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**Building of Bransholme**

**Preface**

This second edition of Sutton Bransholme and Wawne is prompted by several factors. The book was written specifically, in 1999, to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the founding of Sutton Church. Firstly, we simply sold out of copies, and have been asked for more. But for the last five years, the Church Team's education programme has extended further. With the continued support of the Ann Watson Trustees, a Lottery Award, and a loyal band of attendants, the Old School in Church Street is open to the public as an Exhibition Room and Resource Centre every Friday from l0am until 2pm. The School itself, built in 1859 and listed Grade II, is the oldest school in Hull to retain its educational status.

Since its inception, the Exhibition Room has built up a fascinating collection of artefacts, particularly reflecting life in Sutton and Wawne from 1859 until 1977, when the schoolchildren moved to modern premises.

We also hold hundreds of photographs of Sutton, Wawne and Stoneferry, including glass plates from 1900; school registers and Log Books from 1882; reference books and subject files. We have an experienced attendant who will help with local family research.

Many of our visitors are former pupils, or descendants, who provide interesting information. We have recently been given copies of John Gill's report of 1890, signed by the Master, Robert Herring; and another of Jack Feeney, who left school in 1919, and whose report is signed by Headmaster John Topham. We have had the pleasure of meeting families of Bateson, Bayston, Coates, Farnaby, Frosts, Greenside the builder, Greenwood the painter/decorator, also Pickering, Holmes, Hurtley, Lazenby, Lickiss, Marsters, Pitcher, Thrower, Towse, Trowell, Walker, Whitteron" and many others, including Bessie Smith, MBE, who, at 97, is as bright as ever!

A Marriage Certificate brought in by a member of the Pooley family, reveals that the School was licensed for marriages during the closure of the church in 1866/7.

The Pooleys lived in the Church Cottages, and opposite, in the mid-19th century lived James and Jane Carrick (Carrack, Ch.6). Family research has shown that three of the couple's children, Thomas, Elizabeth and William, emigrated to the USA in the 1850s. Copies of Jane's letters tell of James' death in 1860. She writes:

*I feel sorry to inform you of my sudden loss. Your poor father was well on Tuesday night the 27th of December. Poor man he sat down on the stool, ate a hearty supper, then retired to bed. The next morning 6 o'clock he apparently began in his old complaint the spasms and cramp, he suffer'd much, then left this world in hopes of meeting his dear Redeemer.*

Jane gives news of their brother, Robert, who has lost five out of seven children (a reminder of the transience of life). In 1966 comes news of William's death in America. Jane writes to Thomas:

*I receiv'd your letter. It was a sorrowful and mournful word to me. I feel sad for his poor widow and family ... We can only say it is the Lord let him do what seemeth Him good. The Lord gave and the Lord taketh ...*

Jane continues to write about her life in Sutton, how her six cows are keeping clear of the cattle plague, that Robert, who trades with pigs, is helping her in the shop. It is amazing to think that these letters, sent to America 150 years ago, have now come back from Texas to the tiny village of Sutton.

The Exhibition Room has welcomed people from places as diverse as Belgium and Poland, Africa, Ontario, and several places in Australia.  
  
The name of Munby was mentioned by one of our visitors, who recommended an absorbing book by Derek Hudson, entitled Munby; A Man of Two Worlds. It is a fascinating read of Arthur Joseph Munby (1828-1910) and his servant-girl/wife, Hannah Cullwick (1833-1909). A J. Munby was a London 'gentleman', a distinguished writer, poet and diarist. He was also an inveterate letter-writer (in May alone in 1864 he wrote 76 letters). He was a friend and companion of leading writers and painters of the day, Thackeray, Browning, Rossetti. He dines with the Prince of Wales and meets Royalty on a regular basis. But Mr Munby has a secret. He is in love with a servant-girl, whom he later marries, though he tells no-one of this. The book, containing lengthy extracts from his diaries, is a compelling account of the social mores of the 19th century, and the emphasis on a class system.

What is this to do with Sutton? If you have read the previous Sutton book, you will have guessed that he was probably related to those Munbys who held the Mill of Sutton in 1715 on the corner of Noddle Hill Way (Ch.5) - and you would be right. Members of the Munby family lived in Sutton parish since the early 17th century. A J. Munby's grandfather, Joseph, was articled to the town clerk of Kingston upon Hull, and was admitted a solicitor in 1794.

A William Munby, of Sutton, died in 1725, leaving an interesting Inventory of his Goods and Chattels, of which we have a copy.

The name of Munby persisted in Sutton throughout the 20th century, and Thomas Blashill mentions the family's old farmstead as being opposite the Reading Room. The 19th-century Munbys were those who gave Sutton Church such a hard time when they insisted on sitting in 'their family pew' (Ch.6).

This Case in Chancery was presented when the Revd George Thompson, BA, was parson of Waghen (1789-1808). Gerry Thompson, possibly a descendant, and a resident of South Africa, has visited us in search of his ancestors in Sutton and Wawne. He has traced several, beginning with Anthony Thompson, born in 1680. Other ancestors include Thomas Thompson (Enclosure, allotment 124), and George, born 1762, of High Bransholme Farm. This was probably the George Thompson who was churchwarden of Sutton at that time, and who drew up a list of the Disbursements for the year 1813/14. He notes at the end that he is personally 'out of pocket' to the tune of 14s 3½d. A certain James Blenkin quickly pays up, and the books tally.

Thomas Blashill's family were also tenants of Bransholme farms. His brother, Hudson (photo Ch.7) was related to the Hudsons of Gibraltar Farm (Ch.9). Harry Hudson Rodmell (1896-1984) was the eldest son of Emily, nee Hudson and Henry Rodmell, of Gibraltar. He became an artist of considerable merit and renown, and is particularly remembered for his Transport posters, notably Shipping and Rail. This familiar poster advertises Hornsea as a sunny holiday resort on the LNER railway.

*[ editor's note: most of the photos and maps within the chapters  
can be 'zoomed' for easier viewing and reading.  
When you pass your mouse over an image, and it turns into a pointing hand,  
you can 'click' or 'touch' it, to load a larger copy in the same window,  
as with this poster image below. Just use Backspace to return to the page.]*

*[ In this Text Only Version, the original position of all the photos have been left in place, for information and as markers, indicated by centred text in italics, as this one below. ]*

*1920s Railway Poster by Harry Hudson Rodmell*

The Kirks, who built the elegant houses of Church Mount (Ch.10), traded in Grimsby Lane and Hull Market Place as silversmiths and pawnbrokers, clock and watchmakers (at least two clocks were on display at the recent special exhibition in Wilberforce House).

Dr John Lamplugh Kirk (Ch.10), the 'young son', had a prestigious future. After graduating from Cambridge, and training as a medical practitioner, he remained in London for a while before moving to Pickering. Apart from his work, he was a great photographer and collector. He founded the Castle Museum at York, originally under the name of the Kirk Collection of Bygones (Valerie Reeves). He 'inherited' his stepfather's (Benjamin West) passion for motor cars, and at one time owned a de Dion (we have a photo of Mr West's de Dion).

Of the 'large residences' mentioned in this book, it has been sad to see two suffer their demise - East Mount (Ch.10) and Tilworth Grange (CH.6). However, Sutton House (Ch.6) thrives; we have news of the original Liddell family, and copies of legal documents giving us fresh information. We have a list of George William's fellow pupils at Eton.

Sutton Hall (Ch.6) has been renovated and refurbished for the Eastern Hull Primary Care Trust. Mike Rymer, the Pharmaceutical Advisor, with the assistance of a colleague, has written an excellent booklet detailing the history of the house and occupiers. The great-granddaughter of Rachel Johnson, servant and cook to Carl Brochner in 1881, visited the Education Centre. David Haughton, who purchased Sutton Hall in 1858, belonged to the Society of Friends - as did the Hurtleys of Elmtrees, opposite the Education Centre (Ch.10).

[*editor's note: The Education Centre and The Sutton & Wawne Museum are in effect one and the same.*]

Relatives of the Hurtley family have been in touch, adding information of that family; and we have a photograph of the business at Wilmington. The Williams' children (there were at least 14) nearly all dispersed to Canada, the USA and Australia, the last surviving having recently died in his 90th year.

Thanks to a regular visitor, we unearthed a great deal of information about the 40 Basque children who lived at Elmtrees during the Spanish Civil war, from July 1937. Sutton builder, Mr Sewell, offered the home as a haven for the refugees, and Sutton folk stepped in to take care of them. Thanks to one of our attendants, Ken Cooke, the Education Centre has produced a video film of the Basque children at Elmtrees, taken from original ciné clips. Soledad Orton and Elsie Fermin have recently re-visited.

*Basque Children at Elmtrees in 1937*

Very little was known about the RAF Balloon Centre on Wawne Road (Ch.12) when this book was written. That situation has changed, with the publication in 2002 of an excellent book by Len Bacon on Hull's own Air Force Station. Officially opened in June 1939, the Station involved hundreds of personnel. In 1943 the RAF School of Fire Fighting and Rescue was established, to continue until 1959. Len's book is a detailed account of life at the Station, enhanced by dozens of maps and photographs.

Apart from Thomas Tierney's (Ch.12), there are eighteen War Graves in Sutton churchyard. One in particular attracted special attention on 7 September 2005, for it was the 65th anniversary of the death of a Battle of Britain hero. Flight Lieutenant Patterson Clarence Hughes, originally from Cooma, in Australia, had joined the Royal Air Force and showed exceptional skill and gallantry as a fighter pilot. Whilst in Yorkshire, Pat met a young girl from James Reckitt Avenue in Hull, and married her in 1940. Only five weeks later, on the evening of the 7th September when the Germans switched their attacks from airfields to London, Pat's aircraft was seen to collide with an incoming enemy bomber (some say deliberately) and he fell to earth in the garden of a cottage in Sundridge in Kent.

*Pat Hughes in his RAAF uniform before the war*

FIt Lt Hughes was the highest-scoring Commonwealth pilot in the Battle of Britain, [at the time of his death; Ed], and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. To mark the 65th anniversary of his death, a plaque was unveiled at the cottage in Kent; and flowers were laid at his grave in Sutton - by Margery and Norman Shirtliff, who have tended the grave for some years now, by the author, and Rob Haywood, our website manager.

Visit our web site for more information on Pat Hughes and other War Grave sites in the area; on the Exhibition Room and Resources Centre (now styled "The Sutton & Wawne Museum"); and for a whole host of interesting topics.

You may even find a long-lost cousin in the Guest Book!

About the Author

Merrill Rhodes worked as a teacher in Hull for many years. In 1990 she was appointed as the Schools' Liaison Officer for the Sutton and Wawne Team Ministry, working with more than 20 schools in the parish. This book was written to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the dedication of St James' Church, Sutton, on 12 September, 1349, the year when the area was so devastated by the ravages of the Black Death. It also celebrates the 150th year of the founding of St James' Church of England School in 1849, and marks the 850th anniversary of the much older foundation of Meaux Abbey.

This is a splendid book which will surely give much pleasure even to those who have no intimate knowledge of the Sutton and Wawne area. It not only reflects events of great significance to church and state, but homes in so easily to the lives of local personalities, their everyday experiences and concerns. There is sound factual information with happy anecdotal material. It is easy to read, and each chapter stimulates interest and the desire for more. TD

(surely, TD was the late Terrence Doherty, rector of St James' when Merrill wrote the First Edition.)

**DVD INTRODUCTION  
and Acknowledgements**

Welcome to what is effectively the Third Edition of Merrill Rhodes acclaimed work on Sutton, Bransholme and Wawne. The first two editions were conventional printed books, produced very much as books had always been produced for hundreds of years. The technology of printing changed vastly over the centuries, leaving long behind us the now seemingly crude presses of Gutenberg and Caxton of six centuries ago, right through to our modern presses of beautifully bound volumes, glossily printed in clear lithography on superbly made paper.

The First Edition, published in 1999 just weeks before the turn of the Millennium, was just such a glossy edition, and with photographs. What would Caxton have made of that, I wonder. Merrill started her journey through the ages by first briefly looking forward to the new era of "this fast-moving age" and then by tasking our imaginations to look back - way, way back, into the depths of history and a time six-and-a-half centuries ago to when England was still ruled by the Plantagenet kings, when the official language of state was still very much the French of our Norman conquerors, and the when fledgling town on the large esturary to the south of us had just received it's first royal charter. For many of us, deep history indeed, and the centuries that followed would encompass so much incredible change.

Now we move to yet another major advance in technology, into an era that still seems strange and futuristic to our older generations, but in truth is still only a fledgling in the annals of time. This digital file encompasses all the best of the old, but with the added convenience of whole-text searches and just about as many colour photograps as one likes. No doubt the technology in time will change again, and this DVD will seem as outdated as medieval books do to us now, but we hope that the digital files will always be able to be read and transferred to whatever medium is current at the time.

A word here about formats. Which particular format to produce this digital on did give rise to several weeks of serious pondering. I did a lot of research into various 'readers' and 'tablets' to determine which format would be the most appropriate for Merrill's book, which would be the most practical for most people. After spending some time on these ponderables, I realised the answer was staring me in the face, and always had been; produce the chapters as if they were web pages, in HTML format. All computers to date, most tablets and a few E-readers can show HTML, and in future, an increasing number of TVs designated at 'Smart TV' will also read these files, along with the inserted images.

The problem of choice is compounded by the fact that there's no single format today that covers all machines and all readers. Our wonderful manufacturers have seen to that, each trying to limit the purchaser to their own file types, and of course, advertising. But, to cover most bases, I decided to include on the disc the same full text of the book, though without images, in one other popular format, RTF - or Rich Text Format. These are ideal for full text searches, when searching for that one particular word or name essential to your research. Additionally, with many tablets, you will be able to transfer these files, in their folders along with the images, onto a memory stick or camera card, or another computer, just as you wish. As time goes on, an increasingly wider range of machines and gadgets will 'load' Merrill's book. In that sense, I hope it truly has been preserved for posterity.

Even now, this whole book, along with all the 'extras', can easily fit onto a modern mini camera card and the tiniest of USB sticks. What our medieval forefathers, celebrated here so robustly, would have made of what we have now is anybody's guess. For that matter, if this disc and how it works had been described to folks only three or four generations back, almost within living memory, they would have thought us deranged or fanciful. It's not so many years ago that the means by which you are reading this now was very much within the realms of science fiction.

Whatever the technology, whatever the medium it is distributed on, the story here remains the same, of two villages that were barely hamlets by modern definition, and how the whole area changed and evolved over the aeons of time to what we know now. They're almost beyond recognition in some respects, and yet still a little bit 'timeless' and retaining many aspects our great-grandparents would easily recognise today.

The text here within is essentially that of Merrill Rhode's own Second Edition of her work, but with updates to take account of some more recent changes, such as web addresses, and a few minor corrections that slipped through to the printers in the earlier editions. Nothing has been changed without Merrill's agreement, for we have been keen to reproduce the essence of the earlier works and bear in mind that they too are now historical documents in their own right.

One 'techy' feature we have introduced, which we hope you will feel an enhancement, is that when you pass your 'mouse over' some of the original images from the book, they will load with a modern photo equivalent. An example is Sir John's tomb, shown as it was published, and when you pass your mouse over, it brings up today's image for more clarity. On taking your mouse away, the image returns to that in the book. In the case of a map, a larger one loads in a new window for easier reading; just use 'Backspace' to return to the main page. No need for a magnifying glass here. In many cases, credit for the colour photo must go to our friends at Brooklands Camera Club based here in Sutton, and in particular, Peter Richardson who was their long time chairman, and is now their life president.

We hope you find this informative and educational, interesting and entertaining, but not least very readable and enjoyable. One final point we should mention here, which illustrates how much even terminology changes in our modern times, is about the references to the "Exhibition Room" and/or the "Education Centre." Whenever either of those phrases are encountered, please read them as "The Museum Room inside the Old School." Merrill herself never described, nor envisaged, her creation as a museum, but only as a modest exhibition of village life to be used as an 'education centre' for local school visits. Even after it was opened to the public on Fridays, and on creating the web pages back in the year 2000, we were all loathe to describe it as a museum. But, by degrees, that is in fact what it has become, and also why we bit the bullet in 2014 when we registered our new domain name as such. So, "Exhibition Room/ Educaton Centre" or "Museum", it is effectively all one and the same place in practice.

Please choose the link below to Merrill's Preface to start your read, or click any chapter link to dive straight in and browse wherever the muse takes you. Whatever the reason you are reading this, for historical research, or seeking information on the lives of your forebears in this area, we can only say .. .. do enjoy !

Rob Haywood  
*Sutton & Wawne Museum webmaster*

# **CHAPTER 1**

1346; a Sutton Villager - The early chapel of Sutton  
Settlement of Wawne to 1346  
Sudtone of Domesday Book 1086 - 1150  
The founding of Meaux Abbey  
A Visit to the Abbey in 1346 - William le Gros

As we look forward to the next Millennium in this fast-moving age, it is also fascinating to look back from time to time and imagine ourselves in a familiar place, but in a long-forgotten era.

Sutton Church celebrates the 650th anniversary of its foundation on 12 September 1999. As we gaze at the ancient edifice on a slight eminence in the midst of a bustling and noisy village, we wonder what is was like to live here in the mid-1340s just before this place of worship was built, when a humble chapel stood on the site. Let us journey back to 1346 . . .

Who are our neighbours? What are our houses made of? What do we eat?

What kind of life do those 'White Monks'1 lead who keep that grange near the chapel, and till their land so assiduously, and tend their sheep? What impact will the granting of the Charter by Edward I to Kingstown upon Hull nearly 50 years ago have on the future of Sutton? How is our own Sir John, Lord of the Manor, faring at Crécy in the wearisome war against France? Will the king ever repay Sir William (de la Pole) for all the money he's loaned him for the campaigns? And (most frightening of all) will the 'Black Death', now widespread in Europe, invade our vulnerable shores?

Perhaps we should enter our little chapel and ask for the mercy and deliverance of almighty God. This building, perhaps nearly two hundred years old now, is certainly run down. John de Sutton is right to be wishing to re-build it.2 His wife, Alice, says that she can see from the window of the Manor how the roof is in danger of collapse.

The sturdy font, though, standing on the floor just inside the door, looks good for another few hundred years yet. Built of stone around 1200, it bears nail-head patterning around the rim, and its flat lid is securely locked to keep the witches from taking the water.

*Font of Early English Period 3*

*modern pic shows font in present position*

There aren't any seats; we just kneel or stand on the rush-strewn floor. Some of the older ones sit on the stone seats running round the walls. Through the screen dividing the nave from the chancel we can just see the priest standing at the heavy stone altar, and hear him intoning the Paternoster4 - in Latin of course.

This first chapel at Sutton was built in the time of Sayer de Sutton. Before this, the few villagers (18 at the time of Domesday Book) used to walk to the Mother Church at Waghen (Wagene/Wawne) where the vicar lived. Waghen was bigger than Sutton then. Even after we had this chapel, for years the villagers had to travel to Waghen for the major festivals, and all the burials had to be held there. Our ancestors resented paying the rights and fees of baptism, marriage and burial to Waghen, when they had their own chapel to maintain as well. It wasn't until about 50 years ago, in 1291, that the rector of Sutton church at last received proper financial dues from his parishioners, but we still have to traipse all the way to Waghen to bury our Sutton folk - and it's hard when the weather is bad.

There have been settlements at Waghen for hundreds of years. An axe-head dating from the Stone-Age was found there. The Romans established a camp to the north of the village. Then when the Angles and Saxons invaded, they called the land Waywyn, and built their homes of thatch and wattle. They farmed the land on the high ridge that ran from the village all along the highway to Sutton.

At the time of Domesday Book in 1086, the ridge was surrounded by waters and marshland, and at high tide Waghen became entirely separated from Sudtone, as it was called then. Some of the little holms like Bransholme and Seffholm stood out of the water and people have lived there, I believe.

*Map of Domesday 1086 (after Blashill)*

The Lords of the Manor and the monks set about draining the land by digging ditches and dikes. In fact the monks changed our landscape for ever . . .

It was two hundred years ago (just before our little chapel of Sutton was built) that remarkably, out of all the dreadful havoc that King Stephen was wreaking on the country, plundering and burning indiscriminately, and massacring whole village communities, that small religious groups began what can only be called a monastic revival.5

St Bernard of Clairvaux had established the first Cistercian House in 1098, and the Movement flourished, slowly here in Yorkshire, but the magnificent abbeys of Fountains, Jervaulx, Rievaulx and Byland bear witness to the remarkable energy, organisation and commitment of the Order. Finest of all in our eyes is the spectacular abbey of Meaux. Occasionally, when the land is not under water - which it often is, despite the efforts of the monks and Lords of the Manor to dig ditches and drains - we walk the five miles along the byway to the abbey. Fortunately, we are on slightly raised ground here, but elsewhere the monks' properties have suffered terrible losses through persistent flooding, especially at Ravenserodd.7

Waghen had become a busy place by 1160 when the monks employed nearly 200 tenants there, all paying rent, and providing the abbey with corn and hay, bread and beer, geese and hens. Soon afterwards, a grange or farm with buildings was established in the village. These were followed by the wool manufactory and mills, a further source of income. Smiths and skin workers are all employed in Waghen. The estates produce grain, cereals and poultry. The monks have water mills and fisheries by the river bank. All along the footway between Sutton and Meaux we pass flocks of sheep belonging to the abbey. Oats and wheat, barley and beans, and fields of corn ripen in due season. When at last we reach Meaux, we always stand and stare at the splendid abbey church.

Despite the abbey's grandeur, though, the monks are always in debt. Hugh of Leven is the abbot there now, and not long ago he thought up a new scheme to pull in some revenue.

He employed a sculptor to fashion a new crucifix for the choir of the converts.8  The sculptor gave due reverence to his contract, and worked on the finer parts of the image on Fridays only, living simply on bread and water. To enable him to beautify the figure, he used a naked model. Sure enough, when the crucifix was completed, it was found to have miraculous powers. Men came from far and near to worship before it with excellent results - their piety increased, and inspired them to offer alms to the monks, which increased their piety still further. Many of our husbands went, but we women were debarred, because of the rules of the Cistercians. Abbot Hugh then obtained special permission for women 'of good character' to enter the monastery church. Naturally enough, we couldn't go into the cloister or dormitory, but we were allowed to look at the magnificent church and some of the other buildings. The colours are amazing - wonderful tiles all made by the monks and brethren. The Monks' Choir is dazzling.9 We could not believe it! We kept going from room to room gazing and exclaiming! The crucifix is a real work of art.

Two monks working in the library showed us some of their books, all beautifully written on vellum. One of them is writing a Vita Edvardi Rex10, about when the monks allowed the King the town of Wyke for only £47 in 1293. Of course it's been known as Kingstown since then, but the monks made sure they kept control of the market - very important financially with the stallholders' rents coming their way, and supplying a ready outlet for the abbey livestock, wool, cloth and corn. In his time, Edward I granted the abbey free warren11 in all their lands outside the royal forests. The monks produce leather from the deer hide, and furs from foxes and rabbits.

The monks gave us a lovely meal of fish and wine before we left, and we bought a piece of their delicious cheese.12 After that, we had no money for the collection plate - and soon afterwards Abbot Hugh stopped us going.  But we'll never forget that visit to the monastery as long as we live. On a quiet day in Sutton we can hear the great bell called Benedict, tolling from the belfry of the abbey church, and it always reminds me of that exciting day.

