Albert Smith's letter was published in the 'Sutton Coldfield & Erdington Times', which caused another spat between the Headmaster and the Governors.

The Headmaster complained to the Governors by saying:-

"I cannot refrain from expressing my surprise that my letter should have appeared in full in the columns of the local newspaper. Had the Governors, or any one of them, desired that it should be made public, I think I might not unreasonably have expected that, before sending it to the Editor of the Paper, my wishes on the point should, at all events, have been consulted."

Albert Smith's objections were all very valid ones and it came as no surprise when the Charity Commissioners sided with the Headmaster and declined to approve the Governors' proposal.

At a meeting in October 1884, the Governors resolved that:-

"The Charity Commissioners, having declined to approve of the site unanimously recommended by this Board and the opinion of the Governors in reference to the 'Moat House' site being unchanged, after consideration of the letter of the Headmaster, the Board regrets its inability to proceed further in its efforts to carry out the requirements of the Scheme."

One can only imagine the comments that must have been flying about regarding the Headmaster, prior to this communiqué being drafted. The overall result was that, over the past two and a half years, no progress had been made whatsoever!

In January 1885, the Governors instructed the Sites Committee to investigate the cost of altering the existing School House to accommodate more boarders and of building the new school on the present site. They also agreed, at the Headmaster's request, to pay the expense of introducing the South Staffordshire Company's water to the school premises.

The Sites Committee spoke to the Charity Commissioners and obtained their approval for the new proposal. The Headmaster was also duly consulted and he stated that he would have no objection, subject to him having reasonable compensation if his garden and tennis lawn was interfered with.

The Sites Committee then proceeded to instruct Jethro A Cossins to prepare the appropriate plans and estimates.

He reported that, if the two cottages fronting onto Lichfield Road and lying between the School House and the Swan Inn, could be purchased and demolished, the new buildings, which it is proposed to erect, will be entirely exposed to view from the Lichfield Road and with the present Masters House will present an imposing frontage.

Within a matter of 10 days, he also put forward detailed proposals, as follows:-

"The land falls so rapidly from the Lichfield Road that, at the back of the present house, the Basement floor is at the ground level. I therefore propose to place the School and Classroom floor one step of 7" above the present level of the ground floor of the house and thus obtain height enough to utilise the whole of the large space below for Dining Room, Lavatory, Hat & Coat Room, Chemical Laboratory, Store Room for articles used in games and a Boiler Room for the heating apparatus.

All these would be well lighted and most of them conveniently placed with respect to the present domestic offices etc. From this floor, a staircase conveniently placed for access to or from the Playground, conducts to the Ground Floor.

On the Ground Floor, at the front, is placed a Schoolroom 58' long x 26' wide and 20' high, with a slight central projection, divided by a corridor from three Classrooms, each 18' x 15' 6". The corridor extends to the end of the building and affords a covered means of access from the house to the part of the garden situated beyond the school. The slight inconvenience caused by the placing of a corridor between the School and classrooms is more than compensated for by the freedom from noises on either side thus secured.

The ground to the south of the School is left unoccupied to allow of the further lengthening of the School if, at any time, it may be found necessary.

On the First Floor, by a continuation of the staircase already mentioned, a floor is reached over the Classrooms and, of the three rooms thus acquired, the first I propose to make a Library for the Headmaster and, of the other two, Boys Dormitories. Alternatively, if a room can be more conveniently found within the existing house for a Master's Library, three Dormitories might be retained.

The walls of the School I would carry up 6'6" or 7' above the upper floor line and keep the space for converting into Dormitories and an Infirmary but, beyond constructing a sufficiently strong floor and planning and finishing the principles of the roof, which would have to be exposed, I do not include the fitting up of these rooms in my present estimate.

The old School might be advantageously turned into a Gymnasium or indoor Playroom and the large Classroom into a Sitting Room for the elder boarders.

The House and the present School buildings will require considerable repairs and renovation. The re-arrangement of some of the windows of the former being made necessary by the blocking of several of these on the south side by the new buildings. In addition, I propose to enlarge the Kitchen. The Playground, Garden and Kitchen Yard will require dividing by brick walls or other fences.

The approach to the School would be by a new path, forming an inclined plane to the level of the lower story.

The necessity for economy will prevent the adoption of anything but a simple treatment of the elevations. I therefore propose that a continuation of the Georgian Style of the house be adopted using bricks of good quality and stone dressings for the doors and windows. To prevent the too flat and monotonous effect, which would be produced by continuing the front wall of the School in an unbroken line with the House, I have shown a central projection to be finished by a gable with a niche for a bell and provision for a clock dial.

Cossins made an approximate estimate of £4,000 for this work calculated, as follows:-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Sum</u>
New Building Work	£3,100
Repairs to House	£500
Fittings	£160
Warming Apparatus	£50
Architect's Commission	£190
Total	£4,000

In a separate letter Cossins indicated that he would like to have included a good Committee Room for the meetings of the Governors and other facilities, but he had endeavoured to fit the buildings to the amount he was informed they were prepared to spend.

The Governors approved Cossins' plans and agreed to purchase the two cottages from the Mendham Trust for £600 plus costs. The purchase was completed on the 17th November.

In the meantime, in his annual report to the Governors, which he submitted in July, the Headmaster stated:-

"Seven out of ten candidates for the Cambridge Local Examinations were successful, two being placed in the First Class. Four other boys have also passed the College of Preceptors Examination, qualifying them for various professional studies.

In the Science & Art Department Examination in Magnetism & Electricity the whole class of 19 boys was sent in and 13 passed, with 6 being placed in the First Class. This is good evidence of the excellent teaching which they receive from Mr J Turner, the Science Master.

The Governors will, I am sure, be pleased to hear that the School Games have decidedly flourished during the year and this induces me to venture to express and hope that, coincident with the extension of the School buildings, arrangements for the creation of a permanent Cricket Ground may be duly considered. Possibly the Gaoler's Meadow, being easily accessible, might be found to be a suitable field for the purpose."

The Reverend W C R Bedford who, along with his father, were the founders of the Sutton Coldfield Cricket Club, was the cricket expert on the Board and he was asked to look into the Headmaster's suggestion.

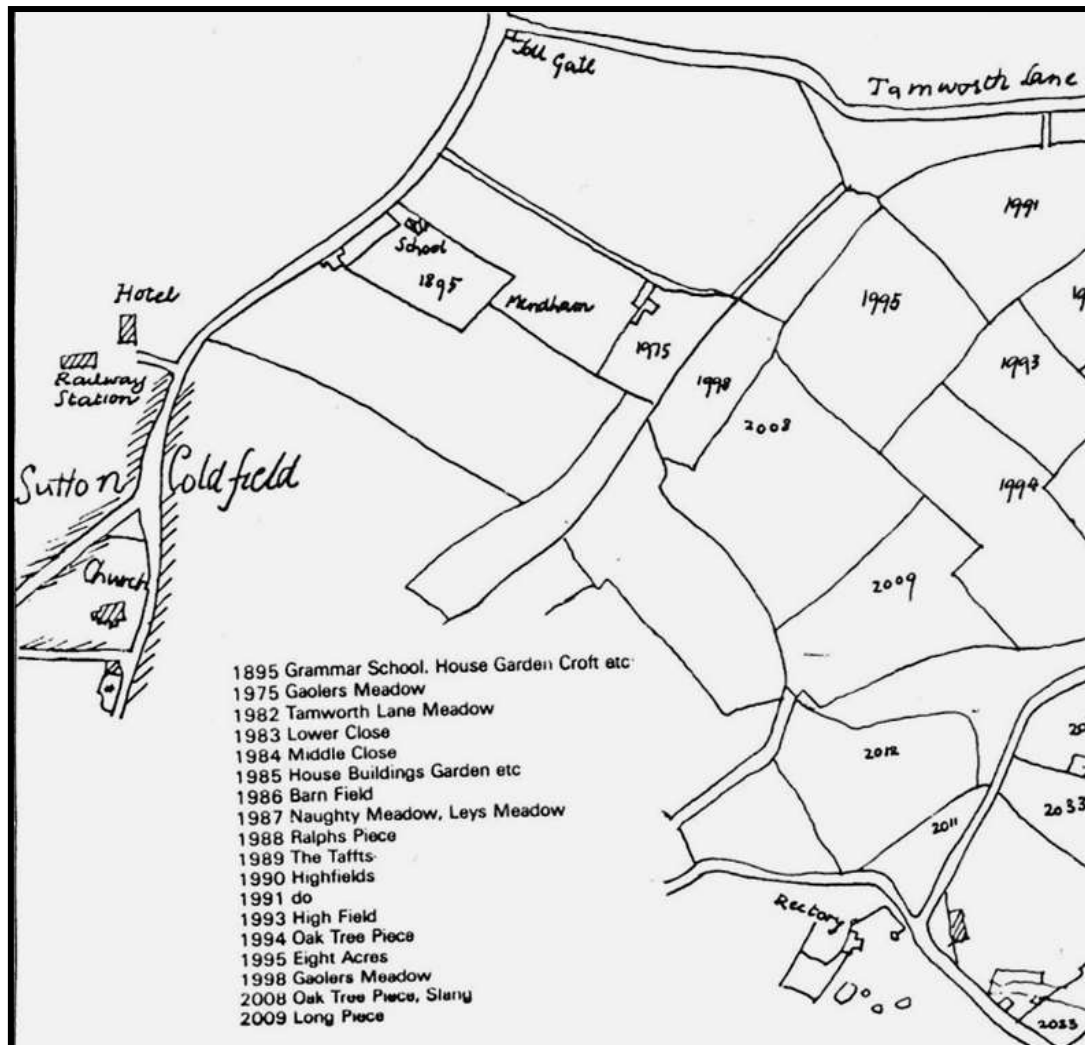


Fig. 9 Partially Enlarged Plan of the School Estates 1868. The Goaler's Meadow site is No. 1975 on the Plan and was situated close to the rear of the School.

The Examiner's Report for 1885 showed that only two boys were now learning Greek and that:-

"The Latin Authors offered for examination were, except in the case of a few boys, imperfectly known."

A better report was given for Geography, English, History, Divinity, Arithmetic and Algebra, but in Geometry the work was described as weak.

The question of compensation to be paid to the Headmaster for the loss of his garden when the new School was built was referred to a Mr William Fowler and after looking into the situation he advised:-

“On a review of the whole circumstances, I am of the opinion that the case will be fairly met by the payment to Mr Smith of the sum of £100, which I hope will be satisfactory to Mr Smith and to the Governors, as I think it should be.”

Tenders for the new School building work were invited in early November with a request that they be returned by the 26th November.

The estimates were required to be divided, as follows:-

Estimate No.1	Preliminary and Excavator, Bricklayer, Stonemason and Tiler.
Estimate No.2	Carpenter and Joiner.
Estimate No.3	Plasterer, Smith and Iron Founder, Plumber, Glazier and Painter.
Estimate No.4	Special Alterations.

Eight tenders were received and a special meeting was convened by the Governors on the 9th December in order to discuss the matter. After due consideration, the Contract was given to Messrs. Barnsley & Sons, who had quoted a figure of £4,468.

At a meeting held in January 1886 the Governors approved estimates, totalling £39 6s 6d, to drain the Gaolers Meadow including levelling it as a cricket pitch. They also agreed to allow the Headmaster, as a tenant of the Meadow, £5 per annum, upon his undertaking to graze the Meadow with sheep, only from the commencement of the cricket season until the summer vacation and between that time and the next cricket season to protect the land against heavy cattle.

In the event, the total cost came to £60, as a new roller was acquired and an area of the Meadow, which had suffered most from poor drainage, had to be re-turfed, the grass being taken from another section.

The contract with Messrs. Barnsley & Sons was signed on the 18th March, although the Charity Commissioners only ordered the Governors to proceed on the 7th May.

The builders agreed to complete the work by the 29th September, with a penalty of £5 for every week it overran this date.

H M Fryer M.A., the Second Master at King Edward’s School, Birmingham, was asked to conduct the 1886 Examination of the School but declined saying:-

“You do not mention the fee offered by the Governors but, as I presume it is the same as that paid last year, I must decline to undertake the work.”

The Governors agreed to double the fee to £10, but in the end C H P Mayo M.A., also of King Edward’s School, did it for five guineas. One can only assume that he needed the money more than his colleague!

Although he stated the Greek was weak, he commented that the clearness of thought and accuracy displayed in both Arithmetic and Algebra were remarkable.

In April 1886 the old Warden and Society came to an end and was replaced by a new Borough Council. None of the Governors, appointed by the Corporation, was elected to the Borough Council, although they were allowed to serve out their original terms of office. The Headmaster and the Clerk, Thomas Eddowes, also ended their careers in local politics with the changeover.

In his annual report, the Headmaster said:-

"I deeply regret to have to report that the number of boys, as compared with last year, shows a diminution. This ought not to be the case. As soon, however, as the new buildings are ready for use, we must look for an increase in numbers, consequent in some measure upon the attractiveness of the school accommodation."

These words appear in the public version of the Headmaster's Report, but he also made a private version for the Governor's eyes only, in which he stated:-

"I deeply regret to have to report that, as compared with last year, there is a diminution in the number of boys attending the School. At present we have only 45. This is a grave and serious matter and one which causes me, as it no doubt will cause the Governors, much anxiety.

The Governors have a right to expect from me some expression of opinion on the subject. Such an expression of opinion I am prepared to give and I hope the Governors will receive it, as given calmly, dispassionately and without any desire to cause offence.

It may be that the School is suffering from the prejudice that was raised against me some two years ago and that the feeling then created against me in the minds of the public, caused parents to look out for other schools for their boys. Finding that they could send them to Birmingham or Aston conveniently and cheaply, they have now adopted the practice of doing so, being naturally pleased with the prestige of these larger schools

I am afraid also that there is an idea existing among the people of Sutton Coldfield that the relations between the Governors and their Headmaster are the reverse of harmonious. It is needless for me to point out that the mere existence of such an opinion, whether well-grounded or not, must be fatal to the prosperity of the School.

I appeal to the Governors who, I am sure, have the interests of the school at heart, whether something cannot and should not be done, to remedy the present unhappy state of affairs. If the governors are able to suggest any way of increasing the popularity of the school, I shall be most willing to co-operate with them in the matter.

If nothing can be done towards setting right the public mind and clearing away misunderstandings, it is by no means impossible that the school will continue to languish and that the new buildings to which, for many years, we have been so hopefully looking forward, will prove nothing but a lamentable disappointment."

This was quite a hard hitting resume of the situation, as Albert Smith saw it. It also contained, I think, more than a hint of an 'olive branch' being directed towards the Governors.

Although, at the time of the Report the number of boys was given as 45, down from 56 the previous year, by September it had increased to 54. The composition was, as follows:-

<u>Age of Pupil</u>	<u>Number of Pupils</u>
8	1.
9.	2.
10.	6.
11.	5.
12.	9.
13.	10.
14.	8.
15.	9.
16.	3.
18.	1.
Total	54.

Eleven of the boys were Boarders.

There were 6 Assistant Masters at the time, but the Headmaster suggested that a reduction would have to be made if the number of pupils did not increase.

Looking at the breakdown of the various pupils' age groups, it is very difficult for us today to reconcile how teaching was organised in those times. Modern schooling now has classes divided into same year groups, but how do you teach an eight year old at the same time as boys two or three years older? The eighteen year old pupil must have received individual tuition, as he was at least two years older than the rest of his contemporaries.

In September 1886 the Governors, probably as a result of the Headmaster's remarks, decided to advertise the School and had 1,000 pamphlets printed and issued. It read, as follows:-

"As the new School buildings are approaching completion and, it is hoped, they will be ready for use early in next year, the Governors think it is a convenient opportunity for calling the attention of the inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield and the neighbourhood to the capacity of the School and to the additional advantages to be gained by the new buildings and under the New Scheme.

For a tuition fee of £6 15s 0d, for the sons of inhabitants, the instruction given in the School embraces the following subjects:- Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, History, English Grammar, Composition, Literature, Mathematics, Latin, Greek (without any additional fee under the present Headmaster), one foreign European Language (at least), Natural Science, Drawing, Drill and Vocal Music.

By the New Scheme, scholarships are directed to be maintained in the form of exemptions from the payment of tuition fees and Exhibitions have been established, each of the yearly value of £50, tenable for three years at any place of higher education.

In addition to the Headmaster, the Reverend Albert Smith, whose high qualifications are well known, the following Under-masters are at present engaged in the work of the School, all of whom are competent and capable teachers and thoroughly enjoy the confidence of the Headmaster:-

**Mr H E Wilson B.A., Trinity College, Dublin.
Mr L W Paul B.A., Pembroke College, Cambridge.
Monsieur de Lattre, Foreign Languages and Drawing.
Mr Turner, Natural Science.
Mr Skinner, Drill.**

FILE NOTE: A far cry from two years previously, when the Governors wanted to dismiss two of the teachers for incompetence!

The new buildings comprise a Schoolroom, large enough to accommodate 150 boys, three Classrooms, a Dining Room for 50 boys, Dormitories, of ample size to accommodate 30 boarders or upwards and a Chemical Laboratory.

The School is being well and substantially built, with modern conveniences and appliances, by Messrs, Barnsley and Sons, under the direction of the Architect, Mr J A Cossins and with special regard to the efficient drainage of the establishment.

The water supply is derived from the South Staffordshire Waterworks. A new Cricket Ground has been recently laid out, which will supply a want that has long been felt.

Considering the subjects embraced in the curriculum of instruction, the efficient teaching power, the number and value of the Scholarships and Exhibitions and the ample provision made to meet the requirements of a first class school, the Governors are of the opinion that the School, under the New Scheme, may rank amongst the best in the Country.

As a test of the character and efficiency of the teaching in the School, the Governors would refer to the Examiner's Report of his examination in July last, which will be, they believe, as satisfactory to the parents as it had been to the Governors themselves."

The same month as the pamphlet was produced, the Charity Commissioners paid over £1,000 into the Governors Account, to cover the cost of the first stage payment to Messrs. Barnsley & Sons. A second payment was made in December.

At their next meeting in October, the Governors requested Thomas Eddowes to call the attention of the Architect to the fact that the stipulated time allowed by the contract for completing the new building had already expired and that he should communicate with the Builder and take steps to insure the prompt completion of the work.

In April of the following year the Governors approved the regulations relating to Exhibitions. Each year a candidate for a place of higher education would, after internal examination, be awarded an Exhibition of £50 per year for three years. Only boys who had paid the school fees for nine complete consecutive terms would be eligible and the Exhibitioner had to produce a half-yearly certificate, from the authorities of the place of higher education chosen, testifying to his general good conduct and satisfactory attention to his studies.

It was agreed with the Charity Commissioners that the Governors would be able to also include other institutions besides the usual universities, namely:-

Queens College, Birmingham (Medical & Theological).
Sandhurst, Woolwich (Military).
Royal College of Music.
Royal Society of Arts.
Mason's College, Birmingham (Science).
Kings College, London.

The regulations concluded that the names of the various Exhibitioners, from year to year, should be printed on tablets and posted up in a conspicuous place in the School. The list of Exhibitioners, commencing with the Headmaster's son, can therefore still be seen in the school library today.

Work on the School was nearing completion and, in the same month, Messrs. Barnsley & Sons were paid a third instalment of £1,000.

In early June the Governors held a special meeting to make arrangements for the official opening of the new school buildings and decided to do it in style!

It was thought desirable that the principal guests should be invited at a stated hour in the afternoon when the buildings would be formally opened and then speeches could be made. Afterwards, a Garden Party would be held in the grounds and finally the boys would participate in a cricket match.

It was also considered that the Bishop of the Diocese, Dr. Percival of Rugby and other influential gentlemen should be invited. 500 Invitation cards were printed, to be distributed among the great and the good.

The opening ceremony finally took place on the 29th July. A military band was arranged and chairs were borrowed from the Town Hall. A tent was hired from the nearby Swan Hotel and servants and charwomen were engaged. Tea, sandwiches, cakes, fruit and ice cream were provided and Lord Norton, now approaching his 50th year as a Governor, gave a speech.



Fig. 10 Sir Charles Bowyer Adderley, who later became Lord Norton, of 'Hams Hall', Warwickshire. He served as a Trustee/Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School for 62 years between 04/01/1839 & 23/01/1901. He died on the 28th March 1905, aged 90.

The event was covered by the '*Warwickshire Herald*', who described the proceedings, as follows:-

"Yesterday afternoon the new Grammar School at Sutton Coldfield was opened. At three o'clock a service was held in the Parish Church, when the lessons were read by the Reverend E H Kittoe, while the prayers were read by the Rector, the Reverend W K R Bedford.

The sermon was preached by the Reverend Canon Crichton, who took his text from the 2nd Kings II, viz., – I pray thee let a double portion of Thy spirit be upon me.

He briefly alluded to the history of the foundation of Bishop Vesey's School, the latest addition to the usefulness of which they were that day going to inaugurate and dealt with the more general aspect of his text, applying it more particularly to the teaching profession, saying that the prayer of Elisha ought to be echoed by every master and teacher. They should endeavour, by force of example, to spread their influence downward through the whole school

Afterwards, a meeting was held in the large room of the new school, when Mr H Duncalfe presided. There were also present Lord Leigh, Lord Norton, Alderman J B Stone (Mayor of Sutton), The Reverends Canon Edwards, W K R Bedford, and L Wood, Dr. F Hobbes, Messrs. A W Wills, C J Harcourt, H Addenbrooke, T V Holbeche, T Hooper, S A Taylor and A Wood.

The Chairman briefly introduced Lord Norton, who said he was endeared to the old town by many pleasing recollections. His birthplace was Four Oaks now, alas, desecrated. With Bishop Vesey's Grammar School he was connected by an hereditary tie, the name of Adderley. He would venture to say he had never been absent from the list of Governors of the Trust.

Since his connection with the town, many changes had taken place, indeed they were only just emerging from the last great change in their constitution and now he was happy to say he had received another letter from the Chairman of the Charity Commissioners saying the present scheme was complete.

Unfortunately, there was too great a tendency nowadays to look to the State for everything. He could hardly conceive anything more contrary to the welfare of the country.

Theirs was a model institution, founded by private munificence and if the Charity Commissioners' scheme was carried out he could congratulate Sutton upon being singularly provided in every description of education.

It should be born in mind that schools were not the only means of education; school books not the only process of education; that it is not the only means of drawing out intelligence and fitting men for their work in life.

Lord Leigh, whilst failing to understand why he had been called upon to speak, congratulated the Governors upon having such a magnificent building in which they met.

He supposed there was scarcely a Foundation in the Country as old as theirs. He concluded by expressing a hope that the Warwickshire lads would always be worthy of the School.

Alderman J B Stone regretted that education should, at the present time, be too often incomplete. One was desirous of carrying it a little further and rendering it more complete and inculcate the scholars with a desire for study after the restraints of school hood had been thrown off. Such a course would be conducive to the development of a higher intellectual status.

The Reverend W K R Bedford, in a speech of considerable length, reviewed the history of the Foundation and observed that Bishop Vesey had unquestionably a predilection in favour of technical education for he ordained that, in the event of but few scholars attending the schools for the subjects specified, grammar and rhetoric, a capable artificer should be obtained to teach the lads a useful trade.

Professor Tilden spoke in favour of and urged the necessity of a thorough system of experimental education and the Reverend Canon Evans impressed upon the boys the value of *esprit de corps*.

The Reverend A Smith then distributed the prizes to the various boys and afterwards the Meeting adjourned for tea."

The newspaper article subsequently contained a full description of the new premises, as follows:-

"The new building is a block 60ft by 56ft and three storeys in height. It adjoins the old house of the Headmaster and groups with it very well. The style adopted being the kind of English Renaissance that pervaded in the early part of last century, good examples of which, of somewhat later date, are to be found in and about Sutton Coldfield and impart a special character to the Town.

With these the new buildings harmonise very satisfactorily and form a picturesque group; the distant view from the platform of the Midland Railway Station being very pleasing.

The new buildings are entered from the Lichfield Road, by descending a flight of steps, by which the Ground Floor is reached, the rapid fall of the land from front to back rendering this arrangement the only commendably practicable one.