*Part of Mosaic Pavement found 1760*

Occasionally we walk past the abbey church and watch the lay brothers at work at North Grange. The tile kilns are still there, though most of the mosaic floor tiles were fired last century.13 When I was young, I remember them making the tiles for the roof of the abbot's new house. It's amazing to think that all that land would probably still be a hunting park if William the Fat had had his way. He was Earl of Albemarle and Lord of Holderness. He owned several estates, including one near the hamlet of Melsa, now Meaux. When he was getting on in years, in anticipation of future hunting delights, thought he would like to create a deer park, and started to have the area enclosed with a raised bank and broad ditch. We still call the land Park Dyke.

There was only one thing troubling William. He well remembered that as a young man he had made a vow to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, but now he was too old and too fat - he couldn't even sit on a horse, he admitted. To salve his conscience, he had given up some of his estates for the founding of religious houses. But he felt this wasn't enough. On a visit to Fountains, he confided his anxieties to a monk named Adam, an expert in monastic architecture. The latter was quick to point out that the Earl could be excused from his vow if he founded yet another monastic house on land chosen by himself in Holderness, then quite devoid of monks. The earl agreed, and was duly granted dispensation from his vow. However, he was horrified when the place Adam chose was his own hunting park at Meaux, only recently acquired from John de Melsa. He demurred at length, but to no avail, for Adam was insistent.

We do not know whether Adam had second thoughts on that New Year's Day of 1151 when he as first abbot, and twelve followers, surveyed that remote spot amid the barren wastes of Holderness, and realised that this simple, mud-built dwelling must be their new home. The life was bleak and cold, their diet was mean, and they nearly starved that first winter. But they were encouraged by the local peasants, who must have been astonished at these men of God at one moment chanting their offices, and the next tilling the soil with spade and pickaxe.14 Adam was no businessman, however. There was not enough money to support the novices and converts, and poor Adam was left with only his cowl to wear, having given away all his other clothing. The monks had to disperse for a while until they were given gifts of land from sundry benefactors.

Looking now at the splendid buildings, it is hard to visualise that mud-built house of 1150, and close by, the two-storeyed wooden chapel. For decades the peace and tranquillity for which the first Cistercians strove, was shattered by the continuous building schemes. "Everywhere peace, everywhere serenity, and a marvellous freedom from the tumult of the world."15, wrote Aelred, abbot of Rievaulx from 1147. How ironic! Now from March to October the mason and his team would be busy at Meaux from 5am to 7pm, building refectory and kitchen, lavatory and library, infirmary and offices, tannery and smithy. Only when October was out was the unfinished work all covered with straw and bracken to protect from frost, and left until the Spring.16

## In those early years, much land was freely granted to the abbey by local lords and peasants for the support of the community, on condition that the monks should pray for the benefactor and his family. Sometimes novices came to the abbey, having no intention of being trained for the high monastic life, but, perhaps being old or frail, wishing merely to spend their last years in peace in the convent. These were usually men of important standing, thus bringing with them material gifts, often of land. The monks were given quarries and farms; they were granted the ferry at Waghen for the transport of wool and produce. Other land was granted by those setting out on crusade. The monks would usually agree to return the land if the crusader came back - but he rarely did.

## The monks are very astute at exchanging land of little use for profitable acreage, and so increase their yield. They were very quick to gain land here in Sutton in this way. The monks also buy land or hold it on lease from farmers who have run into debt through bad management, say, or high living. They hold property on some odd conditions, too; they had a very nice house in Hedon in return for allowing the counts of Albemarle to use their ferry across the Humber. Now, the monks dominate all this area, and far afield as well. Their trade in wool here and in Europe is renowned.

## The Cistercian influence on our lives in this place cannot be over-stated. Their love of God and devotion to prayer is clear to us all. The abbey is a true centre of worship, where praise, intercessions and thanksgivings are offered constantly. Despite their constant craving for yet more land, it would be unfair to diminish their religious sincerity. The monks genuinely care for the sick and needy.17 Some poor souls go every day to the abbey gates for their food. Tramps are given relief and shelter.The monks look after those who are ill in their hospitals, and tend the victims of accidents and violence.

## The abbey is acclaimed for its hospitality to merchants, to travellers and pilgrims, all of whom have to traverse that difficult and sometimes dangerous byway, located as it is a good two miles from the highway to Beverley.

## Neither can the skill, culture and expertise of the monks be ignored. Apart from the incredible number of beautiful tiles in the Abbey, the monks wear gorgeous vestments, and fashion costly chalices and pattens. They have written wonderfully illuminated service books, as well as their splendid collection of classical, theology, music and history books in the library. Some of the men are gifted musicians and architects.

## These Cistercians introduced a new class of monks, known as lay brothers. They are usually illiterate men who do much of the manual work of the abbey. They assist in the building programmes and in the management of the granges or farms, sometimes at some distance from Meaux itself. They come back here on Sundays and feast days, when the abbey is very busy and lively. Although generally from poor backgrounds, some of the brothers are quite gifted. Apparently one of them, called John, is very artistic and some of his paintings are displayed on the abbey walls.

## Then there are the servants; I think the cellarer alone has a staff of a dozen or so. As early as 1197 it appears that women were already being employed on neighbouring estates, for a house in Knottingley was given 'on condition that no women dwell there', implying that women were usually employed.18 Women still work as servants in the granges and in the outer court of the abbey. I'm told that women are sometimes paid to care for and teach young orphans.

## However, Meaux has become embroiled in interminable disputes and litigations, and consequently the monks are always short of cash. Also, some of the old respect for the Cistercian Order is declining in parts of the country. I don't doubt that 'our' monks are blameless, but it was disturbing when a visitor from Tavistock last year told us of the abbot there, always drunk, and 'leading a life detestable to God and man' - yet he still leads the convent.19 Some of our neighbours think it's time that we were free from the monastic houses altogether, but I can't see that happening in our lifetime.

## *This twin dove tile from the floor of the Monks' Choir is of the mosiac type, where the design is formed of separate pieces.*

## *Formerly in the collection of Kenneth Beaulah.*

Notes to Chapter 1

1     The Cistercians, known as 'White Monks' because of their white habits.   
  
2     Thomas Blashill: *Sutton-in-Holderness*, p.90   
  
3     Sketch from former collection of WFW   
  
4     'Our Father'   
  
5     Revd G A Balleine: *The Layman's History of the Church of England*, p.40   
  
6     Revd C Cox: *The Annals of the Abbey of Meaux*, p.21 - ERAS, Vol.1   
  
7     C Foster: *The Estates of Meaux* (dissertation for MA, Leeds)   
  
8     Cox, p.22   
  
9     This twin dove tile from the floor of the Monks' Choir is of the mosaic type, where the design is formed of separate pieces. Formerly in the collection of Kenneth Beaulah. (photograph)   
  
10     George Poulson - *History & Antiquities of the Seignory of Holderness*, p.309. This biography of Edward III appears on the Chartulary of the Abbey of Meaux preserved in the British Museum. Somewhat damaged, it was in the collection of Sir Thomas Cotton, whose library was partly destroyed by fire.   
  
11     the right to hunt.   
  
12     'Activities of the Cistercians' - exhibition at Wimpole Hall, Cambridge   
  
13     Elizabeth Eames: *A 13th Century Tile Kiln Site at North Grange, Meaux*   
  
14     Cox: op.cit.   
  
15     Aelred, the saintly abbot of Rievaulx from 1147-1167.   
  
16     Tony McAleavy: *Life in a Medieval Abbey*, p.18   
  
17     Cox, op.cit.   
  
18     C Foster, op.cit.   
  
19     Balleine, op.cit.

## CHAPTER 2

## Sir John de Sutton The College of St James founded The Black Death - Dedication of Sutton church After-effects of Black Death - Troubles at Meaux The Cellarer family - Drowning of Ravenserodd Thomas Burton, author of The Chronicles Changes in the Cistercian Order

Our Sutton villager was justly confident about the immediate future of Meaux. Perhaps the most important characteristic of the Middle Ages is that all western Europe had one common religion under the popes at Rome. After Sir John de Sutton the Younger returned victorious from the siege of Calais in 1346,1 he granted the advowson, or right of nominating the priest, of Sutton chapel to his uncle, Thomas Sampson, Archdeacon of Cleveland and a Canon, and rector of Sutton. In accordance with the trend then in vogue, it was agreed to establish a church with a small college of priests consisting of the warden, Thomas Sampson, and five chaplains. The king duly issued a licence, and in November 1347 the Archbishop decreed that the new foundation could go ahead.

The building began apace, John de Sutton being responsible for the nave, and Thomas Sampson, or his college, the chancel. Bricks, recently introduced, were used particularly in the nave and its massive piers, but quantities of stone also had to be transported, probably by the new Antholme dike.2

A 'large and spacious' rectory house for the habitation of warden and chaplains was also erected, probably to the east of the church, with hall, chambers, kitchen, stables, and granges, all enclosed with a ditch. The villagers must have looked on with great interest at this impressive church, living as they did in simple cottages of wood, or wattle and daub structure, clustered round the village centre, and still surrounded by low-lying marshy ground.

But before the consecration of Sutton church could take place, tragedy was to strike. A few days before Easter 1349, an earthquake shook this quiet corner of Holderness.  Monks at Meaux, prayerfully at service, were suddenly thrown from their stalls just as they had reached the second verse of Psalm 60 - 'Thou hast made the earth to tremble; Thou hast broken it.'  Their medieval minds, superstitious as they were, dreaded lest the occurrence should be an ill omen. Sure enough, a few months later, in August, the scourge of the Black Death was raging here. In that month alone, 22 monks and six lay brothers perished, and when the plague had run its course, only ten monks survived.3

Possibly the monks' ministry to the sufferers rendered them even more vulnerable to disease than most. Abbot Hugh lay dead, buried near his own crucifix in the choir of the converts. The prior, cellarer, bursar - all were dead, wiped out before they could pass on knowledge of the affairs and possessions of the convent.  The monastery property was in complete confusion, most tenants were dead, rents were not paid, crops lay rotten on the ground, and stock had perished.  There was no one to gather in the harvest or care for the animals, and no one to begin the autumn ploughing.4

No longer did the great bell ring out over the fields. No mass or prayer was said for three months. (The abbey was later fined 40 pence for this breach of regulations). No spirit of comradeship prevailed, for all were fearful of gathering together.  It is now reckoned that nearly one half of the population of England perished in those two years, leaving just over one million inhabitants.5

Amidst this woe, the dedication of the collegiate church of St James in Sutton went ahead on Saturday 12 September, 1349. Rejoicing must have indeed mingled with sorrow, for all families must have been mourning loved ones. Nevertheless, crowds came from far and wide to witness the splendid new church, including John de Sutton himself, though not Thomas Sampson, who had died in July. Villagers such as John and Peter Dowson, William Spencer and son Peter, John Fyssher, Robert Stevenson .... all 'talked about the event as long as they lived.'6 For many years afterwards the dedication was marked by the presence of a banner, with a little bell attached, hung from a belfry window.  Villagers took a day's holiday.

The early years of Sutton church were typified by walls and piers of uncovered brick; the earth floor would be strewn with rushes, as in the former chapel. Parishioners would still stand or kneel during the Latin services. The east window, then of seven lights,7 consistent with the Decorated style of architecture, contained stained glass bearing the arms of the Suttons. Crosses and inscriptions were painted on the walls. A screen separated nave and chancel *(part of the present screen at the entrance to the baptistry was re-constructed from a fine, Perpendicular screen of c.1450, shown here if you pass your mouse over the image)*.

The font was relocated from the early chapel, and probably, too, the piscina (drain for washing sacred vessels in the Mass) now in the south aisle. There would have been an altar here, and a corresponding one in the north aisle, where an aumbry or cupboard can be seen in the wall.

In the centre of the chancel stood the freestone monument of the founder and lord of the manor, Sir John de Sutton, born c.1309, (Blashill) or possibly 1319 (Frost). The effigy probably depicts the suit of armour he wore at the Battle of Crécy in 1346.8 Peter and John Dowson later averred that they were present when Sir John was 'publicly buried in the quire' in May 1357. The manor passed to his brother, Thomas, his son having pre-deceased him. John left to his wife, Alice, a large acreage and his castle of Branceholme.9

A fort had been established here before 1200, and it is recorded that Sir John was fined in 1353 for fortifying his castle on this mound.

## *The Effigy of Sir John de Sutton in Sutton Church*

Whether the Black Death halted the completion of the church because of shortage of labour, so prevalent at the time, or whether the tower naturally became a later addition, is not recorded; but the west end of the church, with engaged tower, appears to have been constructed c1400. The doorway and piers are in Perpendicular style, as is the great west window. Less exuberant, classical lines now took the place of the free-flowing tracery of the Decorated period.

The Plague caused many changes. So many deaths meant fewer villeins to till the fields, and the monks at Meaux, formerly the biggest landowners in the area, now sorely depleted in number themselves, suffered in consequence. All the lay brothers perished.  The monks, who had always been conscious of their own superiority, had to hire paid labourers instead.  But labour was scarce, and the peasants knew it, demanding high wages.  In 1351 the Statute of Labourers was passed in Parliament, making it a crime punishable by branding with a hot iron for any labourer to ask or receive more than threepence a day11 - a kind of reversal of today's Minimum Wage. The monks of Meaux were soon caught up in their own wrangles.

Out of the ten monks remaining after 1349, it must have been difficult to find an able abbot. William de Dringhoe was elected, but he was soon accused of 'concealing a thief', one Richard, cellarer of Waghen. The latter had stolen a horse, which he had passed on to the abbot. Richard was, of course, a bondman, or villein, but he was very resourceful, and his and his cousins' determination to escape from thraldom shows enormous strength of character. He managed a grange and the lay brethren at Waghen, and when in trouble, was very elusive.

For 'receiving', the abbot was imprisoned in York Castle, and there conjured up more mischief, 'being a crafty man'.12 He planned to rob the abbey, and when released, began to put his ideas into action - but was eventually deposed in 1353.

The next abbot was also charged with theft, but the abbey appears to have been rather generous with its miscreants, for when he resigned under pressure in 1356, John de Ryslay was granted a double portion of food, a servant and a horse.  However, he died, evidently, *impenitens*.13

During this troubled time, Richard Cellarer and his cousins John and Thomas, decided to make a stand against the abbey and maintain that they were not villeins of Meaux at all, but of the king.14 Possibly motivated by some hostility towards the abbey, the Cellarers drummed up a great deal of support; they were taken prisoners by the monks, but Richard - again - managed to escape.15 After some years of wrangling, the Cellarers lost their case in 1361 - but their resolute stand against the injustices of the system must have gone some way to weaken the power of the abbey lords.

At about this time, the ever-energetic Humber swept over the monks' holding at Ravenserodd again. This was a lively little fishing town in the parish of Easington.  This time it was utterly destroyed. It appears to have been built on a peninsula connected to the mainland by a causeway formed of sand and boulders.16  According to the monks, the hand of God was again in evidence; the 'predatory habits of its inhabitants'17 had provoked divine anger.

This religious, yet superstitious, community believed that God smiled upon them on another occasion. Between 1367 and 1372, a tailor who was working at the abbey was awakened by the sound of thunder. Catching sight of a fire on the roof of the church, he roused the monks (with some difficulty, so the Chronicler writes). The band of intrepid men eventually put out the fire. On reflection, the monks were astounded that they had trodden safely on a ceiling which was not normally strong enough for a child of seven years, and, moreover, they had carried large vessels full of water, which usually they would be unable to lift, even when empty.18

It is indeed fortunate that, having lost physical trace of the abbey, we do have records of its first 250 years - thanks to the literary skills of the nineteenth abbot, Thomas de Burton. He was born about 1365, possibly in Burton Pidsea, and entered Meaux Abbey as a young man. The Cistercians were not in favour of too much learning - the lay brothers were mostly unlettered, as has been stated - but Thomas Burton was described by a later monk as *'bene literatus'*, and he was chosen to study theology at the University of Oxford, founded, incidentally, very soon after Meaux. He was granted an annual sum of £15 for personal expenses, plus £15 for books and college charges. The Cistercian scholar was strictly forbidden any 'dalliance' or involvement in politics at University, so presumably Thomas returned to Meaux 'unscathed'!

In 1393 Burton was made bursar and secretary to the abbot. The appointment met with some opposition within the convent, but not nearly as much as when he was elected abbot in 1396, following bitter dissension. The monks who most opposed him hatched a plot to drive him from office. Fortunately, the plan came to the ears of Robert Burley, abbot of Fountains, and a friend of Burton. He at once despatched a strong body of armed men to guard Meaux. When the rebellious monks and their supporters appeared at the great gate, Burley's archers, standing on the precinct wall, threatened to shoot anyone who so much as touched the gate handle.The opposition departed in haste, and the two monks who had dissented most violently were left to 'skulk about the country in secular dress,'19 not daring to approach Meaux for fear of the abbot's anger.

Eventually, a compromise was reached, and Abbot Burton was chosen to represent all the Cistercian monasteries in northern England at a general chapter of the Order in Vienna. Further, when the delegates assembled, one of the four principal abbots was found to be absent. Thomas Burton was singled out to stand in for him - a tremendous honour for the abbot of a house from remote Yorkshire, and definitely the most illustrious incident in the social history of the abbey.

On his return, however, more domestic strife ensued, and Burton resigned in 1399. A pile of stone slabs in St Peter's Church, Wawne, purport to be the remains of the monumental effigy of Thomas Burton.The figure holds a broken crozier, to indicate his retirement from office of abbot before his death.

*Effigy of Thomas Burton, Wawne Church, after Poulson*

More than 40 years later a monk wrote that the best thing Burton ever did was to resign - but this, of course, is vastly undervaluing the enormous resource that Burton left, in respect of his Chronicles of Meaux from 1151 to 1396, ending on the eve of his own election as abbot. He spent the last decades of his life hunting up old rent rolls, tenancy lists, estate documents, charters, etc, and set down an account of the affairs of the monastery. He wrote of the abbots and their skills; of their mistakes, and worst of all, of those who actually sold land. He described the many lawsuits of the monks over land tenure or fishing rights. He drew up a balance sheet of each abbacy, noting acreage, livestock and so on.

Only occasionally does Thomas Burton stray from the business management, to allow the reader a glimpse of everyday life. One such story refers to a lay brother who managed the grange at Croo, near Cranswick. He had long been annoyed by the raucous sound of crows nesting in a small wood nearby. He asked Abbot Michael if he could get rid of the crows. Permission granted, the brother went home and cut down every tree on the estate.The abbot was furious - especially when he found out that all the timber had been sold and the proceeds drunk.

Thomas Burton died in 1437, blind in his later years, but leaving an invaluable record of monastic life in the Middle Ages, and of the monks' relationships with their neighbours. By the time he died, the way of life of his colleagues bore little resemblance to that of the founder and his little band of followers who slept on straw, lived in primitive conditions, prayed through most of the night and laboured silently nearly all day. At first, the life of the Cistercians was a protest against luxury of any kind. In the abbey church, no tower or bell, nor stained glass window was permitted. A simple linen cloth, quite plain, covered the altar, and above it stood a single iron candlestick and a crucifix of painted wood. The monks ate one meal a day, abstaining from meat and fish, and also eggs, butter, milk and cheese except on high festivals. Their only food was coarse bread and vegetables.

The Cistercian monk of 1400 would have been appalled to think of living the primitive life of Adam and the first monks. These were men of affairs, sophisticated and prosperous. They had parishes to run, farms to manage, property to maintain, rents to collect, accounts to keep, Abbey and manor courts to hold, litigation to pursue.20 They now owned or leased more than 20,000 acres, with a magnificent church, spacious cloisters, a beautiful chapter-house, library, infirmary, bakehouse and brewery, and many stables. A guest house provided good accommodation for visitors. The abbot had his own house and servants. A regular visitor to dinner was the barber from Beverley. He came every fortnight to shave the monks and for 'blood-letting as required'.  This was a common remedy for fever; toothache; 'affections of the brain, the eyes, the throat, the spleen, the liver, and pains in divers parts of the body'21 - in short, a medieval cure-all.  The menu on these occasions would undoubtedly have reflected high quality cuisine - meat, perhaps venison, and fish, cheese and eggs, vegetables and herbs, home-made bread, all washed down with home-brewed ale.

The most eminent in the list of servants in 1393 was the abbot's squire, whose salary was twenty shillings a year with several 'perks'. The abbot had his own chamberlain, page, cook, groom, stable-boy and gardener.  There were also a forester, a slater, a tailor, a baker, a brewer, two faggot-makers who supplied 20,000 faggots a year for the brewery and bakehouse, a keeper of pigs and a blind man who worked in the dairy at Felsa (north of Meaux). Dogs appear next on the list, and last of all was noted the washerwoman of clothes, sheets and towels.

No wonder that Chaucer, beginning his Canterbury Tales in 1388, took such delight in his descriptions of the motley band of pilgrims on their way to that religious shrine.

## Notes to Chapter 2

1     Blashill, p.89

2     Ibid, p.93

3     Poulson: *History & Antiquities*, p.301

4     Revd A Earle: *Essays upon the History of Meaux Abbey*

5     BBC *'That's History - the Black Death'*

6     Blashill, p.97

7     Sheahan & Whellan: p.379

8     Blashill, p.88

9      Poulson suggests that the site of the castle of Branceholme is now known as Castle Hill, lying between Sutton and Swine  (p.331)

10     Charles Frost: *Notices Relating to the Early History of the Town and Port of Hull*, p.99

11     Balleine, p.60

12     Poulson, p.301

13     Thomas Burton:  *Chronicles of Meaux*

14     Marjorie Kennedy: *Resourceful Villeins - the Cellarer Family of Wawne* - YAJ Vol.48

15     C Cox, p.45

16     Levien: *On Unpublished Mss Relating to Meaux Abbey*

17     Burton, xvii

18     Ibid. xxiv

19     Vincent Orange, NZ Broadcasting

20     Stephen Hebron: *Life in a Monastery*

21     Ibid, p.17

###### CHAPTER 3

**Waghen Excavations - Polyfocal village of Waghen  
Disputes between Sutton & Waghen over burials,  
and the final agreement - The bells - Lord Hastings  
The Renaissance - Dissolution of the Monasteries  
The future of the monks - Cranmer and the Reformation**

In 1961, a grass field called Croft Garths lying to the south-east of Wawne church, was bulldozed so that the grassland could be converted to arable. It was soon realised that this was no ordinary field. The subsequent excavations by pupils of Wawne school under the leadership of the headmaster, Howell Jones, revealed a fascinating story.

Plan of Waghen township 1773 : click to enlarge in new window

The team began a programme of sample excavation and recording before and during earthwork destruction. The children drew up a map based on mathematical calculations, and the research work embraced most subjects across the curriculum.

*Wawne excavations in 'Atkinsons' Field'*

*(Jill Sutcliffe, Neil Dixon, Ann Sutcliffe?)*

*In the classroom 1961*

Howell Jones was something of a pioneer of 'modern education' locally. He was appointed Head of Wawne school at Easter 1958, and found resources woefully inadequate - "especially the antiquated Geography books!" He used the natural environment for many lessons, and all children belonged to a type of Club, studying Trees, Birds or Animals. The local shop, seeing the children counting seconds to calculate bird flights, gave the Ornithology Group a stopwatch. Says Howell Jones now of that time in Wawne: "I really enjoyed every day. School was like a club, and I couldn't get to school fast enough." School inspectors compiled a taped unit of activities in Wawne school for use in training colleges.1

Howell Jones working with Neil Dixon, 1961

We have already seen that Wawne was a thriving village in the Middle Ages, when many of the inhabitants were employed by the monks. The excavations gave evidence not only of four distinct periods of building, but also that those early settlements were not on the same site as the 'modern' village. Discoveries in other areas of farm land in Wawne, termed *Atkinsons' Field, Middletons' Field, Dixons' Field*, for example, showed additional areas of domestic habitation, suggesting a polyfocal village.