The ground storey comprises a large and well appointed Chemical Laboratory, a Hall and Coal Room, large Lavatory, Assistant Master's Room and adjoining the previously existing Kitchen Department is a large and convenient Dining Room, with serving hatches from the Kitchen. On this floor also is the Chamber for the Heating Apparatus, China Closets etc.

The Corridors are lined to half their height with white glazed bricks, which impart a very bright and clean aspect to them and they are panelled with brickwork. From this floor, a spacious and well lighted Stone Staircase ascends to the upper floors, the first of which contains the Schoolroom 58ft. by 27ft 6in and 20ft. high, well lighted by ten large and lofty windows, decorated with stained glass medallions, alternately displaying the Arms of Bishop Vesey and a conventional floral design.

The room has a large recess near one end, making the Ground Floor an 'L' shape, the effect of which is very pleasing. This room is warmed by hot water and has also a fireplace at each end.

At the back of the Schoolroom, divided from it by a Corridor, are three Class Rooms, each 17ft. 6 in. by 15ft. 3in. Above the Class Rooms, included within the height of the Schoolroom, are three Bedrooms, Corridor, Bathroom and other conveniences.

Over the Schoolroom is a large Dormitory, a Linen Room, Infirmary heated by hot water, Bathroom and Housemaid's Closets.

The Corridor of each floor communicates with the Headmaster's house.

Considerable improvements have also been made to the old buildings, to adapt them to the new arrangements. The Kitchens have been enlarged and improved, the old Schoolroom plastered and dadoed, the Dormitories re-modelled etc. Some other detached buildings are still wanted to a small extent, to make the arrangements all that could be desired."

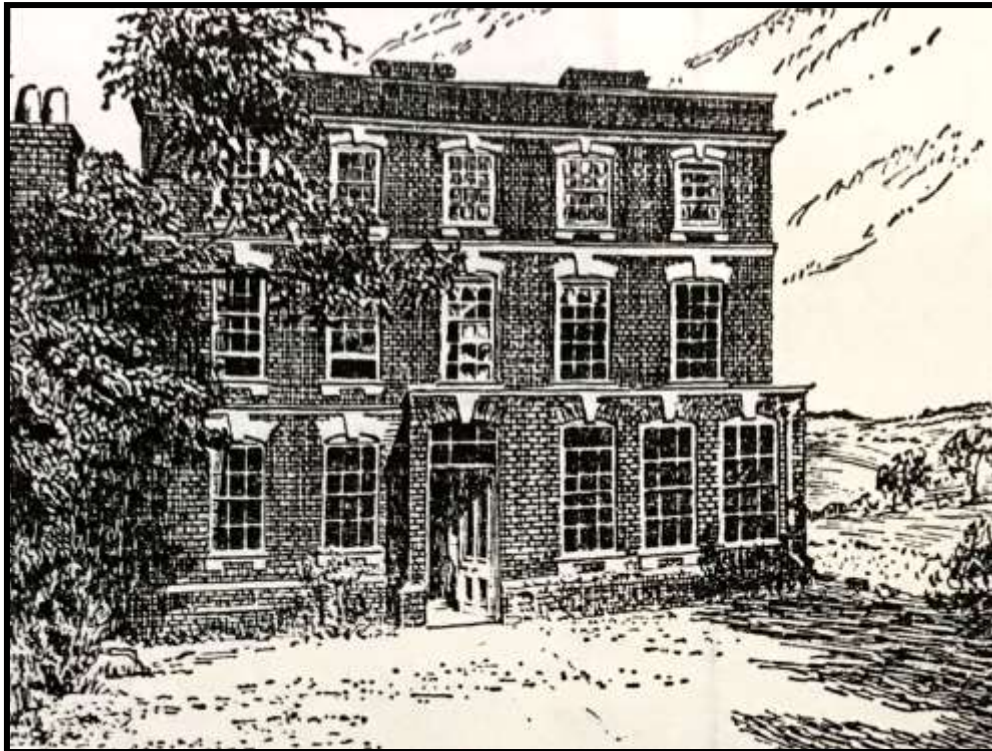


Fig. 11 Line drawing of School House, originally built in 1729. The drawing was thought to have been done in the early 1860's, shortly after the Front Porch extension was completed in April 1861 by Messrs. J Hardwick & Son, Bradford Street, Birmingham. The extension can be seen on the Ground Floor and incorporates the main Entrance Door and the three Dining Room windows on the right hand side.



Fig. 12 Front elevation of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield. This shows how the School looked, following the completion of the extension to the south side of the main building by Messrs. John Barnsley & Sons in 1887. Photograph circa 1900.

The Headmaster's report for 1887 had little to say on academic matters, but dealt mainly with the financial situation. He commented:-

"The question as to the allowance for fuel and cleaning requires consideration. I think it is clear that the present amount will be quite inadequate for the requirements of the new buildings.

I am not sure that something like £50 per annum will not be nearer the sum that will be wanted. It will be necessary, I think, to have a man once a week regularly all the year round and a woman daily to sweep our the School, Classrooms and Corridors.

The consumption of fuel will also be somewhat increased.

It will also need some consideration as to the manner in which the additional rates, consequent upon the increased assessment, are to be met. Now that practically the whole of our water supply comes from the South Staffordshire Company's water main and we are not able, as heretofore, to utilise any of the rainwater, the expenditure for water will also, I fear, be very materially augmented. I shall, of course, try to keep it down as much as possible by preventing waste, but we must be prepared for an increase in this respect."

The Examiner for that year was, once more, C H P Mayo M.A. of King Edward's School. His detailed report concluded:-

"In reviewing the whole work it gives me great pleasure to say that the impression which I have derived from my examination is that the School is in a sound and healthy condition and that its work affords ample evidence of the great care and attention which the pupils receive at the hands of Mr Smith and those who work with him."

Around this same period, the Headmaster was keen to build up a library in the new School and he had written to the Governors that:-

"The want of a good library for the use of the boys attending the School has been long felt. Contributions of books or money towards this object from old boys and others interested in the School would be thankfully received and duly acknowledged and accounted for."

No positive moves in this direction appeared to have been taken by the Governors at this particular juncture.

In February 1888, Messrs. John Barnsley & Sons submitted their last account for work carried out on the new buildings. The final price amounted to £4,137 4s 4d and the Site and Buildings Committee reported that:-

"Considering the magnitude of the Building, the Committee think this is a very satisfactory result."

Following on from the Headmaster's report the previous year, when he mentioned the additional costs likely to occur in respect of the water supply, the Governors considered various ways of saving money. The Site and Buildings Committee, however, reported that:-

"They have considered several suggestions made by the Architect for saving part of the rainwater from the roof but, owing to the expense which would be incurred and the inadequate supply thus obtained, the Committee do not consider it expedient to adopt any of them."

Also in February, the Headmaster wrote to the Governors:-

"I have thought it advisable, considering the large increase in our numbers (up from 54 pupils to 76), to secure the assistance of Mr D Lambert from the Town Boys' School on Saturday mornings to give the boys definite and regular instruction in writing.

The cost to the Governors will not exceed thirty five shillings per term, an increase of expenditure which I hope they will consider themselves justified in allowing.

I may add that the fees from boys for the current year will be at least £50 or £60 in excess of the amount reckoned upon when the estimates were passed at your meeting last July."

The Governors considered Albert Smith's letter and replied, as follows:-

"The Clerk should be instructed to inform the Headmaster that, whilst recognising the importance of improving the boy's handwriting, the Governors are of the opinion, considering the proportion of Masters to the number of boys in the School, the writing should be taught by the present staff."

Another incident occurred shortly afterwards, when they opposed the Headmaster on a different issue. Smith submitted a claim for £16 8s 0d in respect of fixtures removed or destroyed during the construction of the new buildings.

These included roller blinds, book shelves, gas brackets, a balcony and flight of steps, a water butt and trellis work.

The claim had been costed by the Architect, Jethro Cossins, but the Governors reduced this down to £9 8s 0d, with what justification it is not known. In the event, the Headmaster was obliged to accept the settlement.

These events tend to highlight the fact that there was still tension and very little rapport between the two parties'.

Following the success of the opening ceremony the previous year, the Governors decided to arrange a similar function in July 1888. Invitations were extended to the parents and friends of boys attending the School and to other persons as the Headmaster deemed advisable. The annual distribution of prizes also took place at the same time.

I think it was probably in the Governor's minds that this was an excellent way of keeping the School's profile in the public's eye and was, in effect, free advertising. The 'End of the School Year' function became a regular event and, in 1891, an Entertainments Committee was set up to organise the day.

The Headmaster's Report for the year showed that academic results had been somewhat mixed. He stated:-

"As regards the work, for the most part, I think the boys have shown considerable industry and application and, if in some cases, results have not proved satisfactory as far as the ordinary test examination is concerned, this must be assigned to natural inaptitude for school work rather than to the want of ordinary diligence.

The Science teaching continues to be popular and effective. I am happy to be able to state that all the sixteen places in the Laboratory are occupied for the practical chemical class, while there are several boys anxious to fill any vacant place that may become available next term.

The time given to Science necessarily somewhat interferes with the classical work, a result which many people will deplore.

I have to announce, with feelings of gratitude, that the Mayor, Alderman Benjamin Stone, has very kindly offered two prizes for Science, coupled with Geology and Botany, which will be awarded according to the results at the examination now being held.

Pending the conversion of the old School Room into a Gymnasium, as has been suggested, or the erection of a Gymnasium in some other convenient spot in the School Grounds, I should be glad if the Governors could see their way to providing some of the commoner forms of gymnastic apparatus in the Playground, at a cost of £10 or £12. They would be of great use to the School generally. The Swimming Class, as suggested by the Governors at their late Special Meeting, has proved a success. About 30 boys availed themselves of Professor Bates' liberal offer and so far they have attended instruction on the Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

For the ensuing year I should like to have an allowance for the teaching of Shorthand and an additional grant for further assistance in Drawing. The Governors having so decidedly expressed their opinion that the charge for teaching purposes is already excessive in which opinion, however, I cannot concur, I must refrain from asking for these additional grants.

At the same time I may remind the Governors that the revenue from pupil's fees for the past year will be found to be more than £60 in excess of the estimate and I venture to express my opinion that a portion of the excess might be well devoted to increasing the teaching power of the School."

Another instance of the Headmaster and the Governors butting heads together!

A period of relative quiet then ensued and during 1889 the Governors had no board meetings, other than the usual quarterly meetings.

John B Cull M.A., who had been a pupil at the school from 1862 -1868 and who was now the Principal of the Royal College Colombo, Ceylon, conducted the 1889 Examination of the School.

After reporting on the rather mixed results in the Mathematics, Classics and English examinations, he concluded his report, as follows:-

"Many of the papers were very neat, but the writing generally of the junior boys I consider capable of improvement. On this point I would urge the consideration of the advantage of introducing 'vertical' handwriting instead of the old fashioned 'sloping' style.

Since my return to England, I have seen most excellent results therefrom in some of the schools in Yorkshire.

Taking the school as a whole, I consider the results to be satisfactory. One of the forms seemed to be too large. 25 pupils, I think, should be the strict limit to each class.

I am informed that T Jones is the one candidate for the University Scholarship at the disposal of the Governors. The marks I assigned to him on this Examination are, as under:-

Classics	70 marks out of a possible 270
Mathematics	140 marks out of a possible 300

On such results it is impossible for me to recommend his Election."

The Headmaster's Report in July indicated that the number of boys in the School had increased to 85, with 23 boarders. He also went on to say:-

"I have also a great many applications for admission next term but, considering the fact that we have already almost as many boys as the present staff of Masters can conveniently manage, I am not sure that I must not make the examination for admission somewhat more severe than it has hitherto been.

With a view to the successful development of the School there are three points which seem to me to press themselves upon our consideration.

1. The providing of some gymnasium apparatus in the Playground.

2. The establishment of a Library of useful and entertaining books for the use of the boys.
3. The building of a Fives Court.
As far as the two latter are concerned, I believe a certain amount of money could be raised for either or both of them from the parents of the boys and the general public."

The Rector proposed that the Governors should contribute £5 towards a Library, which was approved. The other two suggestions were deferred to a later meeting, in order that the Headmaster could obtain estimates.