Croft Garths field clearly showed these four periods of house structure. From his home in Chelmsford, Mr Jones writes of his excitement at finding 'evidence of old cobbled roads and houses, and shards in the village fields.'

*map of earthworks after Jones. Click to enlarge*

The earliest settlement (A1-5) comprised about twelve peasant-houses of wattle and daub, dating from around the late 12th century to the 13th century, set in a rectangular pattern in the field. Some Staxton pottery was found, c1250-1350.

Five houses dating from the 13th century (B1-5) were of wood, but contained a number of bricks and clay roofing tiles.

In the 14th century, sixteen more houses were laid out in a row parallel to the street (C1-18). This must have been a planned redevelopment by the lord of the manor, and it is suggested that a completely new start was made in that part of the village after the Black Death.2 The wall foundations consisted of small boulders. All were two-roomed long-houses with a hearth of brick or cobble between rooms. The roofs were tiled. These houses were occupied until the 16th or early 17th century, though C1 and C17 survived into the 18th century. The east-west long-houses backed onto a series of sunken, by nearly one metre, cobbled fold-yards to the south (Y1-10).

Finally, the long-houses were replaced with eight houses built of brick, with evidence of tiled roofs (D1-8). This was, perhaps, a farm and farmyard complex. D8 was the largest building and probably represents the foundations of a barn with a smaller cobbled granary. The clay floors of the barn were covered with rubble, including fragments of decorated medieval floor tile from Meaux Abbey. The excavations revealed also two wells2, both of brick, but Well 2, on a foundation of elm planking, appeared not to have been an open well, but to be pump-operated.

At the time of the 1773 estate map, this intriguing field known appropriately as Garths, featured only one structure, possibly D7, but by 1790 this building had also disappeared.

Plan of village from estate map 1773

By 1846, the field had acquired its present name of Croft Garths, now the only remaining clue to this area's thriving habitation.

*Ordnance Survey map of 1927 showing fieldwork areas*

At the beginning of the 15th century, the parishioners of Sutton were still having to pay mortuaries and other dues to contribute towards the repair of Waghen church; and also still had to bury their loved ones there. Dispute followed dispute. In 1429 the vicar of Waghen, Robert Tyas, made complaints against Sutton parishioners, that they had unlawfully buried their dead 'in the churchyard at the west end of Sutton church.' Thomas Poynton, a deacon in the choir of Sutton Chapel, said that the chapel was 'notoriously dependent' on Waghen.3 Moreover, it was stated that the same Robert Tyas 'used to lie in bed until ten o'clock in the day', so that mourners from Sutton could not say mass for their dead. For this the vicar was firmly rebuked. It was suggested that all the bodies wrongfully buried at Sutton should be exhumed. This would have been a major - and ghastly - job. The College buried at Sutton 26 adults and 111 children in 1420, so we can readily understand the villagers' reluctance to walk or ride the distance to Waghen.

In 1447 the Archbishop of York, acting as arbitrator between Sutton and Rome, decreed that all mortuary rights were to belong to Waghen; the chapel and rectory of Sutton were still to remain in Waghen parish. More arguments followed, and at last, in 1454, in return for an annual payment of £1, Sutton received its own right of burial. Still, "the inhabitants of Sutton do, over and above other burdens to be borne, touching the repairs of the nave in the parish church of Waghen, pay into the hands of the parishioners £4, in part of the £6, towards the founding of new bells thereof".4

The tower of Wawne church was raised during the 15th century, the Perpendicular period, apparent in the lofty pointed belfry window in the upper stage of two lights, with a transom. The tower has a plain square parapet. It is probable that the bells were installed at the same time.

Talk of the bells landed a certain William Middleton in trouble in 1495. He had happened to say, *"it wer better unrongue at ye saunt' tyme yan messe unsogne"* - it is better to have a service without ringing the bell than to have no service at all. On 26 December he was pursued in Waghen Main Street by John of Cottingham and four other armed men, threatening to kill him with a pole-axe. He ran into the church for sanctuary, but a service was in progress. The congregation was terrified, and it was only after ten hours that William's assailants went away. “*For dred of dede"* (dread of death), William left the country. Although the proceedings in Chancery are recorded, the outcome is not known.5

William, Lord Hastings, was not so fortunate as to escape with his life. Along with other property, he was owner of the manor of Sutton. The Hastings Manor House stood to the east of the church from the 15th up to the end of the 18th century.

*map after Blashill, showing Hastings Manor*

During the Wars of the Roses in 1471 the powerful Lord Hastings returned to England in the company of Edward IV, supporting him in his recovery of the crown. After Edward's death in 1483, Richard of Gloucester, determined to seize the crown himself, suddenly, on 13 June, accused Hastings of plotting to kill him at a council meeting in the White Tower. The Protector's guards 'rushed into the chamber and led Hastings outside to Tower Green where he was promptly beheaded.'6

Two years later, Richard III himself was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field, the last English king to die on the battlefield, the event sometimes thought of as the end of the Middle Ages. The growing influence of the Renaissance and its ideas meant that God was no longer the centre of all things in man's mind. People thought less of God and more of life. The invention and speed of printing encouraged writers, artists flourished, and explorers set sail for the New World. All these things led to a decline in the power of the church, and, locally, Wawne, Meaux and the church at Sutton were to undergo drastic change.

Everywhere the monasteries were the centres of opposition. As long ago as 1381 the religious reformer and bold Yorkshireman, John Wycliffe, had dared to criticise the church, and inspired his followers to translate the Bible into English. In the early 15th century Parliament had begun to call for dissolution. In 1489 the Archbishop of Canterbury, following a visit to the abbey of St Alban's, reported that many brethren 'neglect the service of God altogether; they live with harlots publicly within the precincts of the monastery.7 In 1514 Walsingham in Norfolk was a 'hotbed of corruption'. Even the well-run abbeys were criticised for housing people who did not pay tithes or were too idle to give service to their country. When King Henry VIII first mentioned to Wolsey his wish to abandon Catherine, it was 1527, and inevitably dissolution was at hand.

In 1535 Henry's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, 'organised an ominous valuation of all church property, including monastic wealth.'8 Meaux was duly visited, and a careful list made of all the abbey's property. Abbot Richard Stopes was interviewed, and all the monks. The visitor departed, bearing with him his secret report. The following March, Parliament suppressed all the smaller monasteries, and 370 were closed. The abbey of Meaux, along with the other Greater Monasteries, was able to hold out for three more years, but on 11 December 1539, the King's agents confiscated this last monastic house in the East Riding. Not relishing the King's alternative, the abbot must have signed the deed with trembling hand, that "by our unanimous consent and free will we have given to our excellent lord, King Henry, all our monastery, as well as our manors, meadows, markets, woods and tenements."9

With a clear annual income of £298, Meaux had been the third richest foundation in the Riding, but immediately all its treasures were summarily taken away. Those shining chalices went into the King's coffers; candelabra, images and paintings were swept away; the bells were recast as cannon; the lead was stripped from the roofs. Windows, doors and timber were sold, along with heaps of precious tiles. Rare manuscripts were irretrievably lost, probably 'condemned to the fire by the furious zealots and rapacious reformers'.10 The massive walls were left as a quarry, with which the King ordered the town of Hull to be fortified.

Not much sympathy seems to have been spared for the abbot and his twenty-four monks as they left the abbey gates for the last time and attempted to try their luck in the secular world. The abbot, preferring his pension of £40 a year to execution, went to live in Skerne where he died in 1546.11 He left six guineas for a priest to pray for his soul.

Some of the younger monks found work in parish churches. Their pensions of £5 or £6 were not enough to furnish an extravagant lifestyle. Vincent Downey took up a curacy at Sutton. Others went to Welwick, Keyingham and Beeford churches. Robert Robinson had an even more disruptive time, for he went on to acquire the chantry of St William in Beverley Minster, then when that chantry foundation was confiscated in 1548, he had to resort to school teaching in Beverley! There is no record that any of the monks kept in touch with their former companions, nor remembered them in their wills.

The Priory of Swine was dissolved on 30th September 1540. Thomas Cromwell did not live long to enjoy his loot, for that year he himself fell out of favour with Henry and was executed.

The forms of worship were changing, so that such foundations as the College of St James were out of step. The chantry priests and Master of the college were dismissed with pensions in 1547, the rectory with all its barns, stables, the glebe, the tithes, and all their possessions, being taken into the hands of the king. Endowments such as Sir John de Sutton's to say 'prayers for my soul' were snatched by the Government.

After Henry's death in 1547, more changes took place under the young king, Edward VI. Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, produced the first Book of Common Prayer in 1548, and worked tirelessly to encourage the growth of the Protestant Church. Bewildering Injunctions were sent to churches: whiten the church walls to be rid of the old pictures of hell and purgatory; destroy the crucifixes; wipe out the Palm Sunday crosses, the Ash Wednesday ashes; remove paintings and images; take away the altars, leaving 'one decent table'. The mass was replaced by communion, and the laity were to receive wine as well as bread. The prayer-book in English was introduced.

Edward died in 1553, and Mary became Queen. During her five-year reign she brought back Catholicism and persecuted the Protestants mercilessly, burning many of them alive, amongst them Archbishop Cranmer. Thomas Whyte, the incumbent at Sutton who had married during Edward's reign, was reported for this 'offence', but does not appear to have been removed from office. When Mary died in 1558, 'all the churches did ring'. Under Elizabeth I's reign, the Reformation was complete.

In just eleven years, Sutton church had lost its priests and all its saleable goods including two bells and 'one paire of orgains'. Altars had been removed, and two of its precious historic furnishings, the font and the tomb, had been despoiled. But the manner of worship had also changed. People were encouraged to think for themselves: there was an English Bible which many could read; an English service which peasants could understand; registers of births, marriages and deaths had been introduced; and above all, an open road to God, unencumbered by priestly pardons.

The Church, Sutton, c.1910

### **Notes to Chapter 3**

1     Copy kindly provided by Mr Jones in the care of the Education Centre in Sutton.

2     Colin Hayfield: *Landscape History*, p.45

3     Blashill, p.121

4     Poulson: *History & Antiquities*, p.284

5     Ibid, p.281

6     P Young & J Adair: *Hastings to Culloden*, p.96

7     Balleine, op. cit.

8     Ibid, p.100

9     Ibid, p.104

10   Poulson: p.310

11   Claire Cross: *The End of Medieval Monasticism in the East Riding of Yorkshire*, 1993

###### CHAPTER 4

**Distribution of land - Sir Arthur Ashe and the Windhams of Felbrigg Hall and Waghen - Lord Hotham and Waghen Ferry - The Alfords, Trusloves, Daltons and Watsons - The New Church - Strange Bequests**

**Incumbents and Ejected Ministers**

**The Quakers - Non-jurors**

**Charitable Trusts; Leonard Chamberlain and Ann Watson**

The Dissolution opened up vast areas of land which, having been in ecclesiastical hands for centuries, were now in the hands of the Crown and up for re-distribution. Important East Riding families such as the Alfords immediately began buying up leases for land. The large estate of Meaux Abbey in Sutton, worth nearly £16 a year, was leased by Lancelot Alford of Meaux as early as 1540, and the Alfords held the land until the mid-17th century.1 After the suppression of the college of St James in 1547, the rectory of Sutton was granted to Sir Michael Stanhope. However he was executed in 1552, and later the rectory was also let to the Alfords.2

In 1629, much land in Waghen was sold or mortgaged by Charles I to the Corporation of the City of London. It then consisted of 3,338 acres of land and marsh. From earliest times, Waghen had two land-owners; Lord of the Manor and the Chancellor of St Peter's, York (York Minster), thus it had the Manor of Waghen and St Peter's Liberty - later Rectory Manor.

From 1651 onwards Sir Joseph Ashe (1617-1686), a wealthy London merchant who traded with the Low Countries,3 began buying land in Waghen, gradually adding most of the rest of the Manor, and the lease of Rectory Manor. Sir Joseph was MP for Downtown, Wiltshire, and he had holdings in other parts of the country, especially Twickenham. He supported Charles I financially during the Civil War, and was later awarded a baronetcy. In 1652 he bought 7½ acres 'in a dale overflowne called Lowlands in Waghen alias Wane.'4 Sir Joseph presumably never lived permanently in the village (his home was in Twickenham), though he was responsible for further drainage projects. During the 1670s, he set up windmills for pumping water, and the drained carrs were sown with rape and oats. A few years later, Sir Joseph re-directed the waters of the Eschedike in a further attempt to drain the marshes. Drainage continued to be a problem for many years. Even after 1846 the aptly-named William Leake, as the occupier of Rectory Farm, was reported to York as 'a very respectable, intelligent and industrious man, but if in times like the present he continues to keep all the Low Land in an Arable state .... he must be a considerable loser .... Some of the Land in Grass already is very wet, and ought to be drained.'5

Sir Joseph Ashe's eldest daughter Katherine (1652-1729) married William Windham (1647-89) of Felbrigg Hall in Norfolk, in 1669.

*Portrait of Katherine by Lely, at Felbrigg, by kind permission of The NT*

She was 'gay, generous, warm-hearted, a devoted wife, a loving but thoroughly sensible mother.'6 It was a sound marriage in every way. William was only 18 when he inherited the estate, and 'his wife's generous portion, and the benefit of her father's experience and advice, proved invaluable to Windham during the difficulties of the early years.' The couple had eleven children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. They named their eldest son Ashe (older folk in Wawne remember his namesake, his great great great nephew, Ashe Windham, as the 'Major' or 'Squire' in the early years of the 20th century).

*Portrait of Ashe Windham by Sir Godfrey Kneller, Felbrigg,*

*by kind permission of The National Trust*

Katherine's husband, William, was only 42 when he died. She wrote, 'My Dear Dear Husband left me having made me Hapy 20 years.' Katherine took on the running of the estate for the next 40 years; she was lively and intelligent, and wrote a book on Cookery and Housekeeping, a 'fascinating record of a wealthy family's diet at the period.'7 Katherine took in to live with her family her niece, Martha. Her son, Joseph, married Martha, and from this couple descended the Windhams of Wawne. On 8 January 1700 Sir James Ashe, Katherine's brother and Martha's father, 'a very feeble man'8, bought up 'the lease of the parish, rectory and parsonage of Waghen, and the manor of Waghen, also the rent of 16s 8d. from St James Chappell in Sutton.'9 On Sir James' death, Martha transferred the land to her husband Joseph, who adopted the surname of Ashe. In 1734 they had the manor of Waghen, with '18 messuages, 21 cottages, 20 barns, 30 stables, 20 gardens, 10 orchards, 220 acres of land, 767 acres meadow, 950 acres pasture, 780 acres fen ground, 100 acres furze and heath, and a passage over the River Hull in Waghen and Sutton'.10 All in all, a fair parcel of land, 4,576 acres - and an interesting record of the land use in Waghen at that time.

A hand-operated ferry over the Hull at Wawne was established in ancient times. Henry Arundel, Archbishop of York (1147-1153), gave to the monks of Meaux all his lands in Waghen *and the ferry.* During the Civil War (1642-49) it helped seal the fate of Sir John Hotham. As Governor of Hull, his refusal to allow Charles I into the town on 22 April 1642, is well documented. Later, when he and his son sought to deliver the town to the King, his son was arrested. Hearing of this, Sir John fled from Hull towards Waghen. Reaching the river bank, he shouted for the ferryman, but was unable to rouse him. Whether the ferryman was absent or wished to avoid trouble is not known, but the fugitive fled on to Beverley where his enemies cornered him. On 15 July 1643 both father and son were sent to the Tower and were later decapitated, as 'traitors to the Commonwealth'. For years afterwards, Sutton and Stoneferry were filled with soldiers whom they had to maintain with slender hope of recompense.

Peter Alford of Sutton died in 1566. He left to his godson, Edward Truslove, a young cow; to Mrs John Truslove a feather bed, a pair of sheets and a pair of blankets; to each of her children 'two yowes' (ewes); and a grey 'meare' to a friend. The probate inventories of this period often record gifts of household goods and farm stock. Edward Truslove kept his lease of Keingley (Kenley), Waghen, but lived in the Rectory House at Sutton. By his will of 1609, he left to his wife 'half his household stuff in his house at Sutton, certain horses and draft oxe, his greatest silver salt, his greatest silver bowl, and his gilded bowl standing upon 'Artemes of Lyons'.11

When the last lord of Sutton, Sir Thomas, died before 1389, without heir, the master and the chaplains of the college became the most important people in Sutton. The manor itself became fragmented, resulting in the acquisition of land by several owners.12 Thomas Dalton, thrice Mayor of Hull, acquired from 1563 onwards, many messuages and cottages, free fishing in Sutton Marr, and did most to ‘gather together the fragments.’13 As well as a large share in the Manor of Sutton, he acquired the Hastings Manor or Berewic, and may have lived in a manor house on his property. More than a century later John Dalton, dying in 1685, left his 'mannor of Hastinges' to his brother, Thomas, who in turn left it to his wife Elizabeth (Wytham) in 1700.

Edward Truslove's son or grandson, John of Keingley, married Elizabeth Watson of Stoneferry in 1650. Elizabeth's brother Thomas lived at the White House in Stoneferry,14 and left a considerable estate, a good part of which passed to Elizabeth in 1665. Blashill believes that this was a share of the original Manor. Elizabeth died in 1690, leaving the White House to her children and grandchildren, in shares. By 1709, Mrs Ann Watson (apparently no relation of Thomas Watson) had bought up most of the shares, now part of the Watson's Charity.15

After the Dissolution, it appears that Wawne church fell into a state of disrepair without the monks to support it, for in 1567 the painted rood loft and the windows were in decay, and the 'Bible torn in several places.' The porch, probably of the Perpendicular period, fell down in 1578 and had to be re-built. Four years later the vicarage house was being used as a barn for cattle; and by 1596 the chancel was dilapidated.16 It seems, though, that pews had been installed in the nave by this time, for when new seating was introduced in the 1820s, two old pews bore the date, 1590.17 Churchwardens were very important in the community. They had to keep the church in repair, see that folk attended, and that they behaved reverently. They would, if necessary, visit the ale-houses in the village and force the people to attend worship.18

At this time, the altar was usually brought from the east end into the body of the church, and people received Communion kneeling in their pews. Attendance was compulsory, including twenty-two Holy Days, upon a fine of twelve pence.

When James I came to the throne in 1603, and it became clear that he would continue with the Protestant church, the fanatical Roman Catholic, Guy Fawkes, plotted with others to blow up Parliament. Fawkes was, of course, executed, but the plot was symptomatic of the continuing unrest throughout the country, and the Church of England, the Romanists and Puritans carried on fighting their respective corners.

People vehemently laid down certain conditions in their wills - like Arthur Harper of Sutton who left a legacy in 1631, but only if ....

*a: It is desired that X11 Bybles be bestowed in X11 of ye poorest families within the parish and that in every such family there be one can distinctly read the same to the rest of the family and at least once every day there be read two psalmes and a chapter . . .*

*b: Every Sabbath day in the Forenoon 12 penny loaves of sweet and Good Bread of Wheat be set in some convenient place in the Church or Chancel ... to be given after morning prayers and Sermon to X11 of the most aged and impotent persons ...... but if any of those poore appointed shall absent themselves any Sabbath day from divine Service and Sermon and warning given twice at their home then that bread to be taken from them . . .*

*c: In Remembrance of God's great Mercy and Deliverance of the whole land from that monstrous and horrible treason of those bloody papists Guy Fawkes and his confederates every fifth day of November everie good subject to God and the King should repaire to ye parish Church and there hear Divine Service and Sermon .... and after such thanksgiving and worship of God there may be provided for 40 poore children a small dinner for which shall be allowed thirteen shillings and four pence and for a Dinner for ye Minister and Churchwardens and Overseers of the poore, six shillings and eight pence, and to ye preacher for his Sermon six shillings and eight pence ....* 19

It is not known what happened to the dinners on 5th November nearly 400 years later - but it would no doubt gladden dear Arthur Harper's heart to see our roaring bonfires.

John Spofford, Sutton incumbent from 1626 to 1633, and a Puritan, was determined to steer his own course. He was the first to write the parish registers in English; he disliked the Prayer Book and refused to read prayers on holy days, Wednesdays and Fridays.20 Mr Harper may indeed have been one of his two churchwardens who in 1627 were presented for not reporting their curate for these misdemeanours. But the Revd Spofford pushed his luck too far; soon after Arthur Harper died, the incumbent was dismissed for 'refusing to wear a surplice four times a year.'

Dakins Fletcher was appointed curate in 1633 and managed to survive through the Commonwealth, and well into the reign of Charles II. The streets were full of rejoicing when the re-instated monarch rode through the streets of London on his 30th birthday in 1660, following Cromwell's Puritan rule.21

However, only two years later, another curate of Sutton, Josiah Holdsworth, was also ejected from the living. On 24 August, known as 'Black Bartholomew', all non-conforming ministers who could not conscientiously give their assent and consent to all in the Prayer Book, were turned out of ministry. A graduate of Cambridge, Holdsworth endured further deprivation after leaving Sutton; his followers at Heckmondwike 'meet not in the day but in the night for these several months.'22 He was 'a man of great piety, sincerity, strictness and industry for the good of souls'. Holdsworth's struggles against the intolerance of the age ended in an early death.

Quakers in Sutton and Waghen were also persecuted. There were several farmers or cottagers who were Quakers and who refused to go to church at all, preferring to meet together in one of their homes. They would not pay church rate or tithes. The Elliker family were constant victims, perhaps because they were farmers of considerable means, and could therefore stand having their goods and animals impounded. In 1659 William Elliker refused to pay 8s 6d for the upkeep of the church, and had a bacon flitch seized. In 1663, William and his brother, Thomas, being summoned 'to go to the Steeple-house on ye first day, and refusing, William Canum and Thomas Hodgson had them before Hugh Lister, who demanded twelve pence apiece, and they refusing to pay it, he granted a warrant for the Wardens to levy twelve pence apiece, for which they took a pan worth 5s, of which "'they would 'a Returned threepence."'23 Some were beaten or even imprisoned. Thomas Clarkson, a farmer from 'Pfarom House' (Fairholm Lane, Waghen) also suffered.

After the Declaration of Indulgence in 1672, the Quakers appointed for themselves a separate place where they could meet and bury their dead, and thus a site in the Groves was chosen (now off the south side of Hodgson Street).

*Site of Quaker Burial Ground, Hodgson Street*

From the registers, it would appear that they also had another small burial ground 'in the Out-houses', somewhere in Stoneferry.

'Dak' Fletcher's name appears again in the registers after the Restoration. He is buried in the church in 1674, joining the resting-place of the lords of the manor, the wardens and chaplains, the Trusloves and the Daltons, and many well-to-do Sutton parishioners.

Sutton church was not to enjoy stability for long, however. John Catlyn became the incumbent in 1689, but that was the year when James II fled to France, and William of Orange claimed the English throne. Once again the church leaders were thrown into confusion - whether to support the Divine Right of James, or to accept William as King. The Archbishop, eight bishops and hundreds of clergy, including the Revd Catlyn, were evicted from their vicarages. These non-jurors formed a new church which survived until 1805. 24

At the beginning of the 18th century, new meeting-houses were registered for Independents or Presbyterians; Thomas Rogers in 1719 and John Spivey in 1722 were registered in Sutton.25

A prominent Presbyterian, who died in 1716, founded what appears to be the first school in Sutton. This was Leonard Chamberlain, a member of the Bowl Alley Lane Chapel, who had inherited and married into wealth. In his will, he remembered all the ministers who had been ejected from their livings for their Puritan views - Josiah Holdsworth of Sutton, and the men of Hessle, Cottingham, Bridlington, Selby and Shipton. By trade a draper in Hull's market place, Chamberlain left generous and important bequests.