The cost of fixing parallel bars in the Playground was later found to be £11 10s 0d, which the Governors also approved.

To raise money for the Fives Court and a possible Gymnasium, the Headmaster's daughter proposed putting on a concert and she approached Mary Burman, the proprietor of the Meisterschaft School of Practical Linguistry, which was situated at 'Fairfield', Wylde Green.

Mrs Burman said she was more than willing to participate and asked for their patronage, but the Governors declined in this respect.

In 1890 the Headmaster's Report contained the following comments:-

"The exclusion of Latin from the course of education for boys intended for commercial pursuits has recently been seriously discussed, with the result that a Committee appointed by the London Chamber of Commerce have drawn up a scheme from which Latin is altogether omitted and more time allotted for Science and Modern Languages.

The scheme, for several reasons, has not found favour with the educational world, not because of the omission of Latin solely, but because of the evident impracticability of its general provisions, although it was taken up very warmly by some persons at first.

I believe now, after consideration, the feeling against it is gaining ground and a report says it is likely to be withdrawn. It is obviously the work of a man who has no experience in the teaching of boys. At the same time, I confess that, had I a larger staff of Assistant Masters than the funds of the School allow, I should start one or two classes for boys who, instead of Latin, should have much more time devoted to Modern Languages and English subjects.

With parents, I believe such an arrangement would be popular though, from an educational point of view, I am not sure it would be a success. It would, however, be quite worth trying as an experiment and I think it should be tried on the first available opportunity."

FILE NOTE: Across the Nation the argument raged to and fro as to whether Latin should continue to be taught as a compulsory subject, with the end result being that the Committee reluctantly came to the decision to withdraw Latin from the scheme and re-arrange the timetables.

The Headmaster's Report continued:-

"I should recommend that the teaching of Shorthand be introduced into the School. This might be done at a small additional cost to the present charge for teaching power and I have no doubt that those boys, who desired to be taught this subject, would be willing to pay a small fee towards the expense of providing a teacher.

The Gymnastic Appliances in the Playground have been of great service in improving the physical condition of the boys. They are in almost constant use during the shorter intervals of play hours and they are a good substitute for the more expensive apparatus of a Gymnasium, which some day may, it is hoped, be forthcoming.

The Governors will be glad to hear that the erection of the Pavilion on the Cricket Ground, so generously provided by more than 60 Old Boys, has tended to increase the enthusiasm of the boys for the game and I cannot remember any year in which the practice at the Cricket Ground has been more regular and systematic."

In September, following the Headmaster's Report, Albert Smith was able to employ, with the Governors' approval, Mr W J Durant to attend the School twice a week for the purpose of teaching Shorthand at £10 per annum.

Arrangements were also made for the three upper forms in the School to attend instruction in Drawing from Miss Hall, every Friday morning, at an additional cost of £15 per annum.

It is interesting to note that, at this particular juncture, the Accounts showed the School was running at a small profit, as follows:-

ACCOUNTS FOR SEPTEMBER 1890

<u>Description</u>	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Credits</u>
	£	£
School Fees	-	491 12s 6d
Rent	-	323 5s 8d
Dividends	-	306 8s 6d
Science and Art Department Grant	-	9 0s 0d
Headmaster's Salary	451 12s 2d	-
Other Salaries	335 0s 0d	-
Educational Expenses	38 19s 9d	-
Exhibitions	87 0s 0d	-
Repairs to School	85 12s 4d	-
Repairs to Other Properties	27 17s 9d	-
Miscellaneous Expenses	94 12s 5d	-
Totals	1120 13s 5d	1130 6s 8d

In January 1891, the Governors finally came round to the Headmaster's long running view that a teacher of writing was needed and resolved:-

"That the Examiner, having drawn attention to the defective writing of the pupils, the Governors respectfully request that the Headmaster make such arrangements as will remedy the defect complained of."

The Headmaster's Report for 1891 mentioned that:-

"The attendance at the School had been affected by two serious epidemics of sickness that prevailed in the parish and half of the boys were absent for several weeks. We have managed still to get through a fair amount of work, though hardly in so satisfactory a manner as usual.

With regard to the teaching of Shorthand, the boys take an interest in the subject and I have no doubt many of them, when they get out into the world of business, will be glad that they were able to pick up the elements of Shorthand at School and will be enabled to perfect themselves in the art.

The Art classes had been an unqualified success. The boys themselves, for the most part, enjoy their lesson with Miss Hall and their progress in Drawing is distinctly noticeable. It may be possible, at no distant date, to extend the arrangements made with the Art School, so as to make it available for almost all the boys in our School.

The question of the Gymnasium seems to be forcing itself to the front and will have to be soon seriously considered by the Governors. It is the fashion, no doubt a very good one, for every school to have a Gymnasium and I think we must sooner or later follow suit.

The payment of a teacher need not be a difficulty because a small terminal fee might reasonably be charged to the parents for use of and instruction in the Gymnasium when provided.

The Old School Room might probably be easily converted into a Gymnasium, but the very serious question as to the finding a place for the School of Art is not so easily solved, though this is not a question for the Governors of the School to settle."

1891 CENSUS RETURN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Where from</u>
Albert Smith	Head	Married	57	Clerk in Holy Orders and Headmaster of Grammar School	Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire
Frances Elizabeth Smith	Wife	Married	51	-	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Beatrice M Smith	Daughter	Single	26	-	Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks
Francis Hubert Smith	Son	Single	23	Bankers Clerk	Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks
Arthur Dudley Smith	Son	Single	13	Scholar	Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks
Evelyn Frances Smith	Daughter	Single	10	Scholar	Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks
Ethel R Richards	Visitor	Single	22	-	Hardwycke, Northants
Mary Leadbeater	Servant	Single	29	Cook	Coventry, Warwickshire
Annie Bradnock	Servant	Single	25	Boy's Maid	Hill, Warwickshire
Louisa Biddle	Servant	Single	29	Parlour Maid	Yardley, Worcestershire
Kate Aimey	Servant	Single	23	House Maid	Aston, Warwickshire
Annie Orton	Servant	Single	18	Kitchen Maid	Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks
Annie Neville	Servant	Single	15	House Maid	Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks

Although there were 79 pupils at the School, it is not known how many Boarders there were at the time. There must have been several, as Annie Bradnock was specifically employed to look after them.

It is strange that the details of these boys were not recorded, as they were in other Census Returns. It is possible that the Census was taken between terms and the boys were away with their parents.

A particularly sad event took place in the same year. Monsieur de Lattre , who had taught Modern Languages and Drawing at the School for over 30 years, was forced to give up teaching due to ill health.

The following March he wrote to the Governors:-

"As you are doubtless aware, I have been compelled to give up my duties as French and Drawing Master at your School since last Autumn, through failure of health, after having held the position for 33 years.

FILE NOTE: Monsieur de Lattre had entered the School when the Reverend Albert Smith's predecessor, Josiah Wright, was Headmaster.

I should be glad if the Governors would consider the length of service rendered by me to the School and make me, if possible, remuneration in the shape of a small pension.

I would respectfully draw their attention to the fact that I have passed the best part of my life at the School and my salary throughout has been such as would not allow for any great provision in old age and I am now entirely without means of my own for subsistence.

Hoping that you may look favourably on this application and render whatever assistance lies in your power to grant."

FILE NOTE: Monsieur de Lattre's salary had remained unchanged during this time at a fixed amount of £80 per annum.

The Governors considered his letter and replied:-

"We express regret that the funds of the School will not allow us to comply with your request."

It is a heart rending story to hear, especially when one considers the benefits on offer for modern day employees. It highlights the harsh reality workers were often forced to face in those times and it is even more incredible to think that this event took place a little over a century ago.

A gentleman, who only a few months earlier, had been in a respected profession was now facing the unthinkable, the possibility of entering that most dreaded of all institutions, namely the 'Workhouse'!

In January 1892, evening classes for the 'Instruction of the Principles of Agriculture' were started at the Grammar School, by permission of the Governors. The lecturer was John Turner, the Headmaster of the Walsall Institute and the fee was a shilling per term.

Probably as a result of the Headmaster's latest submission, in April 1892, the Governors approved a recommendation from the General Purposes Committee that the Old School Room should be converted into a Gymnasium. The cost was about £40 for the equipment, which consisted of a Bridge Ladder, Horizontal and Parallel Bars, Vaulting Horse, Climbing Rope and one set each of Swing Rings, Indian Clubs, Wands and Dumb Bells.

An additional ten guineas was spent for alterations and additions to the building, forming a Gallery at the end of the room, with stairs leading up, repairing floors and making good to walls and ceiling and strengthening a beam in the ceiling for the fixing of ropes.

In his Report for 1892, the Headmaster said:-

"The number of pupils is about the same as for last year, but the attendances of many of them has been considerably interfered with since Christmas owing to the prevailing epidemic of influenza and other maladies.

Nevertheless, we have got through a fair amount of work but not, in my opinion, in so satisfactory a manner or with so satisfactory results as in previous years."

The 1892 Examination was conducted, as in the previous year by Edmund Arblaster M.A., the retired Headmaster of Carlisle Grammar School.

He reported that:-

"The past years work has borne good fruit."

In reality, however, the only improvement actually mentioned was in English, the Shakespeare paper being very good. In other subjects, the terms 'somewhat weak', 'moderate', 'uneven' and 'in the main satisfactory' were used.

Perhaps he was being kind to Albert Smith because of the interrupted year that he had experienced with absences.

The Examination the following year was carried out by W H Wagstaff M.A., who was the Assistant Master at King Edward's School.

His Report indicated that:-

"Latin Translation, History, Geography, Scripture (St. Mark's Gospel), English (The Tempest) and Mathematics were taken through the School and that several boys at the top of the School took special papers.

Latin Prose was done by three candidates and there was scarcely a mistake of importance in their papers. Of the two candidates who took Trigonometry, one obtained only 22% of the marks, whilst the other sent in a really good paper.

Algebra was taken by three boys, one of which reached the Binomial Theorem. Mechanics was taken by two boys, both of which were creditably done."

In Albert Smith's Report for 1893 he commented:-

"The average attendance of boys at the School, during the twelve months just completed, has been slightly less than for two or three preceding years, but this is to be accounted for in consequence of the epidemic of measles, which was so prevalent in the parish at the close of 1892.

I am sure that, after the Summer holidays, we shall have a considerable increase, as I have already received several applications for admission for next term."

A relatively quiet period then ensued for the School and in his Annual Report the Headmaster again made reference to the number of pupils:-

"The average is about the same as for the preceding twelve months. It is a source of considerable disappointment to me that the numbers, as far as day pupils are concerned, should not have greatly increased as I believe we have every possible advantage to offer as far as our curriculum is concerned.

He also went on to comment:-

"It is difficult to maintain anything like a high classical standard in the School with so many modern subjects engaging the attention of our pupils. Chemistry, Shorthand and Drawing are popular subjects and in these areas I think the standard is a relatively high one.

The Royal Commission on Secondary Schools, now sitting in London, have sent down several papers of questions for myself to reply to respecting the organisation and work of the School and two Assistant Commissioners have quite recently made a personal visit to the School all, I presume, with a view to recommendation as regards legislation with the object of putting Secondary Schools on a more satisfactory basis.

I ventured to point out that, as far as we were concerned, the great thing that we needed to increase our usefulness and efficiency was an increased income, which they assured me was a common complaint with so many of the smaller Grammar Schools."

Edward W Badger M.A., the Examiner for 1894, reported:-

"The work of the School is going on thoroughly well and maintains its high standard."

This conclusion, however, was not entirely borne out by the examination marks, as ten out of the fifteen mentioned were under 50%!

An amusing incident was recorded in April 1895, which involved one of the Governors. Lord Norton, now an octogenarian, set out to attend a Governor's Meeting from his home at 'Hams Hall' but was prevented from attending.

He was very upset to have missed a Meeting without giving an apology and he wrote to the Clerk, Thomas Eddowes, later on in the day.

"Please tell any of the Governors you may see and Mr Albert Smith that I did my best to get to their Meeting today, but my old horse broke down on the road and I was forced to turn back though half way there."