*Portrait of Leonard Chamberlain.  
It hung in the Park Street Chapel for many years,  
but was presented to the Ferens in 1994*

Although he probably never lived in Sutton, he owned a good deal of land there. In his will he describes his property as consisting of two farms, one in Sutton, one in Stoneferry, both occupied by Robert Parrott, containing two houses and three closes. There were also 14½ acres of meadow in the Ings; a Pighill and four gates in Sutton New Ings; and four Commons in Sutton. There were, too, a farmhouse and garth, with a Land Common, and also a Pighill, which adjoined land of Mr Henry Cocke (now Church Street); and three garths where three houses had formerly stood, adjoining the farm house, with three commons belonging to them. The farm lands comprised 11½ acres in Sutton, apart from that in Clough Field and Stoneferry. The estate at Stoneferry comprised the farmhouse, etc, and 77 acres of land.26

The terms of Mr Chamberlain's will directed that from the rents of the Sutton and Stoneferry farms, the sum of £5 annually was to be paid to the schoolmaster of Sutton 'to teach and learn to read well 20 of the children of the poorest people in Sutton and Stoneferry, of what persuasion or denomination soever.' Archbishop Herring's Visitation Returns of 1743 indicate that this was the only school in Sutton at that time:

*'There is a School endow'd with five pounds a Year, for teaching Twenty poor Children, who are duly instructed in ye Church Catechism.'*

The British School erected in 1850 was then endowed with the sum of £15 from the funds of Chamberlain's Charity.27 This school was probably situated on the site of the present Providence Cottages, and was associated with the Primitive Methodist chapel there.28

Chamberlain left money for almshouses in Sutton, although these were not erected until 1800 and 1804. They were built for six and four people respectively, at a cost of £631, for eight widows and two widowers, each having a house and garden and 3 shillings weekly.

*Chamberlain almshouses, College Street, 1960*

In 1954 some of the almshouses, those built in 1800, were replaced by a two-storey block comprising 12 flats. In 1999 these have been demolished, and new bungalows are to be built. Six further houses were modernised in 1964, the accommodation being reduced to four. A decade later, dwellings in Chamberlain Close were erected, six single bungalows and four for married couples.

*Wall Plaque on Homes*

The benefactor also left eight shillings per annum for a sermon to be preached on Sutton Feast Day. Though Blashill states that 'the sum has never been claimed', the minister of the Park Street Unitarian Church does preach at Sutton Methodist Church, two sermons annually, on the Monday of Sutton Feast Day (25 July, Feast of St James) and at Christmas.

It may seem curious that when Leonard Chamberlain's wife, Catherine, died in 1697, her body was interred in the tiny church at Rowley, and he lies there with her. In 1638, the Revd Ezekiel Rogers of Rowley insisted on keeping the rules of Puritanism strictly, and was ejected for it. Choosing escape rather than imprisonment, the vicar, accompanied by some 20 farmworkers, set sail for America, and there founded a settlement - Rowley, Massachusetts. Doubtless, Leonard Chamberlain sympathised with this cause and thus chose a remote church in the middle of fields as his burial place. He would have been surprised to see how busy today are the two roads which bear his name in Sutton and Stoneferry.

Watson Street in Sutton is named after Ann Watson who also founded an important charitable trust. She requested that a monument to herself, her mother, husband Abraham and their two sons, should be erected in Hedon church, where they are buried.

*Monument in Hedon church*

Ann Watson bequeathed all her estates at and near the White House in Stoneferry, where she lived, to the ministers and churchwardens of Sutton, Hedon and Holy Trinity in Hull, for the endowment of a hospital or college, 'for clergymen's widows and clergymen's daughters, old maids, and for a school for teaching children.'

Each of the ladies was appointed a room, and 'each of them might keep a cow if she should think it convenient.' The chamber over the parlour was appointed for the schoolmistress, who was to teach knitting, spinning and sewing to ten girls who could read, and therefore were able to read prayers. The girls were to be the children of poor inhabitants in need of such assistance, and were to help the ladies with housework, and receive twopence a week. The first schoolmistress was to be Mrs Watson's friend, Jane Thomasin. The children were to go to Sutton Church on St James' Day, 25th July, and every Sunday when there was a service, and they must learn the catechism. The minister of Sutton was to have £5 for his sermon on St James' Day.29

The White House in Stoneferry was used as the college until 1762, but then another almshouse was erected there, as being more suitable for ten apartments. In 1816, the trustees built a new hospital or college at Sutton, this being nearer the church, and 'more healthy' than Stoneferry, then described as 'a noxious place.' The Revd Bromby, vicar of Hull from 1762, remembered the ladies being carried on horseback from Stoneferry, seated behind the tenants of the college estate. The new college, a two-storey grey brick building, was extended to the east in a similar style, between the years 1840 and 1850.

*The Ladies of the College, outside the Church Room, c.1905*

Ann Watson's will suggests an astute, intelligent lady, meticulous in organisation. She left amongst her friends her plain gold ring, with a 'posie' or motto in it, her gold ring without a posie, her clothes of wool, linen and silk, and a pair of silver candlesticks.

The educational part of the charity was converted into a fund for school prizes and maintenance grants in 1889, when both British and National Schools were well established. The Charity still supports education work in the parish.

*Ann Watson's College, c.1905*

*Sampler worked by Sarah Jane Arksey of Gillshill cottage,  
who attended the College School in 1878*.30

**Notes on Chapter 4**

1 Keith Allison: *Victoria County History; A History of the East Riding*, p.473

2     Blashill, p. x

3     *Felbrigg Hall*: National Trust

4     Deeds - Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull

5     Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, York

6     R W Ketton-Cremer: *Felbrigg, the Story of a House*, p.50

7     *Felbrigg Hall*: National Trust

8     Ketton-Cremer: *Felbrigg*

9     Deeds - Brynmor Jones

10   Ibid

11   Blashill, p.156

12   Allison, VCH, p.472

13   Blashill, p.158

14   near Ann Watson Street

15   Blashill, p.166

16   Borthwick Institute

17  Baines' Directory of 1822: *'the seats have never been renewed, and are much corroded by time.'*

18   Balleine, p.128

19  Register of Burials

20   Allison, VCH, p.307

21 This monarch was well remembered by generations of schoolchildren in Sutton. Mary Salvidge recalls a skipping rhyme popular at the Council School in the 1920s:  
     "29th of May  
     Royal Oak Day  
     If you don't give us a holiday  
     We'll all run away."

22   Revd Bryan Dale: *Yorkshire Puritanism & Early Nonconformity*

23   Blashill

24   Balleine

25  Allison: VCH

26  Chamberlain Will

27  Sheahan & Whellan

28   Deduced from Tithe Map, Census Returns and Deeds of contiguous property

29   Ann Watson Will

1. From the original kindly given by Mary Salvidge

CHAPTER 5

###### Feast Days - Sutton before Enclosure Enclosure Award, 1768 - Sutton Mills - Charles Pool 18th Century Waghen - The Overseers' Book

Sutton held an annual Feast on the anniversary of the patron saint, St James, 25 July. This was possibly a survival of one of two fairs mentioned in 1548-9. It is likely that Miracle Plays were performed in the church in medieval times; it is recorded that in 1442, the Mayor and Aldermen of Hull were 'entertained by the Players' of Sutton.1 At Sutton Feast there were many stalls in the High Gate (now Church Street, under the chestnut trees), with swings, roundabouts and perhaps a canvas theatre.

On the Sunday nearest 25 July, a rough football match was played between the villagers of Sutton and Wawne. The men would gather on the boundary bridge, the Foredyke, the ball would be thrown up, and away would chase the men, all eager to get the ball home to the village. This caused serious accidents, and eventually the 'game' was abandoned locally, remaining so for a generation.

From at least the 17th century, an annual Fishery Feast was held on Midsummer Eve to celebrate the Corporation of Hull's right to fish in two of the Sutton Marrs known as the 'Fillings' and 'Old William's', near Castle Hill. It was a prestigious event. We can imagine a warm day on 21 June 1758 when the Mayor and some members of the Corporation come to Sutton in procession. The Mayor has a chaise and pair. The Town Clerk, the mace bearer, and three others, ride horses hired for them at 6d for the day. Toll is paid at the Summergangs turnpike; the toll-keeper makes out the bill for 1/5d.

When the party arrives in the Carr, where the road from Sutton crossed the Frier-dike (Foredyke), their horses are looked after by boys who earn 6d for their trouble. James Trowell, fisherman, is ready with four or five boats, and the men draw the nets so as to drive the fish to places where they can be taken out.

While the catch is being packed in baskets with cool leaves and despatched to the Inn at Sutton in readiness for the feast, the Aldermen look over their farm at Bransholm, idly listen to the complaints of their tenant, and then stroll on to the village.

Here the more serious business of the day begins. John Nicholson, who supplies refreshments at the Town Hall, has brought the necessary provisions: six and a half gallons of wine; three gallons of rum and brandy; half a dozen chickens; a stone of beef; and a quantity of lamb. To follow: 'tates and chisscakes.' These are only the extras, for the meal is a fish supper, for which seven pounds of butter is needed to fry it!

Matthew Leng, our innkeeper, presents his bill for ale and tobacco, and 10/6d for his 'trouble of house'. 'Four Weomen Waiting' are paid 2/-. 'Two Glasses Brock' today add 1/8d, to make a total of £4.14.2d. Our Matthew, who cannot write his name, makes his mark - X - to claim his expenses. No doubt the whole village would share in the Fishery Feast. Regretfully, it seems to have ceased at the time of Enclosure.

*The Fishery Feast Receipts of 1758 ; click to expand 2*

By the 17th century, improvements in drainage had opened up more acreage for crops and husbandry, the open-field land stretching along the ridge, and sloping down towards the meadows and carrs on north and south. As in most villages, there were three chief fields; East Field, North Carr, and West Carr or Carr Side Field. One of these would be growing a crop of wheat, another patches of barley, oats, beans and peas, and the third lying fallow. These fields were dotted with tofts and toftsteads.3 The better-quality pastures lay for the most part north of the ridge, including the area of Bransholm. The carrs, the wettest and lowest areas, were used as common wastes. Land-holders enjoyed rights of two kinds:

a) 'Commons' applied to the fields, commonable meadows and wastes. In 1642 a land-common was fixed at three beast-gates, and a house-common at two-and-a-half. Each beast-gate entitled the owner to turn out one 'great mouth' (e.g. cow, ox) or four calves, or four ewe and lamb couples, or five wethers (male sheep). Two beast-gates were needed for a horse to graze.

b) 'Beast-gate' - applied to the better-quality meadows and pastures. These entitled great mouths to be turned into North lands, Bransholm, East Carr, and the Salts4 (now Wilberforce College area).

The difficulty was that no man's land lay together; in 1613, for example, Nicholas Cooke had land in Stoneferry, 'an acre of medowe in the Yngs of Sutton, four acres of medowe lying in the East end of the same Yngs, a sixth part of ground called Castle ringe, a sixth part of ground called Castle Hill, lying in Bransholme, a sixth part of ground called Hallcoate Walls and four beastgates in Bransholme all in the Lordship of Sutton.'5

From the church tower, say, the whole area surrounding the ridge would look like a level plain, without a fence or house. Beyond the ridge, there remained extensive marshes and carrs, and also, looking towards Swine, large pools such as Sutton Marr. The memory of these watery lands survive in present-day names like Bransholme (Braunceholm, Branzceholm, etc), an old Scandinavian word meaning 'Brand's water-meadow'; Riseholm (Risholm) meaning 'water-meadow overgrown with brushwood'; and Soffham (Sefholm) - 'the meadow overgrown with sedge.'

Because of the inconvenience of farming separate pieces of land scattered over the ings and carrs and tillage fields, the farmers would live crowded together in Sutton village, or on the slopping ridge. Two examples of simple, pre-Enclosure farmsteads still exist in Lowgate.

*Jessamine Cottage c1913* 6

There would be a shop and one or two ale-houses, probably on the same site as the present *Ship* and *Duke of York*.7 There were a few cottages occupied by the village tradesmen - blacksmith, wheelwright, tailor, weaver, shoemaker, some of whom also owned farm land. In 1639 Robert Langdale, the carpenter, had four beast-gates in Sutton.8

*Map of Medieval Sutton and surrounding area, after Blashill*

Despite improved drainage and embankment, the parish was still flooded from time to time, and sometimes footways were impassable. In 1764, from January to April, the whole of the land between Bilton and Hull were flooded, and travel by boat was the only option. New drains would have to be cut; this work coincided with Enclosure.

*Tate's Drainage Plan of 1764*

The Enclosure Award of 5 January 1768 shows evidence of great care and judgment in allotting to each owner the land that lay most conveniently regarding his farmsteads and ancient enclosures, though the owner could exchange small pieces of land if he chose.

The Award also dealt with public and private highways, and footways, and with the drains. The public roads were staked out practically on the lines of the old highways, straightening the irregularities that had been produced by the traffic of centuries. The Map shows the familiar roads we know today - Tween Dikes, Ings Road, Waghen Road, Castle Hill Road, Lowgate, High Street. By the side of every highway a footway ran over the lands of the owners, so that the person on foot was separated by hedge and ditch from the roads used by vehicles and cattle. Every allotment had to be enclosed with hedge and ditch. The landowner had to provide gates, stiles and planked bridges where the paths crossed the boundaries between their fields. Many labourers were employed to build farmsteads on the new areas of land. The ancient water-courses, now called public drains, were also adopted by the commissioners, and the new drains cut.

*Enclosure Map of Sutton, and Allotments - 1768*

The tenant farmer could now live and work on his land, and manage it as he liked. He could enrich his ground for cattle. Root crops and green crops could be introduced. The improved  tillage could be used for wheat, in view of rising costs. Enclosure made farming much more convenient and economical, and land more valuable, and not many folk in Sutton lost the right to graze an animal or two, as happened elsewhere.

In a few years, the view from the church tower would be very different. Directly below stood the poorhouse, erected in 1757, and reliant on the church for its beneficence. Inside, a man and his wife, known for their 'sobriety and industry', taught the poor to spin wool. Some would take up employment in the cotton and flax mills on the river bank at Stoneferry, or in the oil mills, bleaching houses and timber yards, and so would escape to 'normality', though before the '10-Hour Day' Act, life was hard. Others were not so lucky, for the poorhouse had an extension built in 1814. In 1826 Mrs Dunderdale was 'governess' of the Sutton house. The curriculum is not recorded, but by virtue of the Poor Law Commission of 1835, children of the workhouses were taught reading, writing, religion and other 'fitting' instruction, for three hours a day.9

The early post-Enclosure farms include Castle Hill, allotted to Thomas Broadley; Low Bransholme occupied by Benjamin Blaydes, Junior; Soffham, left to Charles Pool; and High Bransholme, Lamwath, and Salts House.

A little way down Wawne Road10 the corn mill on Windmill Hill dominated the landscape. This was built in 1715 by William Munby, to replace the Munbys' original mill in the village. The area being largely agricultural, the mill served the farmers well, cleaning, preparing, grinding and dressing corn and flour. Originally of four sails, the mill appears to have five by 1803,11 and was raised to seven floors, with a gallery above the third floor.

*Sutton Mill*

Steam machinery was added, and the land included three cottages and stabling for four horses. Evidently tracks ran round the side and round to the landing bays (these were later converted into cottages, now known as *Woodbine Cottages*). Mrs Guy, who lived in one in the 1960s, recalls the cellar at the back, where people had to stoop to enter the doorway. It would seem that the rulleys bringing the corn would offshoot the load into the landing bay. The Guys unearthed large pieces of mill stone and iron. Three mill cottages (now *Ivy Cottages*) stand on the other side of Wawne Road, which is unexpected, but originally the footway to Wawne ran *behind* the mill,12 so the cottages were close to the mill. These cottages were built in 1853, number 1 being larger than the others, so was occupied by the foreman; it has two bedrooms. Number 2 is smaller, and number 3 smaller still. The coalhouse and toilets were in the backyard, and, as was often the custom, the gardens still lie *across* the frontage of the cottages, number 3 being nearest the dwellings.13 A path ran round the back, which could suggest a lane where perhaps a few mill workers lived. The mid 18th century Census records list people living in 'Mill Lane'.

*The Robinson family of Ivy Cottages, c1914*

Disastrously, on the afternoon of Monday, 21 April, 1884, smoke filled the skies for miles around - a fire had broken out in the neck of the mill. The men working there tried to put out the fire with hand buckets, but by the time a horse-drawn fire engine from Hull arrived, it was too late and the mill was completely destroyed.

One of these men who fought so bravely was William Goodin, aged 34, whose back was terribly scarred with burns. He never had a regular job again, but worked occasionally, as in the photograph, on one of the Bransholme farms. According to his granddaughter,14 who lived next door in Rutland Terrace: 'my grandfather was a lovely man, always cheerful, good-tempered. I can remember he walked very painfully with the aid of two sticks. Despite this, he walked to Wesleyan Chapel every Sunday morning, hail, rain or snow. When he could no longer work, his son built him a little place in the back garden, the 'shop' as we called it, and he set up as a cobbler, repairing boots and shoes. He sat at his bench all day, and had a chair where old friends would come and talk to him . . . '

*William Goodin*

The miller at the time of the fire was George Brownbridge Barker (1831-1910). He lived in Chesney House next to the mill (now Barton House). His grandson, George Ronald Barker, attended Sutton School.

*George - 2nd row, 2nd rt. Mr Topham headmaster, c.1898*

G B Barker had a daughter, Emily Annie, who lived at Chesney House until her father died, and later moved to 'Highgate', the house opposite (now a Dentist's surgery). She owned the house and the three mill cottages until 1918. Miss Barker is remembered as being small and stout, with strong features and short, white hair. She was organist of the Wesleyan chapel, and gave music lessons; Robert Beckett paid 6d per lesson in the 1920s, travelling from Skirlaugh by train.15 Emily Barker died in 1939.16

#### F.C. Scott

There were other mills in Sutton in the late 18th century. The Deeds of *The Olives*, later *The Hollies*, and *now Greenacre*, in Saltshouse Road, show that before this listed house was built in around 1810, a brick windmill occupied the site. This was probably the mill which somehow killed Jenny Farthing, spinster, in 1783.17

*The Hollies* was the home of Frederick Arthur Scott, of solicitors  Scott & Cooper, from 1879 until 1925. His father was the architect Sir G. G. Scott, who was responsible for restoring St Mary's Church, Lowgate, between 1861 and 1863. Frederick Scott was President of the Reading Room and a churchwarden.

Further down Saltshouse Road stood another mill. This belonged to Charles Pool, who had his house at East Mount, on the site of the Princess Royal hospital. In 1778 he built himself a Drainage Mill worked by sails to drain his land. He was by then a very influential man, a merchant, and Mayor and Sheriff of Hull for several years. His grandfather was Hugh Mason, the owner of the rectory and tithes, who settled some of his land and tithes on Charles in 1736. (The poet William Mason, was Charles' cousin.) As noted on his monument in Sutton Church, Charles Pool worked tirelessly against 'the prejudices of ages' towards enclosing the land. By the award of 1768 he was 'owner of all the tithes', together with the tithe farmstead (*Enclosure, allotment, 138*).

*Memorial Tablet to Charles Pool   
(he never spelt his name with an 'e')*

As impropriators of the church, he and Mary Mason had, in 1763, organised a full-scale repair of the chancel roof, selling the lead and re-roofing with slate. Later, Pool gave the pinnacles for the tower, which, together with the south wall, was covered with pebble-dash. The churchyard was extended.

Charles Pool held several properties in the parish, including a brick house, with barn, stable and garth, on the site of Highfield, next to Godolphin Hall, left to him in 1769 by Jane Wilkinson (*Enclosure, allotment 100*), and a further 76 acres of tillage. He also owned the farm of Soffham, which he called 'Weston Farm', but the original name prevailed. It was advertised for sale in 1787 when the proximity of Sutton drain was said to be advantageous, and, indeed, Blashill writes that there were times 'when the best teams could not draw a load of corn through the mire from the farmstead to the road.' Charles Pool died in 1798, and R.C. Broadley bought Soffham, adding to his already substantial lands.

During the 18th century the incumbent could be responsible for several livings, and thus might not visit for months - 'for a quarter of a century the village never saw its vicar, except on one occasion . . . '18

In 1740 the incumbent of Wawne, Steven Metcalf, was rejected for 'ignorance in divinity'. From that year until 1789 Arthur Robinson, Vicar of Holy Trinity, served as incumbent of our parish, employing a curate for Wawne, Sutton and Marfleet. Robinson paid his curate, Joseph Dawson, £45 a year, which even Archbishop Drummond thought sparse. He upset Dawson still further by endeavouring to persuade him to live in Wawne, but the curate protested that the dwelling was 'a wretched abode', let to two labourers who could offer him 'neither diet nor lodging', and as for Wawne itself - there was 'no entertainment in the town.'19 Dawson suspected that Robinson really wanted him out, for as the Archbishop sharply remarked, 'Dawson is a dissenter.'

Wawne's history as monastic land probably led to early enclosure, as the land would have been used as farms worked by the lay-brothers and later, hired workers. The open fields around the village were enclosed by private agreement by Sir Joseph Ashe in the late 17th century. The hearth tax returns of 1667 record Thomas Grantham's house as having 16 hearths - a messuage, then, of considerable size with perhaps 10 or 12 rooms. Later, the Beharell family are seen as well-to-do.20 Archbishop Herring's Visitation of 1743 show just 43 families in Wawne at that time, with about 30 children attending school.

The Overseers' Book began in 1760, so it is possible that the Poor House was built about that time.21 The building was thatched, and must have been fairly large, for it took a certain George Hall nine days to thatch it. An entry for 1770 is detailed: William Heart agrees to take on as servant an 11 year old orphan girl, Elizabeth Pharoh, and she is allocated these items of clothing; shoes, stays, aprons, pettycoats, pattons, stocking, 2 coats, 2 shifts, cloak, 6 caps, hat, and handkerchiefs.22   Sadly, Elizabeth died after only a few months.

Payments were made for the upkeep of the poor and for the poorhouse by wealthier villagers, especially in times of need; for a midwife; for the doctor; 'for taking Hanna to Cherreburton'; for a chair for the workhouse; and for burying. 'Old William' was certainly looked after well; he was given a handkerchief; tobacco, a quart of black beer; a quart of gin; mutton and beef; a pound of brimston; and, finally, 6d for washing himself!

The arm of the law made its presence felt; as in most villages, Wawne had its stocks in the 18th century, and the constable would frequently use them for miscreants.

Entries in the accounts of Richard Consitt of Waghen and Robert Wise of Meaux, churchwardens, in the latter half of the 18th century, include 7s 4d. to Bricklayer and Laurence for Laying School Floor; 4s 0d for Dog Whipping;23 2d for Oil for Clock; 1s to Wm Biby for Cutting Weeds; 1s. to School-master for Cleaning Steple; 9d. for a Base for the Pulpit.

The new incumbent of St Peter's, George Thompson, BA., arriving in 1789, was quick to introduce the latest ideas in church music; there are references to 'Fidelstrings'; to rosin and bows needing re-hairing; to Sutton Singers; and the grand sum of £1.13s 6d for the Singing Master, probably an itinerant man eager to teach the new hymns. Possibly this fresh approach to worship staved off the Methodists for a while longer! Two Methodist meeting houses had already been established in Sutton by this time, but Wawne was to wait more than another three decades before farmers Christopher Nicholson of Wawne, and William Smith of Meaux, registered their barns for worship - in 1822 and 1823 respectively.

*St Peter's Church, Wawne*

##### Notes on Chapter 5

1      Blashill, p.131

2     Documents in Hull City Archives reproduced by permission of Hull City Council:   
BRF6/800; BRF6/709; BRF6/797

3     Ibid, p.223

4      Allison: VCH

5      Hull City Archives

6      Thanks to Mr/s Fairbank

7      Both pubs feature old brickwork, and a splendid well lies beneath the snooker table in The Ship - formerly the back yard.

8     Hull City Archives

9      *Peter Railton: Hull Schools in Victorian Times*

10     Now the corner of Noddle Hill Way

11     Skidby Mill Archives

12     Blashill

13     Thanks to Mr/s Alexander

14     Beryl McGough (née Rowntree), now 87 but still working as a journalist in Adelaide, Australia, to whom I am indebted for much information and many anecdotes.

15     Doris Kirby (née Beckett)

16     Thanks to great-great-grandson of G B Barker, Peter Cook of Leeds, for details of the family.

17     Register of Burials

18     Balleine, p.186

19     Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, York

20    Mary Carrick, of Wawne, records several people of means living in the village in the 17th and early 18th centuries; and suggests that the population in 1671 may be as many as 410.

21     On the 1853 OS map, the Poorhouse is about 100 metres past Meaux Bridge on the right-hand side.

22     Churchwardens' accounts, E.R. Archives and Records Service.

1. Dogs in church were seen to be a nuisance. As well as this duty, the Dog Whipper also had the job of waking up the parishioners who fell asleep during the sermon. Occasionally, people would leave money in their wills to the Dog Whipper, so that he would be even more diligent in keeping the congregation awake!

###### CHAPTER 6

**The Large Residences**

**Wincolmlea and the Bell family**

**Church pews; a case in Chancery**

**Memories of Sutton & the church**

**in the first half of the 19th century**

**The Vicars; changes in worship**

**Early Methodism in Sutton & Wawne**

**Sutton House & the Liddells**

**The Priestmans of East Mount**

**Bellefield - Tilworth Grange**

**Sutton Grange - Sutton Hall**

There were about 110 families in Sutton parish in 1764. The newly-enclosed land gave Hull businessmen a chance to build themselves a country residence. Hull was grimy and unhealthy. Sutton, though, sited on comparatively high ground, provided fresh air, and numerous freehold and copyhold plots to buy and build and re-build - and was not too far to travel.

Thomas Mowld, former sheriff and mayor of Hull, and a wealthy merchant, was already a familiar name in Sutton, for he owned several properties (*cf. Plan of Enclosure*). By 1778 he had built a house on his land in Lowgate, now occupied by *Beech Lawn* and *The Elms*. It was known as *Wincolmlea House*.

*Wincomlea House*

After Mr Mowld died c1779, *Wincolmlea* was inhabited from time to time by John Graham-Clarke of Newcastle, whose daughter Mary was married to Mr Barrett. They became the parents of the poet Elizabeth Barrett-Browning.1

By 1791, Robert (1745-1821) and Elizabeth Bell (1761-1794) were the residents of *Wincolmlea*, Robert being established in Hull as a spermaceti candle manufacturer, and a shipowner. His wife Elizabeth bore five children, but died aged 33. Robert's grandson, George, writing in old age about his grandfather, recalls, "It was his habit on going to Church to delight the village boys with copper as he passed them. He was a thorough Churchman, not High Church. If the sermon was too long he had a quiet but effectual way of shortening it. He would open his watch and when it had clicked, return it to his pocket and the sermon ended."2 (If this sounds to us somewhat high-handed, everyone had their place in the echelons of society, and we are later told that the vicar 'ate heartily' when invited to dinner!)

The seat stall or pew which the Bell family rented was at the south-east of the church. Sutton adopted an unusual custom of allotting church pews to each messuage and farmhouse. At the beginning of the 19th century, when the Revd George Thompson was curate, a curious case came to Chancery. The seat marked number 5 was once allotted to William Munby and his family (*Enclosure, allotment, 116*). He had the letters WM printed on a board, which he fixed to the pillar of the church where his seat was. When he died, the pew passed to his son, Benjamin, who owned two messuages, and made sure that the board read 'BM'. He "permitted his servant John Drury to occupy the Small Seat, and he and his family sat in the Pew in this Cause."3  When Benjamin Munby and his wife died, and Thomas Ross occupied the house in High Street, he expected to sit in the seat allotted to his home (especially as he was now churchwarden!), but this was now occupied by Thomas Barnby because Ross sat elsewhere in the church in a pew belonging to another of his properties! In his own defence, Ross stated that as his family was too large and the seat small, he often asked Mrs Munby if his two daughters may sit in her pew, "always apologising to the said Mrs Munby for the intrusion." Thomas Barnby had also managed to have six children, and although he too owned further properties, he allowed his tenants' families to sit in the church pews allotted to those houses. Having bought a property of Mr Munby's, he was entitled to sit in his pew. This case dragged on for some years, and unfortunately the outcome is not recorded. Maybe the officials were confused . . .

The thatched cottage in the grounds of *Wincolmlea*, of late 17th/early 18th century, was probably inhabited by a worker on the estate. It stands just behind the village stocks, situated on the footway outside the grounds of the mansion.

*Cottage & Stocks* 4 *from a painting of c1810*

By the time he died, Robert's eldest grandchild, Harriet, had succumbed to the 'Hooping Cough'. His daughter-in-law also, of delicate health, died at 23, her monument in Sutton church, even today, expressing her husband's anguish. Robert's memorial tablet tells of an upright, considerate, generous man - "that noblest work of God."

His second son, Thomas (1786-1851), succeeded to the business and *Wincolmlea*. Before he inherited, he was a Captain of the Militia, who would drill his men in the parish church, as the only building large enough for the purpose. In June 1815 he had trouble getting leave to cross the Channel, and arrived on the field of Waterloo the day after the Battle was fought.

*Portrait of Thomas Bell*

Like his father, Thomas Bell was a hospitable man.  When the Archbishop arrived in October 1829 to consecrate additional burial ground, it was Mr Bell who invited him to breakfast. Thomas married Mary Goodwin in that year, but again, she died at the age of 32, leaving five children under eight years. Their son George (1833-1924), later a vicar, recalls his boyhood in Sutton:5

"My earliest recollection is walking hand in hand with my father to see the village festivities on the day Queen Victoria was crowned.  I was then four years of age. We went to school, as we became old enough, first to a small school in the village kept by an old lady, and then, when we were old enough, away to a boarding school.

"Our 'mansion house' was delightfully situated surrounded by gardens and fields ... and occupied a large portion of the village. Our gardens and grounds were so large that we always had exercise enough and occupation, as children, in them without caring for walks outside. As it was only three miles from Hull, the business was very accessible. No railway ran through it, as now. What we called Gigs then were in great use. Every summer we were driven to Hornsea in the phaeton for the day. Sutton was then well out of the smoke and noise. My father used to drive to Hull and back every day to his business . . . and sometimes we were taken on board my father's ship.6

*Sutton church, as Thomas Bell would have known it;*

*note the 'three decker' box pews and galleries*

"At Sutton there is a fine old Parish Church at which we were regular attenders, my father taking us morning and afternoon. There was a 'three-decker' of course, and the Clerk gave out the hymns with the preface, 'Let us sing to the honour and glory of God.' The organ was worked by a handle and the singers stood round it.7  At that time there were high pews.  Our family pew was rather singular, situated at the east end of the south aisle and facing the congregation on its right and left in that aisle. It was curtained and cushioned.8 There was a book box on which we were sometimes lifted when very young, to see and be seen.

"The services were old-fashioned, the chief ritual being the Vicar's walk from the Vestry at the west end to the reading desk and pulpit twice each service, the second time being the change of the surplice for the black gown. The last one I knew was regarded as High Church after he took his M.A. at Oxford and walked to Church in Gown and Hood. He prepared me for Confirmation. My brother and I went to his house and I believe passed well in the Catechism. The Vicar's name was Eldridge. My father never got over the Red Hood."

#### Drawing of Bell's land for sale in lots, c.1852

Some of Thomas's letters to his children survive.  They are lively and full of anecdotes of Sutton and the villagers, of the gardens and vineries.9  He expresses his dismay at Tommy North's death in 1847, and his delight at the visit of young Lee Smith. He writes of his outrage that the Revd Walton married three times - "What a lucky thing it will be to get rid of such a miscreant! Poor dear old Sutton has been disgraced ... "

*Tithe Award for Sutton, plan 1851, showing extent of Thomas Bell's land; that of Revd Nicholas Walton; and others in the text : click the mapkey link below for list*

Thomas Bell died suddenly in August 1851. He was laid to rest in his beloved church of Sutton with his wife and parents, in the vestry.  His sons were still 'under age' and following disputes over the will, the considerable property in Sutton and Stoneferry was fragmented, and the family split up.

Monuments and tablets of the Bell family can be found in the south-west corner of St James' church, the site of the vestry at the time.

Thomas and George Bell would have known the Revd George John Davies, the last vicar to be buried in a vault in the chancel, in 1839, alongside his wife and daughter, who had died in 1826, aged 25.10   At that time a fixed sum was charged for burial in the churchyard, with a higher charge for a nave, and still higher for a chancel, interment.

Revd Davies' successor, he who had so horrified Thomas Bell by his 'numerous' marriages, was Nicholas Walton. A landowner, he lived in Sutton, at some time in *Mona House*,11 which probably belonged to an uncle, Nicholas Walton, from 1801. Revd Nicholas' wife, Margaret, died in November 1840, aged 30, and he married Sophia Green two years later. They had a daughter, Augusta. He became the subject of journalistic scorn in 1842 in an article entitled 'Can These Things Be?'

*"A correspondent informs us that, a few days ago, he saw an interment take place in the churchyard of Sutton, in the absence of the clergyman, and without the usual burial service being read.  The reverend gentleman who holds the living, it is added, was, at the time, adjourning for the benefit of the sea air, at Hornsea, and the relatives of the deceased being poor, could not command his services - services, however, which the same reverend gentleman deemed it his duty to ride from Hornsea to his own parish church to perform on the previous day, on the interment of an individual who had been blest with a tolerable share of the world's wealth. Can we wonder at the progress of dissent and the waning influence of Mother Church, when the feelings of the poor are thus trifled with and outraged?"* 12

Walton did see the daughter church of St Mark-in-the-Groves erected in his time, in 1843, but when he married for the third time, he felt it wise to leave Sutton. He resigned the living in 1847, and, letting his properties, moved to the more tolerant south.

The High Church man, John Adams Eldridge, was the first of a new breed of churchmen graduating from the universities. He brought formality to the services with his processions from the vestry, and an emphasis on conducting procedures from the east end. Formerly, the congregation stood up to 'face the music' at the west end, but now the organ and choir were moving to help lead the services from the front.13  Blashill notes that 'perfect decorum' reigned. As soon as the first lesson began, the churchwardens 'gravely left the church' to search the public-houses for stragglers - no doubt a survival of their historic duties.

The Census of Places of Worship instigated by Lord Palmerston to monitor church attendance in 1851, prompted the response from Eldridge, "The space available for public worship is only sufficient for 75 families in consequence of the very objectionable arrangements of pews." The congregation numbered 240 in the morning, and 230 that evening.

Baptisms took place in private homes, as part of the family party, and marriage services were short.

Churchwardens William Rodmell and John Cowl brought a successful case against John Harris for non-payment of church rate in 1849.14  Revd Eldridge was keen on education, too, and by 1851 was running a school in the property he rented opposite the college.15 This was probably where the National School (Church of England) functioned for its first ten years, being founded in 1849, and moving to High Street in 1859.

By this time, Methodism was firmly established in Sutton.  Three meeting-houses had been registered by 1800. The first chapel was built in 1909 where the Reading Room now stands, and which incorporates some of the early building, for the rounded windows can still be discerned inside. The number of sittings in the chapel were about 158.16

This Wesleyan chapel was re-built in 1859 at the top of Potterill Lane, and a school for 140 children erected.

*Wesleyan chapel early 1900s*

The Primitive Methodists opened a chapel in 1832 in Back Street (Chamberlain Street) behind the house of builder George Cowle, to the west of Sutton Trod. He rented his house to the leader of the Primitives, James Carrack (boot & shoemaker), who ran a school c1851,17 possibly in connection with the chapel.

*Photo of 1870, showing single-storey cottage,*

*home of George Cowl, builder, on right of lamppost*

The Primitives re-built their church on the site of Providence Cottages in 1855, but sold to the Salvation Army in 1876.18   Builder Frederick Sewell inspired villagers to re-build again in that year, the building now used as a Masonic Hall.

*Fred Sewell, Sutton builder*

*Primitive Methodist Chapel, early 1900s, built 1876*

*Band of Hope, John Albert Hakeney, 1879*

Meanwhile in Meaux, a chapel was founded in 1823 next to the Poorhouse on the north-east of Meaux Bridge. It was used by Independents and Methodists, and appears on the 1853 OS map as 'Bethel Chapel - Methodist New Connexion.'

It is likely that this chapel was demolished in 1860 when the Primitive Methodist Chapel was opened in Wawne, in a farm lane. W G S Windham gave the land, and a working committee quickly collected subscriptions enabling the building to go ahead. The builder was George Calvert of Wawne. So many people gathered at the opening on 2 July 1860 that the chapel was not large enough for half the number, and the services and tea took place in Thomas Suddaby's barn at Glebe Farm. The church cost £100, and seated 70 people. In its first year worshippers paid 9d rent per seat.

Neighbours of the Bell family, and equally important in Sutton, were the Liddells. George William Moore Liddell (1772-1851), an eminent Hull banker, bought from Richard Howard the property at the top of Ings Road, in 1804. At the enclosure, the land had been awarded to George Petty. *Sutton House* is a large and handsome mansion, the grounds of which were more than 51 acres at the turn of the 20th century.

*Sutton House c1905 (photograph by Wilson Labourn Smith)*

George and his wife Dorothy (1781-1830) had six children, though one, George Moore, died in infancy. The three remaining sons, George William Moore, William and Charles, were all to become bankers like their father.

George senior was in partnership with the eminent banker Joseph Pease, their bank, Pease & Liddell, being situated on the corner of Parliament Street in Whitefriargate.19 They also administered a Beverley associate, Machell Pease & Liddell. Joseph Robinson Pease (1789-1866) retained letters from his correspondence, including those from George Liddell dating from 1811 to 1851, which provide us with interesting aspects of their business and personalities.20

7 .4. 1818 - on the occasion of Pease's marriage:

*Believe me, my dear Sir, it is with infinite pleasure I congratulate you and your beloved partner, on your happy union this day. That you may enjoy every Blessing and comfort this world can give through a long and happy life, is the ardent and sincere wish of . . . my Dear Sir, your ever devoted friend-   
G Liddell*

2 . 5. 1833 - *I forgot to thank you in my last, for a beautiful Gig, which arrived at Sutton about 10 days ago - GL.*

George's wife, Dorothy, died in June 1830, and his daughter, Mary, aged 33, in 1838:

*It has pleased the Almighty to take my dearly beloved Daughter from me this morning leaving us under the greatest affliction, we must however rest our hope upon that gracious Jesus who supported my afflicted Child in her last moments.*

Monumental inscriptions are full of early deaths, many from no apparent cause. In Sutton as in many places, those who survived bore the marks of some disease or other. In 1833, the small pox afflicted the Liddell family:

*I have had rather a sick house for some time past - about six weeks ago my son William took the Small Pox (although children were vaccinated for Cow Pox when infants). I immediately had all the others vaccinated for Cow Pox, which was most fortunate, for if I had not, I have no doubt but George would have had them as bad as his brother, but he only had two or three days' fever, & had not more than about fifty Pocks upon his face, and got into the Bank again after about fifteen days. William poor lad is yet a prisoner; he is quite well in Health but sadly disfigured on his face.*

George himself had a lucky escape in 1814. It was his custom to return from his bank in the city along Sutton Trod. On 24 February, about 7 o'- clock, an Irishman, James Forbes by name, lay in wait for him at a place on the footpath, between tillage fields, just beyond the railway crossing on Chamberlain Road. Forbes was hoping his intended victim would be laden with money from his business.

However, instead of Mr Liddell, the unfortunate walker turned out to be John Taylor, a farmer of 62 years, from Soffham Farm (Broadley's tenant). Forbes sprang out of the hedge and fired a pistol into his side. Although a well-built man, John Taylor was overcome, and had seized from him thirty pounds in notes and gold, but not before he had heard his assailant exclaim that he had mistaken him for Mr Liddell.

Mr Taylor managed to struggle to his son's house in Sutton, and a day or two later, identified James Forbes, brought to his bedside, as his attacker. Sadly, John Taylor died after lingering a week, and when the case was brought to court at York a month later, Forbes was acquitted, there being no witness to identify him. The footpads were notorious in those days for businessmen and farmers who might be carrying money. In this case, what was a fatal attack for John Taylor, was a lucky escape for the banker, George Liddell.21

George Liddell was passionately interested in the new railways, and was a director of the Hull and Selby line. He helped raise £20,000 for the railways in 1833.

After he died in 1851, the same year as Thomas Bell, the estate passed to his son, also George William Moor. He had married Georgiana and they had five children. The eldest boy, another George William Moor, died after a few days. Three daughters followed and a son, George William, born 1867. The latter was only six when his father died in 1873, but the family lived on in *Sutton House* under the eye of Georgiana. Just as he reached the age of maturity, George William died. His mother died shortly afterwards, and the three daughters left Sutton.  By 1890 the house was empty and the estate up for sale in Lots. Although the Liddell family vanished from Sutton, the name lives on in the gifts they bestowed on Sutton church: the west and east windows; three bells; the lectern - and the wall tablets. Sutton Street and Wawne Street off Spring Bank, laid out in 1867 on George Liddell's land, are so named because of his property in Sutton and Wawne.

*Part of Notice of Sale Sutton House 1890*

Another influential businessman to build his mansion in Sutton was Thomas Priestman, a Quaker who attended the Friends' Meeting House in Lowgate, Hull. Together with Edward Rheam, he bought *East Mount* from the Pool family, and Priestman, newly widowed, built a new house there c1813.22 He was in business as a merchant and currier.23

It was still wet in the area, for Isabel Richardson, who kept house for her cousin Thomas would walk to his house in patens "to keep her feet out of the water, so abundant in this locality." Thomas married Esther Tuke in 1817. Having no children, the house was inherited in 1844 by Priestman's nephew, Samuel (1800-1872). He had two children by a first marriage, but after Rachel died, he married Mary Ann Dent, and they had ten children.

The children were taught by governesses who, before the Hornsea line opened, walked from Hull. They would attend the Meeting House on Sundays, some walking, some going in the carriage. Sunday afternoons might be spent rambling along the Drain side with the dogs. On holidays, like the Bells, the family would travel in a phaeton in the 1840s. A distance of 35 miles to relatives in Settrington would mean crossing Wawne ferry, changing horses at Bainton, and staying overnight before returning. Again, the event of the year was the trip to Hornsea, so fondly remembered by George Bell.

<./photos/c-6-_14.gif>

Samuel Priestman, too, was involved with the new railways, and was a director of the Hull & Holderness Company. When it merged with the NE Railway, Samuel joined the Board. When he died in 1872, his obituary read, "an eminently representative man  . . . with great business ability and kindness of heart." The mourning carriages for his family were followed to the cemetery by about forty conveyances ranging from a brougham to a farmer's cart.24 Mary Ann, a kind and dignified lady, lived on at *East Mount* (later Princess Royal Hospital)until she died in 1899.

Several other houses, with extensive grounds, had also been built in Sutton by the early part of the 19th century:

*Bellefield House*

*(picture from 'Contemporary Biographies; Scott)*

*Bellefield House :* The site off the Sutton to Bilton Road, once part of Pool's estate, was bought in 1814 by John Hipsley, junior, a draper of Hull, and he built the house. Around 1839/40 our friend the Revd Nicholas Walton occupied the dwelling, and he was followed by Hull merchant, Thomas Horncastle. Benjamin Pickering owned the house by 1871. He had it 'enlarged and beautified' in the late 19th century. At this time, a tower, conservatory, billiard room and music room complete with 'magnificent organ' were added. Mr Pickering, JP, lived to be the oldest inhabitant of Sutton when he met Her Royal Highness Princess Mary on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the Sutton annexe of the Infirmary. *Bellefield* was demolished around 1965.

#### Benjamin Pickering, JP

*Tom Hodgson, coachman to B Pickering of Bellefield; horse-drawn Canoe Landau c1898*

*Sutton annexe, or Princess Royal Hospital*

*Tilworth Grange :*  the site25 was bought by Henry Casson, who built the house which passed to Nicholas Sykes and then Benjamin Ross. By 1831 Richard Harrison, a Hull merchant, occupied the house, and that year it was valued with a view to sale by a Mr Witty, who reported: *"I have visited Tilworth Grange and found the house and other buildings in a bad state of repair ... the land likewise is in an exhausted, slovenly state, and the fences out of repair.*"26

Edward Spence bought the residence for £1,700 in 1832.  He was a 44-year-old widower, and Hull iron merchant. According to the 1841 census, he then had four servants. His daughter, Ellen, left the interest of £1,000 to be distributed by the incumbent, "as he may think fit", in 1880.

Herbert Whittle was the next occupier, followed by Allen Jackson, solicitor; and then Joseph Winkley, Hull merchant, became resident, remaining until c1905.

#### The original Tilworth Grange, 1904

By 1910, it was occupied by John Wilson. The house was demolished that year, and the present house built on the site by the Powell family, co-founders of Messrs Hammond's Ltd.

In 1921, *Tilworth Grange* was purchased for £6,500 by Hull Corporation, and became the first hospital for the care of the mentally handicapped in the city, opening on 6 July, 1921. Recently, in line with government policy, the learning disabled residents have moved elsewhere into private homes, and the old mansion house and grounds, so well tended by Alan Bolton for many years, are up for sale.

*Sutton Grange :*  built by 1816 by the owner, George Alder, Hull merchant. The family held it until 1857, but Joseph Rylands, Hull flax and cotton mill manager, lived there in the 1840s. By 1863 John Raspin Ringrose, Hull ship owner, occupied the house, and kept six servants, according to the 1871 census.

The Notice of Sale in 1890 of *Sutton House*, other properties and land of George Liddell, shows that *Sutton Grange* was one of his properties. The estate was sold for £4,100, about £117 per acre, the land comprising 35 acres. It is possible that Mr Ringrose bought the residence, as he remained living there.  After he died in 1905, at the age of 82, his widow, Amelia, remained in residence for some years.

*Sutton Grange, c1905*

By 1915 Thomas Margison owned the house. After his death, in 1920, new choir stalls and a reading desk were installed in the church in his memory.

That year, Alexander Alec Smith moved into *Sutton Grange*, and his daughter, Diana, was born there in 1920. When the family moved to *Waghen Lodge* in 1923, *Sutton Grange* was occupied by George Dawson.

In 1951 the house was acquired by Hull Corporation, converted into a home for elderly men and renamed *Dunbar House*. Corporation houses were built on the land. After the Home closed, the house was boarded up for some years, but it retains some of the original features such as the staircase, and is 'listed'. Recently, vetinery surgeon, Mr Arthur Loddo, moved his practice from the village to *Sutton Grange.*

*Sutton Hall :* 27 the site was bought in 1804 by Henry Bedford, a Hull banker, who built the house, and it passed to Thomas Holderness, Hull merchant, in 1836. He died in 1857, having survived all three of his children; the family vault lies in the churchyard.

By 1871 Carl Brackman, Hull corn merchant, occupied *Sutton Hall*, and he altered and extended the white brick villa.