Fig. 13 'Hams Hall', Wawickshire. A large manor house built during the Imperial period. The house was designed by James Wyatt for Charles Boyer Adderley and it replaced an earlier manor house on the site. 'Hams Hall' had to be re-built, following a devastating fire, which occurred in 1890. It was situated close to Lea Marston and Whitacre Heath and was eventually demolished in 1920 to make way for a power station. (Photograph reproduced courtesy of 'Our Warwickshire', Warwickshire County Council.)

In his 1895 Report the Headmaster referred again to the disappointing attendance:-

"I think we ought reasonably to expect that, with the increase of the population, there ought to be a corresponding increase in the number of day pupils which, however, is not the case. It must, however, be borne in mind that the High School in Birmingham and the Aston Grammar School, with its low school fees and its excellent education, naturally prove attractions to many boys who live in proximity to the railway stations along the line.

The year has been a satisfactory one as far as the general conduct and work of the School is concerned.

At the present time the poorer Grammar Schools are in a very awkward position and, in fact, are utterly unable to carry out the requirements of the schemes under which they are worked. They have no means of increasing their income or of providing for special emergencies and even the County Councils, who might reasonably be expected to help them as far as the teaching of Science is concerned, in many cases absolutely refuse assistance

I almost think that we are the only School in Warwickshire, at the present time, which gets any help from the funds available for technical education dispensed by the County Council and for this, though the sum is not a large one, we must be grateful."

The Examiner for the year was again Edward W Badger, who said:-

"I have much pleasure in testifying to the School's satisfactory condition."

When one looks more closely at the marks given, they do not bear this remark out. The average marks were worse than the previous year. Of the nine marks mentioned, seven were below 50% and in the bottom two divisions the highest marks obtained in Arithmetic were 49% and 43%, the average being just 24%.

Albert Smith's Report for 1896 contained the following comments:-

"The number of boys on the school roll is about the same as last year. The increase in numbers which we annually anticipate does not take place and it is a source of much anxiety and concern to me that this should be the case.

This particular year, I find that an unusually large number of elder boys have left for business pursuits and, all being well, I do not expect such a drain upon our stock for some years to come.

We have an excellent staff of Assistant Masters and we can, with their aid, undertake to give efficient instruction in everything that is required for boys, whether they are destined for Professional or Commercial pursuits.

I find we draw very few boys now from the Wylde Green and Chester Road side of the parish and this may be accounted for, in some measure, by the want of convenient trains for boys to use in passing to and fro.

I represented this to the authorities of the London & North Western Railway some months ago and they promised to revisit their programme to give the matter due consideration, but no alterations have so far been made that would be advantageous for boys desirous of attending this school.

I have to report a still greater difficulty in keeping up anything like a respectable standard in Latin, whilst the Greek is becoming a vanishing quantity."

This last remark was borne out by the Examiner for that year, Edmund Arblaster M.A., who stated:-

"It seems a matter for regret that the opportunities offered by Bishop Vesey's School for gaining a good classical training are not more extensively used to the full."

Probably, in view of the Headmaster's remarks regarding the number of pupils attending the School, the Governors decided to put out a new Prospectus, in the hope of attracting more interest amongst the overall population.

The Prospectus included the names and addresses of the Governors, the Clerk and the Masters. The Masters were listed, as follows:-

<i>Head Master</i>	<i>The Reverend Albert Smith M.A., Lincoln College, Oxford; First Class in Classics, Honorary Fourth in Mathematics; late Head Master's Assistant in King Edward's School, Birmingham.</i>
<i>Second Master</i>	<i>P Aubrey Hill B.A., Caius College, Cambridge.</i>
<i>Assistant Masters</i>	<i>F L Merry, London University. J F Amos, French and Drawing. J Turner, Natural Science. Mr W J Durant, Shorthand. Sergeant Moon, Drilling. Miss A K Hall, Drawing. Mrs Beresford, Music.</i>

FILE NOTE: Mr Durant, the Shorthand Teacher, owned a shop selling Stationery, Post Cards, Newspapers, etc., in Mill Street. (See Advertisement)



Fig 14. Advertisement for W J Durant's Shop in Mill Street, which appeared in the 'Popular Guide to Sutton and Park' 1901 by G Sidwell & W J Durant.

Ex Pupils since 1883, who were granted Exhibitions and later went on to University, were listed, as follows:-

1883	Ernest A Smith (Headmaster's Son)	Magdalen College, Oxford.
1884	Albert E Addenbrooke	St. Edmund Hall College, Oxford.
1887	Charles J Beresford	St. Edmund Hall College, Oxford.
1888	Alaric V C Fenby	Mason College, Birmingham.
1889	George E Watton	Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
1893	Hugh N L McLean	Keeble College, Oxford.
1894	James H Stormont	Mason College, Birmingham.
1895	Ernest S Thomas	Keeble College, Oxford.
1896	H Westley Burman	Mason College, Birmingham.

FILE NOTE: Mason College was founded by Sir Josiah Mason in 1875. The building was situated in Edmund Street, Birmingham and was designed by Jethro Cossins, who was also involved with the extension to Bishop Vesey's School in 1887. It opened in 1880 and in 1898 it became Mason University College. It was incorporated into the University of Birmingham in 1900.

A description of the School then followed:-

"The School was remodelled under a new scheme in 1882. In 1887 additional buildings were erected at a cost of £4,000, consisting of a spacious School Room, convenient Class Rooms, Laboratory, Dining Hall, Cloak Room etc., together with further accommodation for Boarders, consisting of excellent Bedrooms, Infirmary and Bathrooms.

There are Playing Fields of more than 10 acres in extent, with a beautiful Cricket Ground and Pavilion recently erected at the cost of 'Old Boys' of the School.

There is a Library of interesting books for the use of pupils.

Boys are prepared for the Universities, for the great Public Schools and also for Professional and Commercial pursuits and they are specially trained for the London University Matriculation, for the University Local Examination and for the Examinations conducted by the Science and Art Department, South Kensington.

The School Year is divided into three Terms of about thirteen weeks each.

The School hours are from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday afternoons are half-holidays.

The whole School is examined every year by an Examiner appointed by the Governors.

Scholarships, giving total or partial exemption from School Fees, are awarded at the Entrance Examinations, according to the number and proficiency of the Candidates.

One Exhibition of £50 a year for three years, subject to variation at the discretion of the Governors, is awarded annually by competition for boys desirous of proceeding to any place of higher education.

The ordinary Subjects of Instruction are:-

Holy Scripture & Religious Knowledge.

Reading, Writing & Dictation.

Grammar and Literature.

History and Geography.

Shorthand.

Arithmetic & Mensuration.

Bookkeeping.

Algebra, Geometry & Trigonometry.

Natural Philosophy.

Chemistry, Theoretical & Practical.

Latin.

Greek.

French.

Drawing.

Drilling.

The School Fee, as fixed by the Governors for the present, exclusive of Books, Stationery etc., is £6 15s 0d per annum, payable terminally in advance.

Instrumental Music, Dancing and Fencing are taught at an extra charge.

Boys may attend the Wood Carving Class at a charge of one shilling and sixpence each per Term.

Books can be supplied by the School at the usual discount.

Boys can be supplied with Stationery at a small terminal charge, varying according to their position in the School.

A small charge is made for Chemicals for boys in the Natural Science Classes and for Drawing Materials for boys attending the Art School Class.

There is accommodation in the Laboratory for sixteen students. The initial cost of apparatus is about twelve shillings and sixpence and each boy is charged seven shillings per Term for the Chemicals consumed.

Boys can dine at the School on the four whole school days at a cost of three guineas per Term and, on wet days, at a small charge for each occasion.

The inclusive charge for Boarders is £51 per annum, with a deduction in the case of two or more brothers and also for weekly Boarders.

Boys must be eight years of age before admission and are required to pass an Examination in Reading, Writing and Elementary Arithmetic.

No boy may be absent from school without permission from the Headmaster for any cause whatsoever, except through illness."

The Gymnasium Committee met in May 1897, the first time for over two years. They considered three plans for the scheme, which were presented by Mr Titley the Architect. The estimates varied between £406 and £606 and the majority of the Committee approved the most expensive one.

The work eventually commenced in December, the contractors appointed being Messrs. Turville & Son of Lichfield.

The Governors then issued a circular inviting the submission of public donations:-

"No educational establishment is complete without a good Gymnasium and the benefits which have resulted from regular physical training in Secondary Schools are well known to everyone.

The Governors therefore confidently recommend their scheme for the consideration of the inhabitants of the Borough. They ask for liberal donations from the public generally, as well as from Old Boys and Parents, who are especially interested in the welfare and prosperity of the School.

They venture to hope that their appeal for funds will meet the generous response, which they are confident that it deserves. A List of Donations already promised accompanies this Circular and further and increased contributions will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Headmaster, the Reverend A Smith, or by Mr T S Eddowes, the Secretary."

The appeal raised a total of £201 16s 0d. and so proved to be a very worthwhile exercise.

In his Report for 1897 the Headmaster stated:-

"I am glad to announce that the number of boys in the School shows an increase of at least 20 per cent. The number of elder boys, however, is very much below the ordinary proportion. The Upper Forms in the School have consequently been only very small.

I have tried to maintain the ordinary standard of work in these Upper Classes, perhaps unwisely, and certainly not successfully.

I must record the fact that the tiresome malady of Mumps has been very prevalent since Easter and that, through the necessary three weeks absence required in the case of all the victims, the work of the School has been seriously interfered with.

The Chemistry Classes under Mr Turner's instruction are still, as they have always been, the popular classes with the boys and the interest shown in this subject is very considerable. I believe the instruction that is being given will be of real permanent use to many of the pupils and help them towards obtaining appointments in scientific work, to which so many boys seem to aspire.

The Drawing of the Upper Boys, under Miss Hall's instruction, goes on well and several Certificates from the Science and Art Department have been obtained."

Edmund Arblaster once more Examined the School in 1897 and he commented:-

"There is a small number of older boys this year hence, though the standard attained is not a high one, the results of the Examination show there is an abundance of promising material to work upon in future years."

During the same year the Headmaster wrote to the Governors:-

"It seems to be that the opportunity of getting a room in connection with the Gymnasium Building, which will serve as a Carpenter's Shop, ought not to be allowed to slip away. Therefore, if the Governors will give their sanction, I shall be happy to be responsible for the additional expenditure of about £41, which the Contractor estimates as the cost thereof.

Perhaps, if we have prosperous years, the Governors may be disposed to contribute something towards this sum out of the School income for the next two or three years, but this is no part of the conditions on which I will make myself responsible for the payment of the contractor's bill."

This generous offer by the Headmaster was accepted by the Governors and Turville & Son, situated in the High Street, were instructed to carry out the work.

In July 1898, the Headmaster reported to the Governors on various topics:-

"I am happy to be able to report that there has been an increase in the number of boys in the School during the last twelve months, the number being 77 as compared with 70 a year ago, 61 of these are day boys and 16 are Boarders.

The standard of work is not high owing to the fact that there are only a very small number of boys over 16 in the school.

The work has been much interfered with by the epidemic of measles that prevailed before Easter and of a cough, suspiciously like whooping cough, which has been prevalent among the younger boys this Term.

I have, with sorrow, to report the death of one of the day pupils, George Merrifield, which took place after a brief illness, just a week ago.

The Governors will be pleased to hear that C H Mowbray, one of our Old Boys, has passed out of Sandhurst with great credit and that, in a few weeks, he will be on his way to India to join the Indian Army.

May I also be allowed to call attention to the fact that a distinguished Old Boy, Mr Arthur L Crockford, has attained to the dignified position of Mayor of our Royal Borough and that, as I certainly anticipated, it is bringing as much lustre to the Office, as the Office itself is conferring honour upon him.

For the Science Examination, organised by the Technical Education Committee of the County Council at Easter, all 14 candidates sent in succeeded in passing, a matter which reflects much credit upon the teaching of the Science Master, Mr John Turner."

The new Gymnasium was formerly opened by the Mayor, Alderman A L Crockford, on the 26th September 1898. The Headmaster had engaged a Gymnastic Teacher, Mr G Wood, to teach from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Tuesday afternoons. The final cost of the construction amounted to £741 9s 7d. An amount of £89 12s 7d still remained outstanding and it was agreed that part of this should be obtained by letting it out to interested parties.