*Frontage of Sutton Hall early 1900s (the rear faces Wawne Road)*

It was sold to David Haughton in 1887, together with some 18 acres of land fronting the Sutton and Stoneferry Road (Leads Road). Typical of these houses, it was described as having a dining-room; drawing-room; library; morning-room; study; billiard room; numerous bed and dressing rooms; bathroom; butler's pantry; two large kitchens 'with a range of convenient domestic offices adjoining, and capital cellars in the basement.' Also within the terms of sale were the fine block of stabling fronting Wawne Road, comprising four stalls and three boxes, large carriage-house, harness-room, hay and corn chambers; piggery; and a poultry-yard.

The grounds contained shrubs and ornamental timber; two productive kitchen gardens with an abundance of fruit trees; a vinery; greenhouse; melon and cucumber houses and forcing pits; and a paddock of more than seven acres.

By 1906 Colonel Fawcett Pudsey, JP, owned *Sutton Hall.* His wife and daughters lived on in the mansion after he died in 1915, Miss Pudsey remaining until about 1940. Around this time, the residence became known as *Netherhall*.  Mr Chris Marris occupied it until c1948, and kept several horses in the stables. The Cummings family then bought *Netherhall*,28 and in June 1955 let part of the land, rent free, to Sutton Cricket Club, in memory of their son who had died prematurely. The gift was intended to extend for a period of 25 years, but Mr Cummings, having moved to Harrogate, died two years later; and the cricketers raised the money to rent the land from Hull City Council, who had bought *Netherhall.*

The house was converted into a home for the elderly. Another similar house, *Highfield*, was also built on the site, opening in 1964. In recent years, *Netherhall* was deemed unsuitable for a residential home, and is now used as offices and for storage.

By the end of the 19th century, Sutton was a thriving community, with splendid houses and many well-to-do people. Schools and the railway were up and running. The landscape between Sutton and Wawne had also changed considerably during the century, as we shall see.

##### Notes

1        Blashill, p.276

2        Sir Anthony Richard Wagner: *Papers of a Middling Family* (Hull Local Studies Library)

3        Borthwick Institute, York

4        *Hull Times*, 13.6.1914

5        op. cit.

6       *The Harmony*. It was a whaling ship, a painting of which is displayed in Hull's Whaling Museum. Until about three years ago, the jawbones of a whale formed an archway across the driveway of *The Elms*, a reminder of Thomas Bell and Hull's whaling history.

7        The singing gallery was set back under the tower in 1824, and the organ provided in 1831.

8        Blashill writes, 'All the best pews were square, having seats on all sides with a flap-seat that fell across the doorway .... Two or three of the best pews were surrounded by brass rods and green curtains, so as to entirely hide the occupants from the pulpit and galleries.

9        These were against the wall which forms the boundary of the public footway south of the old Primitive Chapel (see plan).

10        Poulson, p.338

11      *Mona House*; a fine residence built soon after Enclosure. In 1900 Captain Robert Bennington, master mariner, owned the property. In 1922 Dr Archibald Gillespie, GP, bought it from Mrs Bennington, and held his surgery there until he died suddenly in 1936.

12       *Hull Advertiser*, 15.7.1842

13       The *Forster & Andrews* organ was installed in the chancel in 1859

14       Borthwick Institute

15       Tithe Map, apportionment 125

16       'Census of Places of Worship, 1851

17       Tithe Map, apportionment 134

18       Dennis Heald: *A History of Methodism in Sutton-on-Hull*

19        Anderson's Map of 1813

20        Hull City Archives

21        *Hull Packet* Feb.-April 1814

22        S Doncaster & J Priestman: *The Priestmans of Thornton-le-Dale*

23        A currier would curry, dress and colour leather after the tanning process.

24        S Doncaster & J Priestman: op. cit.

25        The site now almost opposite East Carr Lane.

26        Thanks to Mr Barker of Welton for this notice.

27        Now *Netherhall*, Wawne Road

28        Dr Cummings was Dr John Redfern's grandfather

CHAPTER 7

**Bransholme Farms - Balloon Barrage**

**New Parsonage and**

**Victorian Renovations in Sutton Church**

**The Vicars - Thomas Blashill**

At Enclosure, Hull Corporation received 212 acres, a tiny fraction of what is was to own two centuries later. The farmstead of High Bransholme was built upon the Corporation’s chief allotment, close to the drain once called 30 acre dike, now Holderness Drain, the boundary of Swine, and far away from any road. The dike seemed the easiest method of getting produce away, for Bransholme Lane was a deep and muddy roadway. However, the next generation deemed it preferable to risk the perils of the road, so a new farmhouse was built near the Lane. It is from the Corporation’s meticulous records that we know the old field names and the crop rotations of their farms. We can see how in 1823 the wheat crop in Wawn Close Field on the banks of the Foredyke, was ruined by floods, an ever-present problem; we see that Bankside was reasonably profitable. The premises, too, are scrutinised. After a typical inspection, William Stickney wrote to the Corporation in 1831:1

*.... I have examined the Farms at Bransholme and Sutton belonging to the Mayor and Corporation of Hull and below is my valuation and System of Cultivation. I have found the arable land and Buildings in a very deteriorated state of dilapidation - the whole of the arable land should have a complete Fallow as soon as possible . . . I would recommend that the Tenant should be enjoined not to sow the lands in the low grounds more than 3½ yards broad and with deep water furrowing in order to facilitate the discharge of water when it comes upon it.*

*Outline of Cultivation:*

1 Farrow with manure        6   Fallow with lime

2 Wheat                               7   Oats or barley

3 Clover                               8   White Clover to Graze 2 years

4 Wheat                               9   Wheat or Oats

5 Beans or Peas                10 Beans or Peas

Thomas Rodmell employed seven men on High Bransholme Farm in 1851; he was still there 20 years later. By 1897, Arthur Wilson was the tenant. He had moved to Castle Hill by 1911.

*Arthur Wilson having a spot of bother*

Mr and Mrs Scott succeeded the Burrows’ family at High Bransholme in 1968. Soon after moving in, the Scotts also took over the tenancy of Low Bransholme, retaining this until about 1980; the old farmhouse has since been demolished. The life of High Bransholme was abruptly brought to an end when the wall fell out. The Scotts now occupy a bungalow further down the lane.

*Mrs Scott and local children bring sheaves from the farm to the Harvest Festival, c1991*

The unusual name ‘Noddle Hill’ derives from Nordale or North Dale, being the hill nearest to Wawne. The farm was built around 1826, and comprised 157 acres between Foredike and Bransholme Lane. Henry Blashill, aged 35 was the tenant farmer in 1841, remaining there until he died in 1891, when his son Hudson took over the tenancy. In 1903 Hudson had moved away to Burton Pidsea, and the farm was put up for auction. By the 1920s the Stephenson family were the tenants of Noddle Hill.

*Laurence Stephenson of Noddle Hill, 1930s*

In September 1921, part of the land was sold off. Edwin Robson, of Sutton House, who owned large areas of land in Sutton and Bransholme, bought nearly four acres on the corner of Wawne Road and Bransholme Lane. He built Bransholme Lodge on half of the land, to be occupied by his son, Cecil Hodge Robson. He lived there until June 1945, when Alfred Race took up residence. In November 1959, he sold to Ernest Raymond North, of Bainton. The house was purchased by the Church of England in 1968 as a vicarage for the new St John’s church.

In 1923, the remaining half of land was bought by John G Redfern, who had a messuage built, which he later sold. In 1938 Kenneth Waterhouse, from a well-known Sutton family, occupied the house, then known as The Garth, remaining there with his family for many years. It is now a residential home, Sycamore House.

Messrs I’Anson and Scott became tenants of Noddle Hill in 1937/8, succeeded in 1953 by son Peter Scott and his wife. Mrs Scott recalls the house as being isolated, well away from the road; there was no bathroom, the only running water being from a solitary tap in the kitchen. The toilet was down the garden. There was a dining room, sitting room, three bedrooms and a two-roomed attic.

It was when Noddle Hill was demolished in 1968 to make way for the Bransholme Estate, that the Scotts moved to High Bransholme.

Another farm built soon after Enclosure was called Primrose Hill, situated on the north east corner of Bransholme Lane and Wawne Road. In 1823 it was occupied by Timothy Jefferson. Thomas Richardson, at the age of 24, held the farm in 1851, and by 1871 William Smith was the farmer. He and his wife Elizabeth, died on the same day in 1895, both aged 72 - the result of an accident perhaps? John Dearing succeeded, then Frederick Wilkinson by 1911. When the Cassells held the farm in the 1920s, Mrs Nellie Myers remembers there occurring a serious fire in the stackyard. A Notice of Auction of 27 March 1923, housed in the Hull City Archives, gives interesting details of the Dairy Farm as it was then, under the tenancy of Mr F W Rogerson. There was housing for 21 cattle. Arable and pasture were of similar acreage. As with most of the farms in Bransholme, being primarily dairy farms, the arable side concentrated on fodder for the cattle.

For some years, Charles Edward Cape was the dairyman at Primrose Hill. It was eventually sold to the Council in December 1963, when the tenants were Harold Bayfield and Walter Burton.

The site is now occupied by some of the Garths, by Kinloss Primary School, and the area of the farmhouse itself by Wawne Ferry Public House - rather strange, as it is some three miles away from the former ferry at Wawne.

We have already mentioned Pool’s, later Broadley’s, farm of Soffham, and how in 1814 his tenant, poor John Taylor, met an untimely death.  Henry Blashill’s father, Robert, then aged 54, was appointed Taylor’s successor. He and his wife Mary, had five servants there according to the 1841 census. By 1851 Soffham comprised 450 acres and was held by William Rodmell. The farmhouse was re-built in ‘classic Broadley style’, according to a later occupier, John Redhead, and was nearer Wawne Road than the former one, being more convenient for the conveyance of produce. William Rodmell’s son Francis Burnham succeeded his father, followed in 1920 by Joseph Elliott. His successor in the 1930s was Dopkin Pauling, who died after World War Two.

Around 1940, Mr Harrison-Broadley sold Soffham Farm to Frederick Curtis. He never lived there, and it was occupied by his sister, Mary Redhead, and her family.2

Soffham Farm 1963

In September 1963 the Council bought some of the land from Mr Curtis’s executors, and a large part of Bransholme was built on the site, including Northcott School (formerly Dulverton).

One of the most interesting early farms and messuages along Wawne Road was Lamwath,3 one of the very few still standing, though much changed. Early occupiers were William Bolton and Thomas Mitchell. The house passed to Henry Smith, Hull merchant, the owner/manager of seed-crushing mills, in 1868. He and his wife Ada, had eight children by the census of 1891, and a niece and cook, housemaid and kitchen maid were in residence at the time. The cottage and lodge were also occupied. The youngest daughter, Florence, lived in Sutton for a number of years.

In January 1896, a Notice of Sale attracted the attention of Mr Charles Hellyer (1846-1930), then living in a large residence in Anlaby Road (now a hotel).4  His and his second wife’s little boy had drowned in the garden pond there two years previously. Charles was born in Devon, but came to Hull as a child and attended the Grammar School. He was now a fishing vessel owner and a member of the Hull Chamber of Commerce. He already owned large parts of land in the Bransholme area, at least from 1891. His agent was William Curtis, a stalwart of the Wesleyan Chapel in Potterill Lane, Sutton.

*Mr Hellyer’s letter to Mr Curtis, arranging to inspect Lamwath.*

*Lamwath: a square, imposing residence of light grey brick – 1896*

Shortly after purchasing this gracious house, Charles Hellyer had it knocked down, and re-built the present dwelling, of red brick, though retaining the old cottages and stable-block. It was completed and ready for occupation by 1897/8. During the building programme, the family enjoyed a picnic:

*Charles Hellyer, centre back*

Charles and Jane settled in the new Lamwath. It was spacious, and, in keeping with other large residences, boasted a school room, library, billiard room and two wine cellars, as well as the usual reception and bedrooms.

*Billiard Room at Lamwath c1908.*

*Llando Hellyer is seated, Charlie stands*

*(two children from Charles’ first marriage)*

The Hellyers sent their two remaining children, Sydney and Marjorie, to the Misses Wilkinson School in Sutton (possibly the private school at 1 Chamberlain Street 5).

Misses Wilkinson School, Sutton, 1898.  
*Marjorie Hellyer 2nd row from back, 3rd right;  
Sydney 2nd row from back, 5th right.*

In 1897, the neighbouring farm, Sutton Fields, was up for auction. The plan of the estate survives, providing valuable information about a farm of which no trace remains, no hedgerow, field or tree. Charles Hellyer seized the opportunity, far too good to miss, to purchase a farm so close to his own. On 24 March 1897, he writes a triumphant note to Mr Curtis, “I have bought the farm!”, and outlines his ideas for a farm road, repairs, and a suitable tenant.

By the turn of the century, the Hellyers also owned Bransholme Lane, West Field, East Field, Westfield Cottage, West Carr North, and West Carr South Farms, comprising some 407 acres of land in Sutton. Not all Charles’ tenants were happy with work conditions. Fred Caley, cowkeeper and tenant of Bransholme Lane Dairy Farm since 1895, was put out three years later when his boss wanted to increase the rent. He had ‘given Bransholme a fair tryal,’ he wrote,

‘but the milk business is poor

it’s a long way from the town

it’s a dull place

and I can’t make a living.’

Lamwath Dairy Farm was built behind Lamwath Hall, in 1910 Herbert Clarke being the farmer. A sports field - ‘Lamwath Back Field’ - was set up for rugby and hockey.

*Mixed Hockey on Back Field, early 1900s. Owen Hellyer centre front*

Frank Clarke was the tenant in 1925, and Charles Ogram, dairyman, in 1937. Older residents in Sutton now recollect Highland cattle grazing on this Bransholme land.

Charles Hellyer himself is remembered as an indulgent grandfather. When he retired in 1911, he and Jane returned to his native town of Brixham, bought another house which, true to form, he immediately knocked down and built another, and lived there until his death in 1930. Their son, Sydney, died from wounds sustained in the second battle of Ypres in 1915.

After Charles’ retirement in 1911, the house of Lamwath and the surrounding estate came into the possession of his elder son (by his first marriage), Frank Orlando. In 1923, extensive alterations were made, including a school room to replace the former dining room. The billiard room was then converted into a dining room.

In 1924 Marjorie, the only surviving child of Charles’ second marriage, moved with her husband, Henry Mackrill, into Lamwath, first as tenants and later as owners. They had three sons, Ian, Graham and David. Before the war, Marjorie purchased Sutton Fields, which was farmed for many years by Harry Medley and his family. Like their predecessors, the Mackrills were very happy in Sutton.

*Painting of Lamwath, 1964*

*Carol singing at Lamwath, 1967. Marjorie & Ian Mackrill in front.*

*The vicar is Rev’d William Richardson*

They lived at Lamwath until 1968 and inevitably,the Council bought the whole complex of land.  The tree-lined driveway to Lamwath from Wawne Road still exists, as do some of the trees, such as traces of the spinney in the approach road.

Across Wawne Road from Lamwath stood Westfield Farm. The plan of 1873 shows Sutton Drain (Foredike) running through the middle, and the farmland bounded by Pool’s Road (leading to Soffham), later called Green Lane. The Corporation farm of 35 acres was situated in the right angle between Wawne Road and West Carr Lane (Worlds End on the plan), and was occupied by John Storey in the 1820s.

*Plan of Westfield 1873*

The 1851 census records William Stephenson, aged 59, living at Westfield, a farm of 135 acres. By 1891 William Bean, farm foreman, occupied the property. His successor was Joseph Tomlinson, cowkeeper, followed by John Alfred Wood. By 1903 George Rennison is shown as foreman to Mr M.H. Ringrose, of Westfield.

*George Rennison*

As shown on the OS map of 1910, Charles Hellyer had bought part of Westfield, and established West Carr North and West Carr Lane Dairy Farms. Eastfield Farm, contiguous with Westfield, was also built by Charles Hellyer, Joseph Tomlinson being the tenant. It comprised 54 acres. By the early 1920s, Percy Hall and Edith (née Salvidge) with their daughters Beatrice and Phyllis, were living at Eastfield. The Mortimers then lived at Westfield. The Directory of 1939 records Edwin Wastling as farm bailiff to Stamford Smith of Westfield.

When War threatened in 1938 (or earlier, as accounts vary), the site of the Halls’ farm was required by the RAF, and the family was ordered to move. A balloon barrage station was set up in the fields, for maintenance and repair, and for vehicle maintenance, and after the war, for the maintenance of aircraft in general.

*RAF camp 1954 (Soffham Farm top right corner)*

Eastfield farmhouse itself caught fire and was destroyed in the 1940s. Stamford Smith remained the tenant of Westfield until the owner put it up for auction in January 1948. By that time it was a small dairy farm of some 28 acres, with standings for 60 cows. The Council bought the farm, along with six others belonging to the owner.

In 1969 it was decided that demolition and site clearance should be carried out at the former RAF station, in order to continue the redevelopment of Bransholme Housing Estate. The hangars were removed (occasionally to turn up as warehouses in unlikely places like one at Stoneferry), and the gates were installed at the Gillshill Road entrance to East Park. Thanks to Len Bacon and Lord Mayor Brian Petch, these were renovated and restored at a ceremony on 30 June 1999.

*The plaque reads:*

*Originally sited at the Royal Air Force Station, Sutton-on-Hull,  
these gates commemorate those*

*who served and trained there . . .1939-1969.*

The area of Westfield Farm is now occupied by Sheldon Close/Honiton Road housing areas, and North point Shopping Centre stands on the Eastfield lands.

If we begin making our way back to Sutton, crossing West Carr Lane around 1840, we might witness a small dairy farm being built in the style of a Gothic cottage, then fashionable. This was Westfield Cottage Farm, owned by Abraham Rodmell, and in 1891 the new tenant was John Wood, cowkeeper. He was to remain there until he died in 1926, then well over 80. He had seven daughters, and his wife Sarah began to find a suitable school for the younger children. Being ‘church’ herself, Sarah was inclined towards St James’, but was appalled when, on entering the cloakroom, she saw two or three coats on the floor.  She was already dubious about her daughters having to mix with the Stoneferry children who had no school of their own, and who had to eat their lunches from old newspapers, so Sarah took her girls to the Wesleyan school in Potterill Lane.

*The Stoneferry boys outside Sutton School eating packed lunches*

*John Wood and his family*

Sarah died in 1895, leaving the eldest daughter Frances, with six sisters to look after, and also help with running the farm.

*Wesleyan School c1897. Clara Wood 2nd row from back, 4th from right.*

John Wood’s grandson, Peter Lund, describes the farmhouse in the 1920s :

‘The front of the house faced east, and the windows were very church-like, interlaced with a double-front on either side of the door.  There were two main rooms; the left-hand room going in, was the front room, and I always remember the smell of fustiness and the green colour. There was a piano with a fretwork front. It had two candlesticks on it to provide the lighting, as in those days there was no electricity. Lamps were the usual lighting. My aunt Florence organised little whist drives, probably three tables of about a dozen people altogether.

‘Immediately as you went through the door, there was a staircase ahead of you. To the right of that was the main living-room; the room with the fire grate with the side oven and the water boiler by the side; the pricked rug in front of the fire; the high fender that went round, with the big tongs and poker for dealing with the coals.  I can remember baskets of chicks in front of the fire. There was a large sideboard, a wooden chair and a big kitchen table where we could seat ten or a dozen people, and this is where I can remember Christmas tea.

‘This room led into an area where hams and piece of meat hung from the ceiling; and it was a storage area for dairy equipment which had been cleaned. From this room, leading to the right, you went down a couple of steps into the larder or dairy.  Milk and butter were kept in there and it was very cold.

‘If we go back into the room where the hams were hung, and walk left, we go into the area which was the washing place for all the dairy equipment. That was the only running water in the house.’

Peter Lund describes the three bedrooms. He writes about a typical dairy farm of the time, the fold-yard and cow-sheds, the barns and granary, the pig-sties, the meadow for grazing, the pond, the pasture, the orchard . . . and the only toilet, an earth closet 30 yards from the front door. The night soil collector must have been a welcome visitor.

*Nightsoil cart outside Westfield Cottage*

John Wood’s youngest daughter, Alice (1890-1972), worked as milkmaid on the farm, a familiar figure on Bransholme in her pony and trap loaded with churns and cans. She married William Smales and they lived in Jessamine Cottage in Sutton for some years.6

Jessie, Mr Wood’s middle daughter, married Joseph Lund in 1907. There was a strong sense of community in the area of Sutton and Bransholme, ample entertainment and interest, and no need to go out of the village.  Joseph was a member of the Bowling Club and Reading Room.

*Sutton Reading Room 1914/15,*

*Joseph Lund centre front, James Calvert front, 2nd left.*

He was a member of the Church Council, sang in the choir, and was a Foundation Manager of both Sutton schools. But at the age of 43, in March 1926, he fell ill. As a sign of respect, straw was strewn on Leeds Road, where the family lived, to muffle the sound of the horses hoofs. Sadly, Joseph Lund died shortly afterwards.

Like many widowed women of her time, Jessie opened her front room as a parlour shop, serving from the window.7

After John Wood died, Florence remained at Westfield Cottage, but she died only four years later in 1930.8 Mr G Walker succeeded as tenant until 1947, and shortly afterwards it was acquired by the Council.

Next door to the Wood family lived the vicars of Sutton. Way back in 1840 the ‘profligate’ Nicholas Walton was the first to be resident, but he had private means.  J.A. Eldridge also lived in the village. But in 1865 a brand new Parsonage was erected in Wawne Road, nicely away from Sutton church, as the schedule records, and so ‘clear of all nuisance and obstruction’! Interestingly, the architect was Thomas Blashill, whose name we have already encountered. He was the grandson of Robert of Soffham Farm, eldest son of Henry and Mary of Noddle Hill Farm, and brother of Hudson, of Noddle Hill. In fact, the Blashills trace their Yorkshire ancestry to the twelfth century.

Thomas (1831-1905) lived through the great changes of Victoria’s reign. Born in Sutton, he attended a village school before completing his education in Hull and Scarborough.  At 20 he joined his uncle, a surveyor, in Hereford, where he studied for three years before going to London and eventually becoming an eminent architect. He worked tirelessly in the work of clearing slums, and erecting houses and dwellings for the working classes. His achievements make absorbing reading.

Thomas Blashill always maintained his interest in Sutton, frequently returning on visits to relatives and friends. Although he and his wife had no children, they were loving towards their nephews and nieces. He gave talks in Hull and wrote articles for journals, including a brief history of Sutton to raise money for the new St Saviour’s Church, Wilmington, in 1903.  His work, Sutton-in-Holderness, 1896, is a definitive history of ‘The Manor, Berewic and Village Community’.

After he died in 1905, a curious obituary appeared in the Herefordshire Journal recording the ‘profound sorrow ... of the city and county of Hereford ... to hear of the death of Mr Blashill who was by birth and training a Herefordshire man.’

*Henry? Thomas, Hudson Blashill 9*

Thomas Blashill, F.R.I.B.A. collected £52 fees as architect of Sutton Parsonage, the cost of building being £814. It was designed for the Revd John Carter, a spacious and solid dwelling house, comprising two reception rooms and study, large kitchen and scullery, a wine cellar, and five bedrooms, including one for the servants.

*Thomas Blashill’s Sketch for Sutton Parsonage, 1865*

As the Revd Carter was preparing to move into his new parsonage, an extensive restoration programme began in Sutton church. It would have pleased the Revd Eldridge to see the church reseated, and open pews installed, and, in line with the current trend, to see the chancel arch and floor reconstructed at a higher level, so that there was a clear view through to the altar and east window. This had held in its seven lights the shields of the Sutton family, but now was of five lights, though re-built in the Decorated style. The roofs were reconstructed, the galleries on the south removed and those small windows bricked up. The vestry was built on the north side of the chancel. Regretfully, the aisles lost their massive brick arcades and piers at this time and the massive brick piers supporting the tower were encased in stone. The church was closed between September 1866 and July 1867; Archbishop Thompson preached at the re-opening.

*Sutton church today - July 1999*

John de Sutton’s tomb, having been in its place in the centre of the chancel for more than five centuries, was thought to be inconvenient here, with more people processing through, so the founder was moved to the side. In 1883, the space between church and vestry was filled with another extension - the organ chamber. The north wall was completely dismantled, that aisle re-roofed, and the windows of the galleries removed. A new doorway was constructed.

Before the Victorian era was over, the interior of Sutton church presented an appearance very different from its medieval aspect.

Revd Herbert Holme took over the living in 1878, followed by George Arthur Coleman (in Sutton 1894-1921). He and his wife Eleanor came from St Stephen’s in Hull, “saw the bluebells growing all along the drive and couldn’t resist it.”

G. A. Coleman’s daughter Clare (1896-1981) recorded in 1975 her memories of the parsonage:

“It was a very nice house and garden, lovely. It had seven (?) bedrooms, with an acre of garden, and lots and lots of lovely trees to climb.  It had two huge beech trees, and 17 lime trees alternating with 17 sycamores. We had two nice lawns which we turned into tennis courts and, of course, a kitchen garden and a formal flower garden.

‘We had a governess who was very strict and had no sense of humour. There was always a cook and a house parlourmaid. They were nearly always Scandinavian because it was a great thing round Hull to employ a Scandinavian maid. We had a gardener and a nurse for the younger ones.”

Older Sutton residents recall the Revd Coleman with affection. He was involved in village life, with the school, the Reading Room and, in particular, with the people. It was an age, only a century ago, when church attendance was as natural as going to school or work, and the vicar was, likewise, universally liked and respected.10  He was an avid photographer, and left behind many glass plate pictures, a valuable resource portraying village life at the turn of the century - and they also reflect a time when it was possible for a vicar, with only 900 parishioners, to set up his cameras and take these photographs at his leisure.

*Sutton Group outside the vicarage.*

*Revd Coleman centre back, Mrs Coleman centre front.*

The Colemans had six children, the eldest of whom, May, taught at the village school for a few years before the First War - but she disliked the job.

The Colemans moved on to Dorset in 1921, and George Arthur continued with his hobbies of photography, wood carving11 and painting water colours.12

*Revd Jewel Evans*

Revd Jewel Evans and his wife occupied the vicarage next (1921-1927). “He was a wonderful man. I owe more to him than anyone. He taught us the true Christian faith, and was marvellous with the Sunday School.”13  Sutton church became the butt of gentle journalistic humour on 14 November 1926 when a Hull Mail reporter sneaked in and sat at the back of the church - “I cannot remember ever to have sat so uncomfortably in church before!” He mentions 50 or 60 incandescent gas burners round the pillars, but too little light made the chancel indistinct and gloomy. “Nobody made any needless movements, nobody talked, nobody fidgeted or looked idly about - the good behaviour was oppressive . . . Pouches are used at Sutton; deep, quiet, respectable receptacles that allow no rattle of money . . . I wished for anything to interrupt the imperturbable, emotionless, irreproachable respectability of that most remarkably self-repressed congregation.” The writer likens the Revd Evans to a picture of a “thinnish, fiftyish, sharp-faced, clean-featured fellow, with short, straight hair” who advertises Ginger Ale in magazines - “I never see him without remarking his resemblance to the Vicar of Sutton.”

The Revd Basil Challenor was incumbent for four years, after whom came the Revd Charles Paley (1931-1943). “He was the man in the village,” said a villager. “He always welcomed children; all three of his own had died. He was a very pleasant man who joined in everything. He worked very hard for the village, and had the church hall built. It was very sad when he died so suddenly during the War.”

*Mr and Mrs Paley at the Dance  
on the opening of the new church hall, 18.10.1933.*

In 1943 Revd Leslie Reynolds became the last incumbent to live in the vicarage. He was a sociable man with ‘a great sense of humour!’

*Rev’d Leslie Reynolds with the Badminton Club, mid-1950s*

*At home in the vicarage 26.12.1960*

In 1961, when the Reynolds family left to take up the living in Walkington, the next vicar, William Richardson, was able to move into the new vicarage, designed by A.M. Mennin, built next to the school. After Canon Richardson retired in 1978, Revd Terrence Doherty was appointed incumbent. He and his wife, the Revd Deana, have served the five team churches and the community for 21 years. Jonas Mdmulla, from Tanzania, shared the ministry for 13 of those years.

The former parsonage in Wawne Road was in use as a Home for some years, but then it was boarded up and eventually demolished in 1991.

*George Birch, reader, Rev’d Terrence Doherty,*

*Rev’d Deana Doherty, Rev’d Jonas Mdmilla*

*The former parsonage was in use as a Home for some years*

##### Notes to Chapter 7

1 Hull City Archives

2 Her son John, still in farming himself, kindly supplied this information and photographs.

3 Only later did the name acquire its ‘b’ in the spelling

4 I am indebted to Charles Hellyer’s grandson, Ian Mackrill, for his unfailing help, interest, loans and copies of photographs - and friendship.

5 Mary Salvidge believed this was so - her mother attended the school.

6 Thanks to son John for information

7 Occasionally these are still to be seen in the East Riding, as the baker’s at Welwick

8 Grateful thanks to Peter Lund for information, photos, and time so generously given

9 Thanks to Hudson’s three grandchildren, Hilda, Phyllis and Bernard, for their interest.

10 In 1905, for instance, a Sunday School in Stockport had 5,000 scholars and 400 teachers!

11 G A Coleman carved the front of the altar in Sutton church

12 Thanks to their grandson John, now living in Monte Carlo, who has provided much family information and copies of documents.

13 Winnie Robinson

## CHAPTER 8

**Schools in Sutton and Wawne**

**More of the Windhams - 19thc Wawne – Parsonages**

**St Peter's Restorations - Windham Reading Room**

**1911 Sale of Estate - Waghen Lodge and the Alec-Smiths**

Various references have been made to education in the parish. The Ann Watson and Leonard Chamberlain bequests still exist in various forms, and the will of John Marshall in 1803 left a small endowment for 'poor Sutton children'. As early as 1758 a schoolmaster's licence was granted to Peter Gilbank to be master of the 'free petit school'1 in Sutton. In 1804 an advertisement appeared in the *Hull Advertiser* for a Schoolmaster to teach English Language and Writing and Arithmetic in 'a large airy School Room', salary £15 per annum. Sutton was described as being in a 'dry and healthy situation'. Similar advertisements appeared in 1810 and 1816, and each time the candidates were exhorted to be 'models of morality, sobriety, and industry'. Oddly enough, all the interviews were held at the *Dog & Duck Tavern* in Hull.

Thomas Dibb was the schoolmaster and parish clerk in 1819,2 and he was probably the teacher who, as Blashill describes, tried to teach his pupils with kindness and not with the cane, but this didn't seem to work. The poor man was seen one day, locked out by his pupils who refused to open the door until he promised them a day's holiday! In 1851, Mr Dibb was living with his daughter Maria and her husband William Carrick in 'Carrier Cottage' in Back Street.3

In 1846 William Tesseyman, a grocer who lived in High Street almost opposite Potterill Lane, was also a schoolmaster; and Mary Thompson ran a 'boarding and day school'.

Nationally, the churches were busy establishing Sunday and Day Schools. Our own Revd Davies had been instigative in establishing a Sunday School in the Groves, Stoneferry, in 1839, near where St Mark's was erected in 1843/4. Again, a notice in the *Hull Advertiser*, 17 February1855, announces the imminent opening of 'two new schoolrooms and master's residence for Sutton British Schools. Sixty in each classroom, one for boys, one for girls.' It is likely that this school was contiguous with the Primitive Chapel erected at the same time on the present Providence Row.4

On 5 March 1849 a National School5 was founded, with Thomas Trotter as the master, and it probably functioned in the aforementioned property of the Revd Eldridge. Ten years later the site on High Street was given by Mrs Sophia Broadley, and Mr Trotter continued as Head in the new premises. The building consisted of one long room with a small classroom at each end. John Triffit succeeded as the master, but died in 1864, aged only 28. His monument stands in the church. The Sutton School Board was formed in 1875, when there were about 90 children in attendance.

*Mr Herring is the master in this picture of c1882*

The Log Book of Sutton School dates from 1896, though there must have been records before that. Initially, the classrooms were furnished with 'galleries' or raised steps, around the perimeter. The master was assisted by a schoolmistress and a monitor who would help with the teaching. The galleries were removed in 1900, and an extension built in the centre front in 1911.

*Sutton school, early 1900s*

At this time, earth closets were replaced by flush toilets; and central heating was installed. Previously, the smoke from the stove had been 'utterly objectionable.'

Mr John Topham came as headmaster in 1891, remaining until 1921.6  He was very involved with village life, was parish clerk, rent collector, choirmaster, and member of the Reading Room Committee.

*Mr Topham also founded a Pierrot Troupe, 1906/07*

He and his wife had eight children, and like most teachers, lived in the village where they taught (she helped occasionally).

*The Tophams' home was the first of these tall houses in High Street,  
early 1900s - now a hairdresser's salon*

Mr Topham is remembered as being strict but fair. In 1896 his assistant teachers were Carrie Robinson, daughter of one of the village blacksmiths, Alice Holmes, daughter of a local butcher, and Hannah Gardham.

Holidays appeared to be frequent and varied. One Tuesday the school closed at noon for the remainder of the week for the 'Sale of Work'. It closed for a 'Choir Festival at Swine'; for the afternoon of St James' Day (Sutton Feast); for a week in June 1897 for the Diamond Jubilee; for Sutton Horse Show; for three days in 1902 for the Coronation of Edward VII.

Various outbreaks of disease also caused closure of the school. In 1899, the year the Evan Fraser 'fever' hospital was built, there were epidemics of measles, mumps and whooping cough. In the early years of this century the school was closed for up to five weeks for outbreaks of measles; and diphtheria, scarlet fever, chicken pox and small pox were all common.

Weather, too, affected attendances. Only 60 children turned up on 25 August 1904, 'a very wet day'. As attendance affected the grant as much as the annual inspection, the entries in the Log Book often sound disgruntled on a rainy day.

*John Topham with boys of Sutton School*

During the first World War, Sutton School was occupied for some while by troops. The four classes had to be accommodated elsewhere. "My class was cramped together in what is now the baptistry. We didn't have any PE. We did a lot of cutting out, I remember, until one day the scissors all disappeared, which was something of a relief. Every Friday afternoon, we had to go to the college where Mr Topham took his class, and report on our work."7

In 1921 Charles Simpson was appointed Head - 'Chanting Charlie', who formed an excellent school choir and raised money for a school piano in 1924, at a cost of £15. Patriotism was riding high then, and visiting speakers on subjects such as 'The Responsibilities of Empire' occur regularly. Gardening lessons were introduced - though only for the boys - and competitions with the Council School were frequent.

Mr Simpson's successor was Mr Wilkinson, and then Mr Alan Sproxton in 1937. Two years later Miss Alice Holmes retired from the staff after 46 years of teaching at Sutton School. "I remember going to Miss Holmes' house on Friday afternoons for our 'Homemaking' class. She had a bungalow at 19 Potterill Lane, and we cleaned up, tidied the bedroom and baked cakes . . . We would get back to school about 3 for the vicar to talk to us before finishing for the weekend."8 (Why don't teachers these days adopt this idea?!)

Mr Eric Johnson took Miss Holmes' place at the school, but War was declared almost immediately, and schooling was again disrupted. After the war, in 1947, the school-leaving age was raised, and a pre-fabricated building erected for the extra children. Mr Johnson was appointed Head in 1951 and ran, according to ex-pupils, "the happiest school for miles around." That winter, extensive repairs were carried out, and the dual desks in the large room removed, so that it could be used as a multi-purpose hall.  Hitherto, the church hall had been used for drill or PE and concerts.

The school and church were closely linked, the major festivals being celebrated together. The church was part of the children's life; they decorated the baptistry for Harvest and Christmas, and, in their final year, were taken to the top of the tower as a treat.

Under Mr Johnson's leadership, the curriculum reflected the rural area; the skills of the staff; and the interests of the pupils. Thus, rabbit-keeping; bees, and the making of honey; puppetry; gardening; music; photography; all took their place beside the general curriculum - and, of course, rugby. Topicality was in vogue, Literacy and Numeracy Hours unheard-of.

In the 1960s, Sutton School became well-known nationally when Eric Johnson prepared a series of photographs to illustrate the 'Domino' Reading Scheme. Some of these books are still in schools. This lively and versatile headmaster also wrote series of articles for various magazines, notably on teaching in an all-age school. For all its 120 years Sutton school had catered for all ages - until 1969 when the older pupils had to depart to Secondary Schools.

Sadly, the fabric of the early Victorian school was showing wear and tear, and although it was scheduled for closure in the 1940s, it held out until 1977. By this time Mrs Sheila Goring had been Headteacher for two years, and she oversaw the transition of the historic village school to the new St James' School on the vast Bransholme estate.

#### Children going to new school, 16 February 1977

In 1999 the school celebrates its 150th anniversary, and, too, maintains its strong links with the church under the headship of Mrs Laura Dawson.

*St James' School Leavers' Service, July 1999.  
Laura Dawson, Rev'd Deana Doherty*   
  
  
The old school building now operates as the church's education centre where schools, both inside and outside the parish, work on various projects. Lectures and adult education classes are given. Many of Eric Johnson's splendid photographs of the school during his decades there are on display.

Meanwhile, the Wesleyan School at the top of Potterill Lane still stands with its old 'Girls Entrance' and 'Boys Entrance' commands above the doorways, but has long since ceased to function as a school. In the 1880s Mr A Rhodes, the headmaster, was assisted by the lady who lived across the road - appropriately named Miss Potterill (the lane is shown as Love Lane on a plan of c1840 - maybe a little infra dig for a lady teacher of that time!)

*Wesleyan schoolchildren with teachers Mr Rhodes & Miss Potterill*

The school closed in 1911, having been 'condemned' in 1905. It was replaced by a Council School, built on the corner of East Carr Lane, with accommodation for 162 all-age pupils. Mr Thomas Colbert was the first headteacher.

*Sutton Council School 1911; Mr Colbert, Miss Bradley*

John Casson was appointed Head in January 1923, when a solid new schoolhouse had been built behind the school. He moved in with his four children. Mr Casson served in the 13th Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment during the war and became a Lieutenant after being wounded on the Somme. "He brought home a small Union Jack, a silk flag on a dark green stick; it took pride of place on the family Christmas tree each year, and was buried with him when he died in 1940."9

"My father was fiercely patriotic, and Empire Day at school was special. The afternoon began with some sort of ceremony with patriotic songs, and then sports in the field across the lane; it was always sunny and we would make daisy chains. Of course the Union Jack would be flying."10

John Casson was passionately fond of gardening (he was secretary of the Sutton-on-Hull Allotments Association), and after the three Rs, Gardening came next on the curriculum but again, "only for boys, whilst the girls sewed with Miss Richardson. The schoolhouse garden was very big, and each of the senior boys would have a plot where he could grow vegetables. Gardening formed an important part in their futures, both in employment and in providing for their own future families." Mr Casson built a 'Peter Pan House' for his younger daughter, Helen - complete, of course, with flag pole.

*Helen's Peter Pan house and garden*

In 1936 came the news that the council school must close, to re-open as a school for the deaf. John Casson was re-deployed as Head elsewhere, but the night before he died only four years later, he said to his wife, "Leaving Sutton broke my heart."

Not long ago, Margaret Casson re-visited the council school of her childhood, for the house and school still stand, but now used as an educational Special Unit.

Wawne, like Sutton, boasted a small school in the early part of the 18th century, and in 1743, at Archbishop Herring's Visitation, a 'public school' is recorded, attended by about 30 children, and paid for by the parents.  St Peter's church ran an innovative library service shortly after this, being 'open' after Sunday services.

The schoolmaster, being literate, might earn a little extra, as in 1762 when we read in the Overseers Account book that 2/6d was paid to him for Thomas Atkinson's certificate. Not so easily earned, perhaps, was his 1/- for 'Cleaning the Steple'!

The school and schoolhouse were kept in excellent repair. The Churchwardens' Accounts read;

1763: 7/4d paid to Bricklayer & Laurence for Laying School Floor

1766: 1/3d paid for a lock for School

1767: 5/3d paid to William Robinson for repairing School House

1771: £1.13.4d paid to school marster (sic)

1776: 6/- paid to Daniel Kitchin for School House

The Wawne schoolmaster between 1800 and 1810, Thomas Clarke, was, like many contemporary parents, unfortunate enough to lose two sons within two years.11 He also did duty as a Parish Clerk, assessing and collecting taxes. Around 1828, Wawne Church School was provided with another building, with 22 children attending in 1833.

In 1840 Joseph Harrison was the schoolmaster; he lived in Main Street opposite Glebe Cottage. In 1855 the first female teacher recorded was Hannah Batty, married to William Tate, a Wawne farmer. Anna Wadsworth and Mary Elizabeth Hill followed.12

Around 1870 another parochial school was founded in Wawne, in Bargate Lane (Fairholme Lane), again supported by voluntary subscriptions, and again under the care of a schoolmistress, Emma Ann Gray. It was built to accommodate 70 children. Two small rooms were built for the teacher's home. Whilst girls stayed at the school until the age of 12, most boys went on to the Sutton School on reaching the age of 9, where there was a master.13

*Wawne School, Fairholme Lane*

By 1889 this school had closed and a Public Elementary School, to accommodate 75 girls and boys, was opened in Meaux Road. There was a succession of schoolmasters. In 1910 the school moved to its present building in Greens Lane, the Headteacher Mrs Edith Howarth, transferring from the Meaux Road school.

*Wawne School, Greens Lane, 1910*

Mr Howarth died, and in 1917 Mrs Howarth married Fred Calvert, a Wawne farmer. Parents still paid for education, 3d per week being charged for the oldest children. At that time, there were 35 children on the books. Some boys in the village between 10 and 13 years were actually employed. Mrs Calvert remained at the school for many years, being remembered by the older villagers.

Meaux children often walked to school daily, being allowed to leave at 3pm in the winter time. The Swifts came from Wawne Common Farm by pony and cart, and when they were older, they would often lodge in Wawne during the week - a journey which takes only a few minutes today.

Mrs Downing was the Headmistress in the 1930s, and was one of the first women in Wawne to drive a car.

*Bob Swift (with sister Kathy) on his way to school, c1912*

*Wawne School 1914; Kathy Swift 2nd row, 4th left*

*Wawne School 1933 14*

Later, during Mr Jones' headship, new housing resulted in an extension to the school and more pupils - 197 in 1970, rising to an all-time record of 220. The next Headteacher was Mr Purcell, who lived in the former school house opposite the chapel.  Mr Michael Yates took up the post in 1970, remaining until 1994, when he was succeeded by Mr Kevin Crabb.

In 1780 the Windham estate in Waghen was inherited by Anne Windham; she married Sir William Smijth, and was followed at Waghen by her youngest son, Captain Joseph Smijth (1792-1857), a cavalry officer who assumed the name of Windham in 1823. It appears that he lived in Waghen, in the late 18th century farmhouse which was later to become the unusually long, low building in Tudor-style, familiar in the memories of older Wawne residents. (The building of Waghen Hall altered the geography of the village - ref. maps of 1773 and 1927).

*Waghen Hall*

Joseph S Windham's furniture bill from Jameson & Son of Beverley amounted to £202.14.0d in 1816, and further bills listing beautiful furnishings and draperies reflect fine taste and considerable wealth:

*'Beds are enclosed with curtains and have a tester. Bed posts are mahogany and there is a set of japanned pole cornices. A Brussels carpet graces the floor. There is mention of a stuffed sofa - far more comfortable than the hard, wooden chairs of the early 18th century . . .* 15

Captain Windham was succeeded by his son William George, who was called upon to serve his country in the Indian Mutiny of 1857. He was on holiday at the time, but 'now that the country requires the services of her bravest and ablest sons, the Major-General has lost no time in obeying the call made upon him.'16 He died in 1887, and a memorial tablet and stained glass window are set up in Wawne church in his memory.

During the Major-General's time in Wawne, the church and parsonage house underwent considerable change. In 1847, when George Dixon was vicar, the parsonage was described as being "dilapidated and decayed", and plans were drawn up for a new house. It is likely that this was never built, for in 1850 further specifications were outlined for a vicarage in the same place - opposite the east end of the church, adjacent to the Windham estate. The dwelling comprised two reception rooms, kitchen, scullery and storeroom, and four bedrooms. The Revd Robert Jarratt Crosthwaite was offered the living in 1869 and moved into the fairly modern parsonage.  He seems to have been a bit of a 'high-flyer', for he set to work to have a much larger parsonage built for himself - across the road, now privately owned, in Main Street.  Then he set up a little Chapel of Ease at Meaux, St Mary's, in 1872, which flourished; Mr John Beaulah tells of his family attending the chapel in his childhood. It held about 60 people, and services were held every Sunday afternoon. It is now converted into a domestic dwelling. Mr Crosthwaite got his reward - he was instituted Bishop of Beverley shortly afterwards.

Beginning in 1874, another vicarage house was built west of the church, and at the same time, St Peter's was thoroughly restored, and was closed for nearly three years. The walls and roofs were taken down, and new walls of large flat-bedded rubble stone faced with Tadcaster stone were erected; new parapets built to the south aisle; the floor of the tower lowered; the floor of the nave taken up, re-concreted and new seats installed; the north brick porch removed and the present one built. The present vestry was built, a vestry having previously been sited in the south-west corner possibly where the 18th century school was held. The windows were re-glazed, and three bells re-cast. The organ was moved to the north-east corner of the nave, and the font moved from the centre of the west end to the north-west corner. The old oak chancel screen was removed; the pulpit which had previously stood in the south-west corner was replaced; and a new reading desk supplied.

William George's brother Ashe (1830-1909) inherited the Windham estate, and about 1890 he had Waghen Lodge built for his son, also Ashe, as agent for the estate. The Hall provided the main source of employment for villagers in Wawne.

Major Windham returned from the Boer War in 1901 full of plans to transport the entire village to Tasmania. The idea was not too popular locally, and two years later he married and moved with his bride into Waghen Hall, which had been entirely renovated and decorated during the preceding six months; and given to the Major by his father. Like his father, the Major was looked upon as Lord of the Manor, and referred to as Major or Squire.

Another fund-raising event for the church was held in 1902, when the villagers raised £211.9s.7d for a new organ. New lamps to improve the lighting were also installed at this time. Shortly afterwards, the Church Commissioners commenced a through restoration of the chancel, when the east window was re-constructed and enlarged.

*The ivy-clad Wawne church before the Restoration of the chancel in 1902*  
  
*Interior Wawne Church c1905*

*Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Committee, 1897  
(Major Ashe Windham seated left)*  
  
*Builders working on the chancel, 1902*

The Windham Reading Room, now the Church Room, was originally part of a farm belonging to the Windhams, possibly a stable. The Major converted the building into a Reading Room around 1900, and spared no time and expense "making it one of the best of its kind." The Room housed a small library, and was a place where the men of Wawne could go to read, consult the papers, play draughts and cards, or simply chat together.