Fig. 15 Alderman A L Crockford, Mayor of Sutton Coldfield 1897-1898.

Alderman Crockford was a pupil at the Grammar School under the Reverend Albert Smith. After leaving Bishop Vesey's he gained a B.A. degree at London University and qualified as a Solicitor, eventually running his own practice. In 1891, he was elected to represent Wylde Green Ward on the Town Council. During his time on the Council he served on almost every Committee. He still, however, found time to become Captain of Sutton Cricket Club, Secretary of the Tennis Club and Treasurer of the Conservative Club. He also became a Trustee of the Municipal Charities and Vice Chairman of the Governors of the Grammar School. After his marriage in 1885, he and his wife lived at *'Hawthorn Lodge'*, Wylde Green.

Lord Norton was unanimously re-elected as a Cooptative Governor for a further term of eight years in October 1898, even though he would celebrate his 90th birthday during this period!

During the course of 1899, the Charity Commission asked for the Governors' views on the granting of a pension to the Headmaster upon his retirement, but no amendment was made to the Scheme in this respect.

The Governors' views were:-

"As a general principle, it is no doubt of immense importance to all Grammar Schools to establish a pension fund, not for Headmasters and Headmistresses only, but for Assistant Masters and Mistresses also.

The want of such a Scheme often obliges Governors of a school to retain the services of Masters and Mistresses after they have ceased to be able to render effective service and it is manifest that, if possible, such a Scheme should be initiated in connection with the Sutton Coldfield School. It is clear, however, that at present the Governors have no funds in hand which could be applied in securing, either by way of insurance or otherwise, a pension to pay any future Headmaster."

During the year the Governors also resolved:-

"That a further advertisement be inserted in the '*Popular Guide to Sutton and Park*', with a drawing of the School at the head, at a cost of £1 11s 0d."

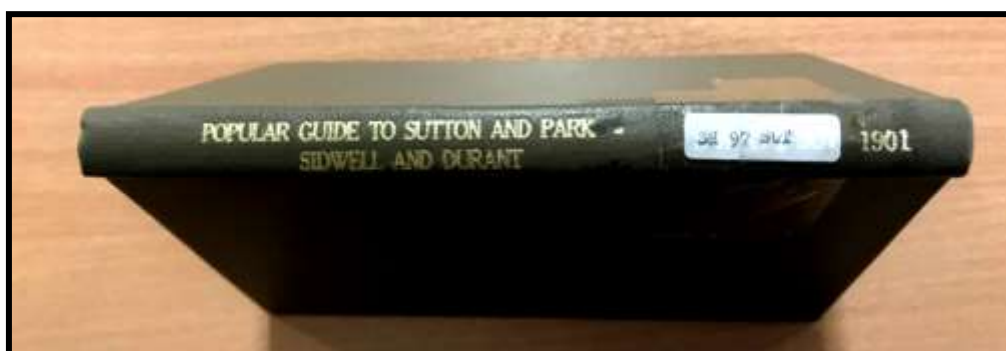


Fig. 16 '*Popular Guide to Sutton and Park*' 1901 version, which also contained the same School advertisement inserted in the 1899 edition.

In his Report for 1899 the Headmaster was optimistic about the future of the School:-

"I have pleasure of informing you that the number of boys in the School is somewhat in excess of the number twelve months ago. There are now eighty six all told, of whom twenty two are Boarders and the rest day pupils. In all human probability the number will go on increasing, possibly by leaps and bounds, in which case the question of enlarging our Class Room accommodation will have to be seriously considered.

FILE NOTE: In this respect the Headmaster would be proved correct in his statement as, by 1902, the number of boys had increased to 130 and would increase steadily thereafter.

Even with our present numbers two of the Class Rooms are too small for the large classes that we are obliged to put into them on certain occasions. It would be a convenience, even now, if a screen seven or eight feet high were put in the school room, thus shutting off the upper end and practically forming another Class Room.

It may also soon be necessary to consider the propriety of increasing the staff, as the classes, in some cases, are already somewhat unwieldy.

There is still a further decline in the desire of parents for a classical education for their boys, as evidenced by the fact that we have no candidates for the Exhibition who wish to proceed to the Universities and have not had for several years past.

Perhaps the parents are wise, in a literary point of view the matter is to be deplored, but commercially and in the prospective millionaire's point of view, boys can get on better in trade than in the liberal professions, unless they are especially brilliant. Greek has a very hard struggle for existence in the School.

The Gymnasium, as I think we all anticipated, has been a great success. It is popular with the boys and particularly so with the younger members of the School and I have no doubt that the Gymnastic lessons have been beneficial in increasing their chest measurements and generally in improving their physical frame. It may be desirable henceforth to keep a regular and systematic record of the height, weight and chest measurements of every boy from Term to Term, so that it may be judged whether his physical education is doing its proper work. We ought to have a weighing machine for the purpose, in the Gymnasium.

The Government Board of Education Bill is expected to become law, I believe, this session. It is a Bill that almost every Headmaster in the Kingdom welcomes as an attempt to organise Secondary Education on a proper basis and great results are looked for in the immediate future. I shall be disappointed if our own School does not benefit in more ways than one under the working of what, I hope, will be an Act of Parliament."

The 1889 Examination of the School was conducted by the Reverend Reginald W Clarke and he recommended:-

“That more time should be given to English, as it is the weak spot in the School. I may say that I am otherwise very pleased with the work done, especially on the mathematical side and I take this opportunity of congratulating the Headmaster and his colleagues.”

An article, which appeared in the Warwickshire Herald on Thursday 3rd August 1899, described the School’s Prize Giving Day, which took place on Friday 28th July.

“There was a large gathering of the friends and parents of the scholars attending Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School on Friday afternoon last, when the prizes were distributed to the successful students.

The Reverend Albert Smith M.A., (Headmaster) presided and he was supported on the platform by Alderman Crockford (Vice-Chairman of the Governors) and Mr J A Jones (Governor).

The Headmaster briefly opened the proceedings and Mr J A Jones welcomed, on behalf of the Governors, the visitors to the School. He also referred, in complimentary terms, to the Examiner’s Report which, he said, appeared to him to be highly satisfactory. (Applause)

The Headmaster announced letters of apology for absence from a number of the Governors of the School including the Chairman, Mr S A Taylor, Lord Norton, Major-General Arbuthnot, Alderman Glover, the Bishop of Coventry and the Reverend Canon Boddington.

He then spoke of the satisfactory position of the School and, proceeding, deplored the fact that so much was expected of boys at 13 or 14 years of age, at which age many parents removed them from school considering them fully equipped for the business of life. This, he said, was a great mistake.

He then touched upon the Secondary Education Bill, about to become law. It was a measure which he would be glad to see in operation for, he believed, it would prove beneficial to other schools of a like character in the country.

He welcomed, with pleasure the presence of several Old Boys, one of whom had attended the School at least half a century ago, while another had spent something like eight or ten years in the School and was now a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. (Applause)

He alluded to Mr Madeley and Mr Reginald Thomas and from what he knew of the latter’s character he believed he would someday become a very distinguished officer. (Hear, hear) As to Mr Madeley, he was at the School even before Mr Smith took over the Headmastership.

Addressing the boys, Mr Smith said he hoped every one of them would not be satisfied at being an average boy, a mere minority, but would try and find out what his great point was and then make the best use of it. If they did so they might depend upon it and success would follow them later in life. (Hear, hear)

The Headmaster, amid applause, then distributed the prizes to the successful scholars.

The Headmaster added that he had a number of Certificates for Chemistry from the Midland Counties Union of Educational Institutes and those to whom they had been awarded were Owen Wilson, N Bill, Madeley, E Moore, C Barton, W Salt, Thomas Owens, G Mackenzie and Tidy. (Applause)

Alderman Crockford next said a few words, as Vice-chairman of the Governors of the School. He said it was extremely gratifying to them to see that the School had become more popular and prosperous than it had been for a great number of years. (Hear, hear)

He was especially pleased to see from the Report of the Examiner (Reverend R W Clarke M.A.) that the School showed a decided improvement all round and on the part of the boys generally. (Hear, hear)

As far as the Governors were concerned, there were no important changes during the year except that, under the new scheme for the management of the School, some seven new members had been added to the governing body. If then, in the multitude of members much wisdom was found, then the work done by the Governors would be better in the future than in the past. He assured them the Governors, to the utmost of their ability, employed their time in considering how they could make the School prosperous, to the satisfaction of the people of Sutton. (Hear, hear)

He was pleased to see that many of the boys who had received prizes that day were those who had won prizes at the recent sports. This showed that athletics and scholarships went hand in hand, which all scholastic institutions now recognised.

He regretted to hear the debt on the Gymnasium had not been cleared off. Some £70 more was required to free the building of debt and he appealed to the Sutton public to help them at once to wipe it off." (Applause)

In October, the Headmaster raised two other matters with the Governors:-

(a) "The Carpenter's Shop is now in working order and we have begun with 24 pupils, which necessitates the Teacher, a Practical Carpenter, attending two evenings each week at a cost of 2/6d per evening. Perhaps the Governors will allow this to be paid out of the School income, it will amount to about £3 a Term, probably for only two Terms in the year.

If the Governors decide that it should not be paid out of the school income, I shall want their authority for imposing upon the boys a small fee, about 2/6d each a Term, to defray the cost of the Teacher's salary."

(b) The light from the gas in the School Room is very insufficient. A pendant, with ten or twelve burners from the ceiling, would be a great advantage.

The Governors opted for an extra amount to be charged for the teaching of Woodwork and approved a quotation to provide and fix one six brass star pendant with stop tap and ball joint.

In January 1900 the Headmaster received a letter from Alfred H Wipple, the County Education Officer, offering a 50% grant towards apparatus and building work in connection with Technical Education.

Albert Smith asked Mr Titley, the Architect, to prepare a plan for a new Classroom, estimated to cost £80 plus £20 for teaching apparatus. He mentioned that the present room was condemned as too small for the accommodation of the students by the Inspector of the Science and Art Department, on the occasion of his visit some little time ago.

The Governors asked the Headmaster to apply to the Council for a 100% grant. William Ansell, the County Council Governor subsequently reported that no direct grant could be made to the School, but that £750 would be made available to the Local Technical Education Committee. Ansell also made a most generous offer of adding a further £50 from his own pocket to any share of the £750 obtained by the School from the Local Committee.

Arthur Crockford reported to the Governors, in July 1900, that the Town Council were considering acquiring the 'Swan Inn' for use as a Technical School and that an exchange of land with the Governors might be to their mutual benefit. In the event, the 'Swan Inn' was demolished and the Governors acquired the site and, in exchange, gave the Council the land on which the School of Art was built.

The Headmaster's Report for 1900 included the following remarks:-

"There is little to chronicle or comment upon during the year now drawing to a close. It has been, as frequently in the past, a year of fairly steady work and progress, at all events for the large majority of the boys and if there has been no special excellence to mention as regards most of the pupils, yet there is no special failure to register.

The number of boys in the School is about the same as it was last year. The old complaint must still be made respecting the age at which parents take their sons from school for business purposes, just when they are beginning to appreciate their school work and to feel its effect upon their mental development..

The Greek in the School is at a discount as far as the pupils are concerned. Day by day there seems less demand for it.

FILE NOTE: It must have been very galling for Albert Smith to make a statement such as this one. His expertise as a Classical Scholar was being used less and less, as a more modern era was being ushered in.

The popularity, however, of Science and Modern Languages increases and there can be no doubt that we ought, as soon as funds permit, make arrangements for the introduction of German into the School course; a language the teaching of which has been in abeyance for something like ten years.

The Gymnasium has proved a great boon to the School. It is much appreciated by the boys and I believe it is productive of much benefit as far as the physical development of the pupils is concerned. I regret to say that there is still a debt of something like £40-£45 to be wiped off.

It will be a great advantage to the School if the lower Classroom, the one used for the Science lessons, was enlarged as soon as practicable. It is far too small for the number of boys that sometimes have to be crowded into it.

I must not omit to mention that three Old Boys volunteered for active service in the Transvaal. They were all boys in whom I, in common with their school-fellows, took a great interest. The Governors are aware now that one of the three, the son of the Chairman of your Body, fell victim to a fever at Bloemfontein a few weeks ago. I am sure Sutton boys in general and Old Veseyans in particular, will always be ready to obey the call of duty, even at the risk of their lives."

FILE NOTE: The young man referred to was one of the sons of Samuel Taylor and the conflict was the Boer War in South Africa.

The 1900 Examiner was J Everard Healey B.A. and he concluded with the statement:-

"I think I may describe the Arithmetic of the whole School as very sound, Euclid satisfactory, Algebra excellent, Latin very good, English subjects weak in the Upper Forms but improving lower down, being very good indeed in Form 2. Shakespeare in Forms 5 & 6 is excellent.

On the whole, the written work was better than the viva voce but, nevertheless, a great deal of the viva voce work was very good indeed."

In October, The Governors agreed, after prompting by the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, to increase the cover on the School House and premises by £1,000 and on the other buildings on the Estate by 15%.

When these changes were calculated, the amount being charged by the Norwich Union was queried by the Governors, who were under the impression that the overall rate for the risk was 1/6d%.

The Insurer's reply gave a very interesting insight into Underwriting methods of the time, including how they viewed various risks and the differing rates they applied.

<u>Description of Risk</u>	<u>Rate</u>
School House	1/6d%
School Buildings	1/6d%
Private Houses	1/6d%
Stabling and other Outbuildings, which formed part of the same block	2/6d%
Thatched Buildings	5/-%
NOTE: The rate could be reduced immediately, upon replacing the thatch with roofing material consisting of tile, slate or iron.	
Farm Buildings including Barns, Granaries & Cowsheds	3/-%

At a quarterly meeting of the Governors on the 23rd January 1901, Lord Norton finally tendered his resignation as a Governor. He had served for 62 years, a remarkable achievement. He was first appointed on the 4th January 1839 and had taken a major part in the Rules & Regulations for the School being settled by the Court of Chancery in 1844 and later on, in 1882, when the new scheme for the Administration of the Foundation was passed by the Charity Commissioners. He was also involved in the appointment of three new Headmasters in 1843, 1849 and 1863.

Lord Norton subsequently died on the 28th March 1905, aged 90, at his residence at 'Hams Hall', Warwickshire.

Thomas Storer Eddowes was also nearing the end of his tenure as Clerk to the Governors, a position he had faithfully held for 45 years. He was by now in his middle 70's and his son, Herbert Eddowes, had tacitly taken over some of his father's duties, including the occasional attendance at some of the Committee Meetings, as his deputy.

An interesting little spat occurred that year between William Sidwell and the Governors. As previously mentioned, William Sidwell, in association with William Durant, had for several years produced the '*Popular Guide to Sutton and Park*'. In addition to the advertisement for the School appearing in the 1901 Edition they also published a photograph and subsequently sent the Governors a bill for £1 18s 6d.

Looking at the page in question, one could hold the view that this enhanced the School's image. The Finance Committee, however, declined to pay the invoice, as they said it had been inserted without their permission. Bearing in mind that, two years previously, they had authorised them to include an advertisement, together with a drawing of the School, at a cost of £1 11s 0d, one would have thought this a little bit harsh and pedantic of them.

There was, however, a little history between William Sidwell and the Governors. Sidwell had a small quarry, which produced building stone for the local area. This was situated on the School Estates, in an area now bordered by Bedford Road, Rectory Road and Whitehouse Common Road. It fell within Plot No 2029 (Bricklin Close) and Plot No. 2033 (Bricklin Lane Meadow).

Sidwell, as the holding tenant, had been involved in disputes with the Governors on several matters over a period. It may have been just a coincidence but, if one was of a slightly cynical nature, this may just have had something to do with their decision!

1901 CENSUS RETURN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Where from</u>
Albert Smith	Head	Married	67	Clergyman/ Schoolmaster	Orton-on-the-Hill Leicestershire
Frances E Smith	Wife	Married	61	-	Birmingham, Warwicks
Arthur E Smith	Son	Single	23	Student at College	Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks
Philip A Hill	Boarder	Single	28	Assistant Schoolmaster	Crickhowell, Brecknockshire
James T Amos	Boarder	Single	39	Assistant Schoolmaster	Bath, Somerset
Arthur G Letty	Boarder	Single	27	Assistant Schoolmaster	Southsea, Hampshire
Percy Willson	Boarder	Single	16	Student	Atherstone, Warwicks
Alan V Hunt	Boarder	Single	16	Student	Ireland
Douglas H Nicholls	Boarder	Single	16	Student	Birmingham, Warwicks
William S Breckley	Boarder	Single	13	Student	Swadlincote, Derbyshire
Francis C Breckley	Boarder	Single	12	Student	Swadlincote, Derbyshire
Norman Bebb	Boarder	Single	11	Student	Walsall, Staffordshire
John V Drought	Boarder	Single	14	Student	Ireland
Francis J Drought	Boarder	Single	12	Student	Ireland
Thomas R Caswell	Boarder	Single	12	Student	Manchester, Lancashire
John R Caswell	Boarder	Single	10	Student	Manchester, Lancashire
Douglas Jones	Boarder	Single	13	Student	Erdington, Warwicks
Sidney Willis	Boarder	Single	12	Student	Walsall, Staffordshire
Frederick I Eckstein	Boarder	Single	12	Student	Aston, Warwicks
William G Fletcher	Boarder	Single	12	Student	Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks
Elizabeth Hobbes	Servant	Single	26	Cook	Puriton, Somerset
Louisa Lawrence	Servant	Single	22	Parlour Maid	Wednesbury, Staffordshire
Florence Wakefield	Servant	Single	19	Sewing Maid	Handsworth, Staffordshire
Ada Croster	Servant	Single	28	House Maid	Birmingham, Warwicks
Ellen Hemming	Servant	Single	15	Kitchen Maid	Kenilworth, Warwicks
Emily Edwards	Servant	Single	19	House Maid	Handsworth, Staffordshire
Elizabeth Rhodes	Servant	Single	18	House Maid	Barbourne, Worcestershire

It is interesting to note that, at the time, the School was home to 14 Boarders and Mr Smith continued to live in relative luxury, employing no fewer than seven servants.

The Headmaster's Report for 1901 contained the following remarks:-

"I am glad to be able to say that there is scarcely a boy, even if there is one, in the whole School who does not show considerable interest in his lessons and is not activated by a desire to progress.

Such a state of things affords much pleasure and satisfaction to the Masters and materially lessens their labour and anxiety.

I am sorry to find that the Exhibitions do not prove sufficiently attractive to induce parents to let their boys remain at school beyond the usual business age of sixteen or so, with the object of proceeding to a place of higher education.

It is possibly realised that the Universities turn out a considerable number of men of two and twenty years of age who, for different reasons, find themselves unable to secure as good a position in life as their school fellows who plunged into office work five or six years earlier."

J Everard Healey again examined the School and reported:-

“On the whole, the result is decidedly an improvement on that of last year.”

At this point in time, although the School was just about viable and had a small credit balance, the Governors were of the opinion that the position would be much improved when the Reverend Smith retired.

In this event, the Governors would be able to make several changes, which would materially enhance the amount of funds available to them, as follows:-

(a) The new Headmaster's salary could be fixed at £150 per annum, as authorised by the 1882 scheme.

(b) The Governors would receive the Rents from the School Estates, rather than them going to the Headmaster.

(c) It was generally recognised that fees were too high and these could then be reduced, making the School a far more attractive proposition, which would result in far more pupils joining.

Whether these views began to become more widespread in the corridors of power, it will never be known but, on the 8th January 1902, the Headmaster called an informal meeting of the Governors at the Mayor's Parlour in the Town Hall.

He informed them that he had been made an offer of a small living in Oxfordshire, which he had accepted conditionally. The condition, however, would cause much soul searching amongst the Governors because Smith said that he could only afford to take the living if they gave him a pension of £120 per annum.

He had calculated that the Governors would be better off to the extent of £210 per annum if he left, provided the new Headmaster was a qualified Science Teacher and the services of the existing Science Teacher could be dispensed with. It was certainly 'each man for himself' in those days!

After discussion, the Governors unanimously agreed to the Headmaster's conditions, subject to the Charity Commissioners giving their consent.

The matter came before the quarterly meeting on the 22nd January and the Clerk read out a telegram he had just received from the Charity Commissioners giving their sanction. The Reverend Smith then formally resigned his Headmastership with effect from the 30th April 1902. He was aged 68 at the time.

The Headmaster attended the quarterly meeting in April to wish goodbye to the Governors and the following resolution was passed:-

“The Governors of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School cannot allow the Reverend Albert Smith to sever his connection with the School, over which he has presided during the last thirty nine years, without placing on record the sense they entertain of his services during that long period.

A gentleman of the strictest integrity and honourable feeling, he has always acted with the greatest loyalty to the Governors and has, on all occasions, been ready to meet their wishes to the best of his ability.

His pupils, many of whom have had exceedingly successful careers in after life, have always looked up to him with feelings of respect and affection. Outside the School, he has upheld the dignity of the important position, which the Headmaster of the School should occupy in the Borough.

Mr Smith will be missed, not only in School House, but also in Sutton generally. He has well earned the more restful life which he now seeks and the Governors trust that both he and Mrs Smith may be spared for many years of usefulness in the work they are about to take up and, while bidding them farewell, wish them every happiness and all prosperity in their new home."

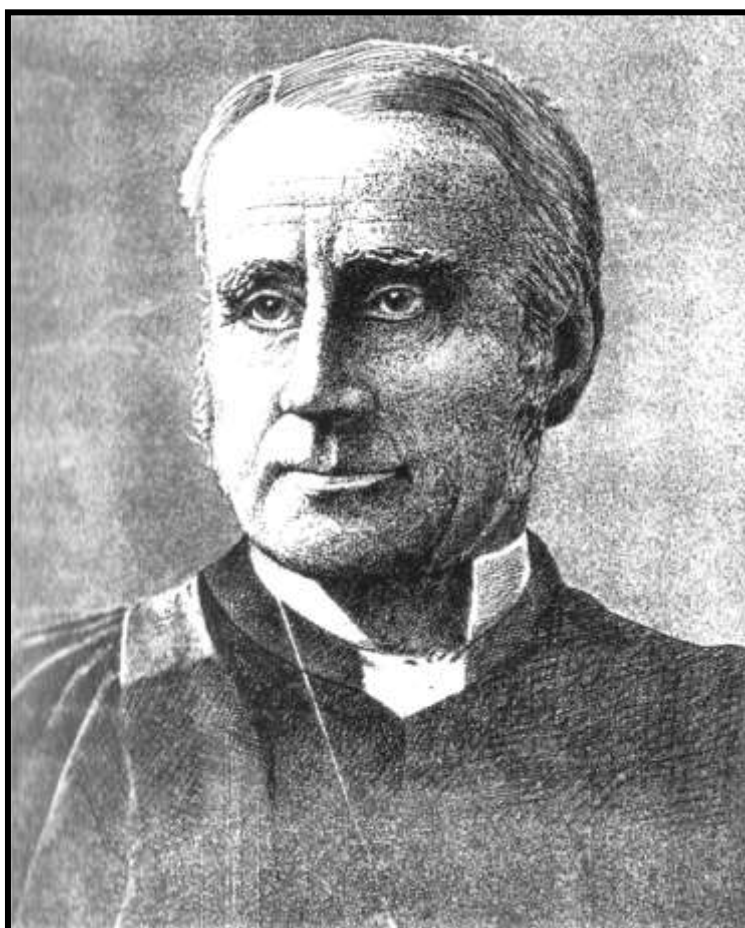


Fig. 17 The Reverend Albert Smith in later life.

A new century had dawned, the Edwardian age had commenced and a new era was beckoning for Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. The Clerk, Thomas Storer Eddowes died in 1903 and was replaced by his son Herbert Macaulay Eddowes. Many of the old established Governors had retired including Lord Norton and W K Riland Bedford and most of the teachers were young and recently appointed.

There was a general feeling that promising times lay ahead for the future development and prosperity of the school.

The 'small living in Oxfordshire' to which Albert Smith referred earlier turned out to be the position of Vicar at the Church of England Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene at Duns Tew, a small village situated 16 miles north of Oxford and 7 miles south of Banbury. It is one of three villages known locally as 'The Tews', the others being Great Tew and Little Tew.

A 'Tew' is believed to be an ancient term for a ridge of land.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene is Grade II listed with parts dating back to the 12th Century, although it was largely re-built in 1861 by Sir Gilbert Scott for Sir Henry Dashwood.



Fig. 18 St. Mary Magdalene Church, Duns Tew, Oxfordshire.

Albert Smith, it is presumed, was more than willing to live the quiet life in this rural setting. One which he had probably yearned for after nearly forty years of being Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, in addition to being involved with the 'cut and thrust' of local politics in Sutton Coldfield.

1911 CENSUS RETURN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Where from</u>
Albert Smith	Head	Married	77	Retired Schoolmaster/ Clergyman	Orton-on-the-Hill Leicestershire
Frances E Smith	Wife	Married	71	-	Birmingham, Warwicks
Evelyn F D Smith	Daughter	Single	30	-	Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks
Lionel Guy Perry	Boarder	Single	24	Theological Student	Clifton, Gloucestershire
Mary M Woodford	Servant	Single	20	Cook	Swerford, Oxfordshire
Agnes Hiron	Servant	Single	24	Housemaid	Combroke, Warwicks

The 1911 Census Return reveals that he and his wife Frances were living at the Vicarage at Duns Tew, together with their daughter Evelyn, a young Theological Student named Lionel Perry and two servants to look after their various needs.

Sadly, Frances died the same year, which must have been not long after the census was taken. She was aged 72 at the time of her death, which was registered at Woodstock, in Oxfordshire.

The Reverend Smith continued in his post until 1919. He died on the 18th June, aged 85 and was buried in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene.



Fig. 19 Headstone of Reverend Albert Smith's grave in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Duns Tew, Oxfordshire.

Probate details confirm that he was still living at The Vicarage, Duns Tew at the time of his death. Probate was granted in London, on the 4th September 1919, to Evelyn Frances Dorothy Smith, (Spinster), who was his younger daughter. She had lived with her parents since they moved from Sutton Coldfield in 1902. Effects amounted to £235 10s 3d.

A final note of interest, in respect of the Smith family, was that Evelyn married a Lt. Colonel De Labilliere, of the Indian Army, on 4th November 1920 at Camberley, Surrey, which was just over a year after her father's death.

ADDENDUM NO.1

LIST OF SCHOOL EXAMINERS DURING ALBERT SMITH'S TENURE AT BISHOP VESEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
1863	Francis H Curtis M.A.	Assistant Master at King Edward's School Birmingham
1864	Reverend William H Poulton	Queens College, Birmingham
1865	J Collins B.A.	Assistant Classical Master at King Edward's School, Birmingham
1866	Francis H Curtis M.A.	Classical Master at Liverpool College
	J Yates	Master at King Edward's School, Birmingham
	Reverend Montague Webster	Not known
1867	C D Newman M.A	Not known
	J B Parish	Mathematical Master at King Edward's School Birmingham
1868	Francis H Curtis M.A.	Merton College, Oxford
1869	Francis H Curtis M.A.	Merton College, Oxford
1870		
1871	A C Irvine M.A.	Queen Mary's School, Walsall
1872	Reverend A Stilgoe Newman B.A. and J Westley Davis M.A.	King Edward's School, Birmingham Tamworth Grammar School, Staffs
1873	Reverend P E Monkhouse	Not known
1874	Reverend C E Cooper B.A.	Assistant Master at King Edward's School, Birmingham
1875	Reverend Francis A Goddard M.A	Not known (previously second master at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School from 1866 until 1875)
1876	N Bodington M.A.	Fellow and Tutor at Lincoln College, Oxford
1877	J Hunter Smith M.A.	Assistant Master at King Edward's School, Birmingham
1878	Reverend Arthur Inkersley B.A.	Not known
1879	J Westley Davis M.A.	Headmaster of Tamworth Grammar School, Staffs
1880	Hyla M Rose B.A.	He had previously been a pupil at the school in 1868.
1881	Not Known	Not Known.
1882	Not Known	Not Known.
1883	Not Known	Not Known.
1884	Reverend J Price M.A.	Vicar of Selly Oak.
1885	Not Known	Not Known.
1886	C H P Mayo M.A.	King Edward's School, Birmingham.
1887	C.H.P.Mayo M.A.	King Edward's School, Birmingham.
1888	Not Known	Not Known.
1889	John B Cull M.A.	Principal of the Royal College, Colombo, Ceylon. He had previously been a pupil at the school from 1862-1868.
1890	Not Known	Not Known.
1891	Edmund Arblaster M.A.	Retired Headmaster of Carlisle Grammar School.
1892	Edmund Arblaster M.A.	Retired Headmaster of Carlisle Grammar School.
1893	W H Wagstaff M.A.	Assistant Master at King Edward's School, Birmingham.
1894	Edward W Badger M.A.	Not Known.
1895	Edward W Badger M.A.	Not Known.
1896	Edmund Arblaster M.A.	Retired Headmaster of Carlisle Grammar School.
1897	Edmund Arblaster M.A.	Retired Headmaster of Carlisle Grammar School.
1898	Not Known	Not Known.
1899	Reverend Reginald W Clarke	Not Known.
1900	J Everard Healey B.A.	Not Known.
1901	J Everard Healey B.A.	Not Known.
1902	Albert Smith retired as Headmaster of the School on the 30 th April.	

ADDENDUM NO.2

NUMBER OF BOYS ATTENDING BISHOP VESEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL DURING ALBERT SMITH'S TENURE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>No. of Boarders</u>	<u>Total</u>
1863	At the time the vacancy for a new Headmaster was being advertised, there were 22 boys attending the School. These comprised 18 sons of parishioners who paid 10 shillings each per quarter and four from adjoining parishes who paid 30 shillings each per quarter.		
	These fees were in addition to the Headmaster's salary of £300 per annum.	Not known	22
	On the 11 th August, Albert Smith started a School Register, which showed that there were 20 pupils at the time and another 9 started around the same date.	Not known	29
1864		Not known	Not known
1865		21	51
1866		Not known	Not known
1867		Not known	Not known
1868	It is known that 9 boys attended from outside the parish.	17	69
1869		Not known	65
1870		15	60
1871		19	80
1872		14	93
1873		16	102
1874		Not known	100
1875		16	105
1876		24	115
1877		Not known	108
1878		12	91
1879		6	80
1880		Not known	84
1881		10	84
1882		Not known	62
1883		1	60
1884		2	64
1885		Not Known	56
1886		11	54
1887		Not Known	76
1888		Not Known	78
1889		23	85
1890		Not Known	80
1891		Not Known	79
1892		Not Known	77
1893		Not Known	74
1894		Not Known	70
1895		Not Known	64
1896		12	70
1897		Not Known	77
1898		16	86
1899		22	84
1900		Not Known	68
1901		14	87
1902	Albert Smith retired as Headmaster of the School on the 30 th April.		130

ADDENDUM NO. 2 (Continued)

FILE NOTE: Sometimes the number of boys mentioned as being in attendance at the Grammar School in this research may differ slightly from **ADDENDUM NO. 2**. This is due to the fact that the totals of boys in the **ADDENDUM** have been compiled more accurately by Kerry Osbourne (Author of '*A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School*'), through papers and records in his possession, and assessed on the basis of actual amounts received by the School for fees paid by parents in respect of the boys concerned.

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1871 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.
1881 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.
1891 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.
1901 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.
1911 Census Return for Duns Tew, Oxfordshire.

Photographs

Fig. 1 Francis James Chavasse when he was aged 14. 'Francis James Chavasse – Bishop of Liverpool' by J B Lancelot. Published by Basil Blackwell 1929.
Fig. 2 Half-yearly accounts for Bishop Vesey's Grammar School for 1866, prepared by the Treasurer Thomas S Eddowes. 'A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (1527-1902)' by Kerry Osbourne 1996.
Fig. 3 London & North West Railway Plan of 1880 showing Sutton Coldfield Station and the 'Royal Hotel'. Ref: 'Steaming up to Sutton' by Roger Lea. Published by Westwood Press Publications 1984.
Fig. 4 Photograph of the rear elevation of the Royal Hotel, circa 1890's. Keith & Janet Jordan's Photographic Collection.
Fig. 5 Map of the School Estates 1868. 'A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (1527-1902)' by Kerry Osbourne 1996.
Fig. 6 Canwell Hall (side elevation) circa 1900. Keith & Janet Jordan's Photographic Collection.
Fig. 7 The 'White Swan Inn', Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, now called the 'Old Swan' in 1895. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is visible to the rear of the premises. Keith & Janet Jordan's Photographic Collection.
Fig. 8 'Moat House', front and side elevations 2009. Keith & Janet Jordan's Photographic Collection.

Fig. 9 Partially Enlarged Map of the School Estates 1868. The Goaler's Meadow site is No. 1975 on the Plan and was situated close to the rear of the School. *'A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (1527-1902)'* by Kerry Osbourne 1996.

Fig. 10 Sir Charles Bowyer Adderley, who later became Lord Norton, of 'Hams Hall', Warwickshire. He served as a Trustee/Governor of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School for 62 years between 04/01/1839 and 23/01/1901. He died on the 28th March 1905, aged 90. *'A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (1527-1902)'* by Kerry Osbourne 1996.

Fig. 11 Line drawing of School House, originally built in 1729. The drawing was thought to have been done in the early 1860's, shortly after the Front Porch extension was completed in April 1861 by Messrs. J Hardwick & Son, Bradford Street, Birmingham. The extension can be seen on the Ground Floor and incorporates the main Entrance Door and the three Dining Room windows on the right hand side.

Ref: *'Meachem Sutton Coldfield Newscuttings'*. Newscutting from the Sutton News dated 26th October 1962. QSH 97 SUT.

Fig. 12 Front elevation of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield. This shows how the School looked, following the completion of the extension to the south side of the main building by Messrs. John Barnsley & Sons in 1887. Photograph circa 1900. Ref: *'Popular Guide to Sutton and Park 1901'* by G Sidwell and W J Durant. SH97 SUT.

Fig. 13 'Hams Hall', Warwickshire. A large manor house built during the Imperial period. The house was designed by James Wyatt for Charles Boyer Adderley and it replaced an earlier manor house on the site. 'Hams Hall' had to be re-built, following a devastating fire, which occurred in 1890. It was situated close to Lea Marston and Whitacre Heath and was eventually demolished in 1920 to make way for a power station. (Photograph reproduced courtesy of 'Our Warwickshire', Warwickshire County Council.) www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk

Fig. 14. Advertisement for W J Durant's Shop in Mill Street, which appeared in the 'Popular Guide to Sutton and Park' 1901 by G Sidwell & W J Durant. Ref: *'Popular Guide to Sutton and Park 1901'* by G Sidwell and W J Durant No. SH97 SUT.

Fig. 15 Alderman A L Crockford, Mayor of Sutton Coldfield 1897-1898. Alderman Crockford was a pupil at the Grammar School under the Reverend Albert Smith. After leaving Bishop Vesey's he gained a B.A. degree at London University and qualified as a Solicitor, eventually running his own practice. In 1891, he was elected to represent Wylde Green Ward on the Town Council. During his time on the Council he served on almost every Committee. He still, however, found time to become Captain of Sutton Cricket Club, Secretary of the Tennis Club and Treasurer of the Conservative Club. He also became a Trustee of the Municipal Charities and Vice Chairman of the Governors of the Grammar School. After his marriage in 1885, he and his wife lived at 'Hawthorn Lodge', Wylde Green. Ref: *'Popular Guide to Sutton and Park 1901'* by G Sidwell and W J Durant SH97 SUT.

Fig. 16 *'Popular Guide to Sutton and Park'* 1901 version by G Sidwell and W J Durant, which also contained the same School advertisement inserted in the 1899 edition. Ref: No. SH97 SUT.

Fig. 17 The Reverend Albert Smith in later Life. *'A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (1527-1902)'* by Kerry Osbourne 1996.

Fig. 18 St. Mary Magdalene Church, Duns Tew, Oxfordshire. Ref. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duns_Tew

Fig. 19 Headstone of Reverend Albert Smith's grave in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Duns Tew, Oxfordshire. Ref. www.findagrave.com