It was also a forerunner of our 'further education courses'. The *Beverley Guardian* recorded in August 1902 that 'the winter course of lectures, debates and impromptu speeches is arranged to commence on the 12 inst. The Vicar, the Rev. W Dyer, was specially asked to give a paper on *Electricity*, to which he consented.' Village 'socials' were enjoyed, and the Order of Oddfellows held its monthly meetings in the room.

*Windham Reading Room*

During World War Two, the Reading Room was requisitioned as a food store. In 1952 Mr John Beaulah bought the property from the Windham family, granting it to the church for its use. It is still used for church meetings and activities.

Thus, in the early years of the 20th century, Wawne was a settled village community, many workers toiling steadily on the Windham estate, farming the land, or seeing to the needs of family and visitors at the splendid Waghen Hall - believing that nothing much could shatter the peace.  But it did - and before the outbreak of War.

Household servants outside Waghen Hall early 1900s

In 1911, to the shock and disbelief of all, the entire Windham estate, lock, stock and barrel, went up for sale on 15 and 16 June.  All the farm land (except Glebe Farm) and farmsteads; *The Windham Arms*, the Ferry, *Wawne Lodge*, the old school on Meaux Road, blocks of cottages, Mr J Brown's the grocer, Mr G Brown's the tailor, Mr Farnaby's Post Office - all for auction.

*Mr James Farnaby's Post Office*

In the end, only Robert Swift was able to retain the tenancy of his farm, Wawne Common. The effect of the tremendous upheaval of the village, with nearly everyone moving out of their homes, must have been devastating. Two years later, the Revd G A England, was to tell a newspaper reporter: "It is a matter of serious concern that the state of chaos into which the village has been thrown by so many removals and changes of tenancy has left an indelible mark on the village and church." The Windhams' economic difficulties changed the village dramatically. Ashe Windham left Wawne in 1924, returning only once, in 1927. By 1935 the house was in a state of neglect. It was occupied by troops during the war, and demolished in the early 1950s.

The house which Ashe Windham built around 1890 as a shooting/hunting lodge for his son, was constructed in the classical style then fashionable.

*Waghen Lodge 1905, situated off the Wawne to Sutton Road*

By 1897 Marshall Hotham Ringrose, estate steward, lived there, remaining until the Sale of Estate in 1911. It was then occupied by Mrs Sowerby Middleton, Ashe Windham's mother-in-law. She undertook extensive alterations, including the installation of electricity. Colonel Pease became the next tenant. Phyllis, his daughter was well-known locally for her poem *'Legend of Paradise'*, a ballad centred on Paradise Moat and the monks of Meaux.17

In 1923 Alexander (Alec) Smith came with his family to the Lodge, living there until his death in 1952. In 1906 he had married Lucy Adelaide Horsley, who was to remain at the Lodge until she died in 1957. The couple had moved from their previous home, *Sutton Grange*, where their daughter, Diana, was born in 1920.18 Soon, Mr & Mrs Alec-Smith had added a verandah at the front east end of the Lodge, and extended the 'wings'.

*Waghen Lodge in the 1930s*

They fitted up a billiard room. There were three reception rooms, as well as kitchen and scullery. The first floor had six bedrooms and bathroom.

"My father rode every morning before breakfast," writes Diana, "and hunted with the hounds."

*Meet of Holderness Hounds - Wawne, 14.2.1907*

"I look back in wonder and thankfulness for the happy years I spent at Wawne. During the first War, my father served as Captain, and in World War Two he was in Timber Control. My mother and I ran a mobile canteen for three years. We had a Church Army van from Wawne. We would collect batches of bread and cakes from Jacksons, and urns of tea, and drive round all the gun sites over a large area. We also took other things like face cream and films when we could get them.

*The Church Army Canteen Van*

"Both my parents were crazy about tennis. In the early years at the Lodge, at the front of the house, beyond a big area of gravel, they constructed a hard tennis court. Both had played tennis for Yorkshire. They also made a grass court and had a summer house 'on stilts' built, so that people could sit up on a sort of deck round it and watch. The house was always full of people enjoying themselves. One visitor was Bunny Austin. I remember he was the first man to wear shorts at Wimbledon, in the 1930s, but they nearly covered his knees!

"We had a groom and stable boy, and the groom (a dear, dear friend of mine called Harold Hannah) was coaxed/bullied by my parents to learn to drive. He lived in Sutton. There were the gardeners, and in the house, cook, kitchen-maid, parlour-maid and housemaid. They were all part of my family, especially my beloved Nanny who came to look after me in 1924 and lived the rest of her life, to age 90, with me and my family.

"We used to love walking to Wawne - Miss Brown at the village shop, where I would buy a pennyworth of Dolly Mixtures to take blackberrying; Mr Smith the roadman, always cheerful; Mr Brewer at Wawne Ferry.

"We had no mains water for many years - drinking water had to be filtered. No garbage collection - a series of pits dug in the back field beyond the paddock. Milk was delivered from a neighbouring farm. We had no 'fridge, of course, so big blocks of ice were collected from Withernwicks, the fishmonger on Beverley Road, once a week and kept in a big, zinc-lined wooden chest in the larder, where eggs were put to preserve in buckets of isinglass.

"It was one of the saddest days of my life leaving the Lodge for the last time after my mother's death in 1957, and when it was demolished I cried my eyes out."

*Meet of Burton Constable Beagles, Wawne Lodge, c1938  
Diana is 3rd from right.  Far left stands Rupert Alec-Smith*

"I remember Mrs Rogerson of Wawne. She has been wonderful raising money for the church, school and W.I. My late brother, Rupert Alec-Smith, as his very last public 'office' as Lord Lieutenant of Humberside on 17 May, 1983, had the pleasure of presenting Mrs Rogerson with the B.E.M. in recognition of all she had done."

## Notes

1     A school for teaching little children, or an ABC school

2     Register of Births (his son)

3     Chamberlain Street

4     Deduced from various documents, inc. censuses and deeds

5     Church of England

6    Thanks to several members of the Topham family who have generously given information, photographs and artefacts for the education centre

7     Winnie Robinson (Leake)

8     Doris Kirby, who left school in 1927 at just 14

9     Margaret Casson, daughter, born 1922

10    Helen Casson, born 1928

11    Register of Burials

12    Directory, and Census of 1861

13    George Beaulah and Kate Calvert (mother of Kath Swift) both attended this school

14    Frank Norton has identified all the children

15    - from research by Mary Carrick

1. *Hull Times*
2. Kath Swift kindly loaned me this ballad
3. I am indebted to Diana (now Tarleton) for information and reminiscences of the Lodge

## ------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## CHAPTER 9

Wawne Common Farm and the Swifts

Gibraltar and Ings Farms

Kenneth Beaulah and Meaux

As we have seen, Robert Swift held on to Wawne Common Farm after 1911; it then occupied about 131 acres of arable and pasture, and the good-sized farmhouse boasted six bedrooms. Robert had been the tenant since 1895. The farm lies off the beaten track, on Benningholme Lane, just across the Holderness Drain - colloquially known as 'Auld Sal'. Robert married Kate Calvert, of Smithy Farm, Fairholme Lane, in St Peter's church in 1901.

*Smithy Farm on left, blacksmith's & joiner's shops, former school*

The couple had three sons, Robert, born 1902, Harry in 1904, and Arthur in 1905, who all later bought the farm; also a daughter Kathleen, born 1908. Arthur kept a diary for many years, from the age of 16, presenting a picture of life on the farm in the 1920s, when everything had to be done by hand.1

***Excerpts from 1922 Diary:*** *Bobbie and Harry went to scruffle turnips.  
  
Planted a row of wallflowers down our garden.  
  
Mr Ransome came and killed two pigs -   
one for us and one for uncle Joe.  
  
Went to wash sheep at ferry. Put fence across ferry boat. Mr Brewer pulled them out with boat-hook.  
  
Went to Mr Clappison's to borrow drill.  
  
fetched 32 White Wyndotte chickens from Mr Pool (North Grange) at 9d each  
  
BP brought 40 gallons petrol at 1/8d a gallon,   
and 50 galls. paraffin at 10d.*

*Wawne Common c1922: Bill Hodgson, Arthur, Harry and Robert Swift*

The diaries tell of the 16 evacuees who came to Meaux from Hull in 1939. It was compulsory to accommodate the children, and the Swifts gladly took in two boys aged 6 and 7 years.  Don Farnill stayed until he was 13, and loved the family and farm, still keeping in touch with Bob's son, John.  The latter tells of an incident fairly recently when the other evacuee, Dennis Pearson, arrived unexpectedly to show his son "where I was during the War." He, too, still writes.

A young waggoner at Wawne Common in 1913, Walter Warman, was killed near Ypres in the First War.2 His initials can still be seen in brickwork at the farm.

Arthur's diaries describe the work of the farm through the Second War, the 35 degrees of frost in the hard January of 1940 being just one more difficulty. 19 March 1941:

*"Last night was the roughest night of the war. Thousands of incendiaries and many high explosives. A land mine dropped near our 16-acre pond. It blew out all our windows and tiles off every building, all of Cowhouse. Some incendiaries fell at Gibsons, some in Backyard. Beacon crew3 came in and we did not go to Bed at all.'*

The three brothers then owned Wawne Common and also bought Bridge Farm. Bob's wife Tet, raised funds for a carpet for St Peter's, and after she died in 1978 her husband Bob, completed the project. Their son John, took on the farm, living at Bridge Farm, and his son continues the family tradition - at present at Givendale. Kath Swift lived on at Wawne Common until about 1994. When this much-loved lady died, the farmhouse which the family had occupied for a century, had to be sold.

*Kath Swift feeding an orphan lamb*

Kate Calvert's mother had been a Hudson before marriage, and the family lived at Gibraltar Farm.

*George Hudson's 21st Birthday Party, 17 May 1894*

## 

Gibraltar and Ings Farms lay at the south-western corner of Wawne township, close to the River Hull. A drainage map of 1848 shows no fewer than 15 'shuttle' services across the river, including Hudson's Shuttle from Gibraltar, and Ramsey's Shuttle from Ings. The monks of Meaux had their fishhouse, with ponds and mills, at the south-west of Gibraltar, and had a vaccary or pasture for cattle on the land, and later, sheepcots. When excavations were under way for the new Kingswood Bridge, fragments of pottery were found, suggesting a Romano-British settlement near to Gibraltar.

*Map of 1868 showing the Wawne farms*

## 

Even in our turbulent lives today, it is possible to stand near that water-drenched ground by the Kingswood Bridge and imagine the monks working their mills in that far-off time.

*The land today*

A certain little boy was fired with enthusiasm for the history of his area around 1915. His name was Kenneth Beaulah, born 1910. His family had been in Wawne since 1870, settling at Bamforth Farm in Ferry Lane.  When he was 2, Kenneth's father George, became tenant of Meaux Abbey Farm after the sale of the Windham Estate.  It was built in 1801; wall anchors bear the date and initials R.W., presumably Robert Wise, who held the farm then. The brick farmhouse stands in the grounds of the former abbey, on the site of a former house. George Beaulah recalled the remaining abbey archway and stones, still standing until c1900.4

*Remains of Meaux Abbey 1898  
(photo of Mr Howarth, Wawne schoolmaster)*

## 

The young Kenneth recalled the farm workers often coming in with tiles from the stackyard - "Abbey bricks," they called them. Tiling from the abbey decorated the back room of one of the farmworker's cottages. Kenneth began to make a small museum in his bedroom.  He went away to school, but left at 16. Tom Sheppard, who had seen some of Kenneth's heraldic designs, offered him work at Hull Museum in Albion Street. Weekends at home were often spent chasing around on a motor-bike searching for tiles.

"At Whalley," 5 recalled Kenneth, "a gardener looking after the site had found tiles and stacked them in a shed. I spent two hours with a bucket of water cleaning those tiles, but he let me take some samples. I found out later that they were valuable examples of ornamental design." Mr Beaulah's passion for antiquary and tile collection were to last all his life. "I met Fred Foot Walker at the East Riding Antiquarian Society. He would cycle to Meaux from Hull nearly every weekend for seven years - with his spade over his shoulder - and together we searched out and pieced together many tiles, building up the museum at the top of the house." 6

In 1924, following up a local tradition that there were a well and underground passage at Meaux, the teenager discovered a tunnel, and in 1928 when this was excavated, it was found to be 54 feet in length, and eight feet in height, with regular openings to the land surface.7

*Kenneth Beaulah at 17,   
in Meaux Abbey sewer*

## After graduating in 1933, Kenneth Beaulah made Heraldry his profession, and his work on Meaux was virtually 'on hold' for some years, though he continued building up his collections of tiles and also fine art paintings, books, coins and medals.8 When he retired, Mr Beaulah constructed a plan of Meaux Abbey which he and Mr Foot Walker had 'stepped out' many years before, from studies of other Cistercian abbeys and by following the lines of the old walls. The plan below, and key, may help further study.9

Kenneth Beaulah died in 1995, and a chalice and patten were presented to St Peter's church to commemorate him. His brother Fred, died in 1993, and service books are dedicated in his memory. Their brother John Beaulah, lives on in Wawne, also a great benefactor and supporter of the church where the monks of Meaux said their divine services all those years ago.

*Wawne Church 1899*

*GKB: Meaux Abbey as it appeared in 1500*

## 

## *Notes*

1     Thanks to Miss Kath Swift and nephew John for loaning the diaries

2     Research by John Swift

3    This crew lived in a caravan in the field, and kept a beacon alight to deflect enemy aircraft from Hull

4     Information from son, John Beaulah, brother of Kenneth

5     Site of ruined abbey, near Clitheroe

6     GK Beaulah's paper to the ERAS on the Paving Tiles from Meaux describes the tiles and their manufacture in detail

7     An account of this appears in an article of the ERAS by Tom Sheppard

8     I had the privilege of seeing his museum at Hessle

1. Previously unpublished material, by kind permission of Mrs Beaulah

CHAPTER 10

**Cattle Plague - Smallpox & Evan Fraser Hospital**

**The Robsons of Sutton House**

**The Reckitts of East Mount Woodside & the Waterhouse family  
Mount Pleasant & Hill Farms  
George Smith & Wold View**

**Kirk's Farm - Springfield  
The Elms Beech Lawn - The Lawn**

**Elm Tree Cottage**

Hull had become an unhealthy place by the end of the 19th century. Disease was rife, both amongst humans and animals. Wawne was particularly badly hit by the Cattle Plague in 1865/6. The archbishop sent letters to all the churches requesting a 'day of humiliation' on Wednesday 7 March, when ministers were to "exhort the people to accept this grievous murrain as a chastisement from the hand of our loving Father." Before this, most labourers had a run for their cow in the lanes of Wawne, but this practice was never revived.

The same year as the Cattle Plague, the City Council built the Garrison Hospital on the site of the old Citadel which was at Sammy's Point by the pier. The hospital was intended to deal with the smallpox epidemics which often swept through the port, but in 1868 there were approximately 160 deaths.2 Hull had its problems over the vexed question of vaccination, and feelings ran high about the efficacy of the Garrison, being so close to the river.

In 1883 the Corporation Sanitary Committee started a search for a new site, but it was not until 1897 that a situation in Sutton was seriously considered. John Topham, representing the villagers, wrote a letter of protest.

By 1899 it was clear that a new 'fever' hospital was a matter of urgency. Small pox was a constant scourge. Two hundred years before, two-thirds of the inhabitants of Sutton bore on their faces the marks of the frightful disease, and we recall poor William Liddell's case in 1833.  The "remote site" in Sutton fields was again suggested, but a petition from 275 Sutton objectors, headed by prominent men in the village, such as Messrs Northgraves, Calvert and Rodmell, was quickly presented. But it was only too obvious that the Sutton site would be far enough in the country to provide a very suitable place for an isolation hospital, and eventually Sutton inhabitants withdrew their objections.

Charles Hellyer of *Lamwath*, agreed to sell to the Corporation 23 acres of land in Hart's Close in the West Carr. Owing to the exigency of the situation, the hospital was to be built as a group of pavilions of corrugated iron. By October 1899 the Administration Block was ready, also the Laundry, Mortuary and Stable; and a temporary Nurses' Cottage had been built. Accommodation for the isolation and treatment of 300 patients was afforded. The cost was £19,380.

On 11 November, the Evan Fraser Hospital, named after a distinguished alderman, admitted its first patients, all suffering from smallpox. Mrs M Henderson was the superintendent.

*Evan Fraser Hospital (no doubt advertising the leisure side!)*

During the first week, the new hospital admitted 123 patients. On the 18th alone, 24 new cases were taken in. By then, 62 people had already died from the disease at the Garrison hospital, and two or three a day at Evan Fraser. Police were stationed outside to prevent anyone going in. Religious services were banned, and public libraries forbade the borrowing of books.

It was then confirmed that the Garrison was a primary source of infection; within a half-mile radius of the hospital, smallpox was four times as virulent as elsewhere. In December, the last patients there were discharged, the building fumigated and set alight.

Mr Francis Boynton of Sutton, was to supply the Evan Fraser with its milk, at 1/- a gallon. The Baths & Washhouses Committee made a gift of '1,000 old towels'. Miss Mary Marsters, born in 1895, recalled that, a few days after her mother died in 1899, someone in the village noticed that her father who "had a beard like George V, had a spot or two on his face. The doctor said he'd better go to hospital. He went to fever hospital on West Carr Lane. He said he never had smallpox till he got there." After the outbreak, the Evan Fraser assumed the role of a convalescence unit for cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever.

During the First War, the staff were thoroughly overworked. A nurse died, and the enquiry found that nurses were expected to work for three months with only one night and a weekend off.

Older Sutton residents remember that, because of its 'isolation' status, and therefore no visiting, patients were assigned a number, and "you had to look in the paper to find if the person had died or not."

At the outbreak of World War Two, the hospital again shifted its emphasis, to receive 150 chronic elderly sick. This became the home of those surviving until February 1945. People working at the hospital then, recall a lack of electricity and flush toilets. Mice were always in the kitchen; two or three would be running back and forth along the gaspipe which ran through the wall to the central gaslight.

The buildings were eventually demolished in 1958, and in 1966 the land was divided between the Corporation, for the development of Bransholme, and private developers. Sutton Park School occupies part of the site today.

When Evan Fraser was still quite new, there came to live in Sutton a couple who did a great deal for hospitals - Mr and Mrs Edwin Robson who, in 1913, came to live in the large, gracious *Sutton House*, formerly owned by the Liddells. Mr Robson was on the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary, and his wife had, only the previous year, purchased a house on Holderness Road, to be used as a free maternity home for poor mothers. This home became very popular, and in 1915, Mrs Robson gave it as a gift, fully equipped, plus £50 p.a. for running expenses, to Hull Corporation.  This home eventually became the Hedon Road Maternity Hospital. Mrs Robson performed the official opening on 11 October 1929. There were 83 beds, with accommodation and a training school for 24 midwives.

Edwin Robson (1863-1939) had entered business in his uncle's firm, Mr Henry Hodge, seed crusher, of High Street. Later, Mr Robson purchased Wilmington Mills, and c1900 became a director of the newly-founded British Oil & Cake Mills.

The couple had moved from *Tower Grange* on Holderness Road, and they brought with them some of the staff. Well remembered was Mr Leake, the gardener who lived in a cottage on the estate, and whose daughter Winnie, later married Clem Robinson.

*Winnie Leake between the whale jawbones of Sutton House*

Mr and Mrs Robson had eight children. Barbara Robson, born 1912, was away at school in 1925 when she became ill, and died suddenly of meningitis. Edwin Robson bought land from Mr Leonard Rodmell, of Hill Farm, and gave to the village a Playing Field in her memory, known as the Barbara Robson Children's Playing Field. The ground space was altered somewhat when the new Robson Way was constructed - but the playground and field are still well used.

*Barbara Robson c1924*

*Opening of Playing Field, 19.5.1928.  
Settrington Savery MP, Edwin & Edith Robson,  
Lady Middleton, J MacDonald, T R Ferens, P Reckitt*

During the First World War, Mrs Robson set up a model creamery at *Sutton House*, where she became an expert cheese-maker. During one ten-day teaching course in 1919, 286 gallons of milk were used to make 500 pounds of cheese. Many thousands of pounds of cheese were made that year at *Sutton House*.

Mrs Robson was also keen on poultry breeding, and she enjoyed flower cultivation in the extensive grounds of the house. She was "forever opening bazaars, six in one week at one time." She laid the foundation stone for Portabello chapel. They were staunch Methodists, but their children were married at St James'. Doris Kirby remembers watching from her grandmother's window, 58 Church Street, as the red carpet was laid along the path, and the canopy raised over the porch.

*Wedding of Violet Robson and William Nicks, 29 January 1929.*

Violet was a keen supporter of the Guiding Movement, and was Brown Owl for some time.

*Guides outside Sutton House, early 1930s. Hilda Atkin & Winnie Leake leaders.*

*Mr and Mrs Robson and family, c1935*

The family had a chauffeur for many years, James Chesney, who lived in *Beech Cottage*, the corner of Potterill Lane. James' daughter Vera, trained as a seamstress under Madame Clapham.3

Beech Cottage was built around 1849 when George Sonley lived there. He had 16 children.

*Beech Cottage 1904*

*James Chesney chauffeur, with Edwin & Edith Robson,  
& two daughters, c1915.  
He owned a succession of vehicles, the last being a Rolls-Royce.*

The Robsons owned a great deal of land in Sutton and Stoneferry. Edwin died in 1939 and Edith in 1941. *Sutton House* was used by the Electricity Board for the remainder of the War, but then it was bought by the Church of England and converted into the Hull Diocesan Maternity Hostel. When the Hostel moved to its original location in Linneaus Street in 1971, *Sutton House* fell into disrepair. However, the listed building was eventually converted into the splendid Residential Home that it is today.

One of Mrs Robson's supporters at the cheese-making classes was Mrs Philip Reckitt. After Mary Ann Priestman died, the Reckitt family bought *East Mount*, and had the house almost entirely re-built to a design by John Bilson. On his frequent 'Grand Tours', Philip Reckitt collected many interesting and curious objects for his house.  The gift of his home in 1925 to be used as a further branch of the Royal Infirmary typified the interest that the Reckitt family had always shown in the Infirmary, starting in 1858 when Isaac Reckitt gave two guineas for the hospital. The Hull Royal Infirmary (Sutton Annexe), comprising the large house and 50 acres, was officially opened on 5 February 1931. Now, the Reckitts' home in the large complex is used for administration.

*Former home of the Reckitt family at East Mount - 1995*

Between East Mount and Sutton, several superior houses had made their appearance by the early 1900s - *Eldon Villas* and *Locherben*, the latter occupied by Herbert Gray and family for many years. Evidence of cut and dressed stones in the garden suggest a former well.

Opposite, on Saltshouse Road, stands the 'charming residence' known as Woodside. It was erected in 1890 by its first owner, Mr F D Hurtley. Horace (1849-1930) and Lucy Waterhouse lived there for several years, from about 1916, having moved from *The Elms*.  Mr Waterhouse was a partner in the firm of Barton & Waterhouse, seed crushers of Stoneferry.4 Atlantic Mill was their first venture, but it burnt down in 1886. They built a new mill, and in 1908 took over Albion Mill. Horace and Lucy had seven children, most of whom remained in Sutton for some time, and were prominent in village affairs, with the church, and other activities.

*Woodside, home of the Waterhouses, c1920*

The house was sold to the Corporation around 1953, and is now a Remand Home, *Sutton Place.*

Built around the same time was the house next door, known as *Three Trees*, and occupied by William and Freda Waterhouse (married 1913) and family.5

*Three Trees, 1920*

William became managing director of United Premier Oil & Cake Mill. He owned Chestnut Farm, opposite the house. The name is retained in the housing estate there. Ursula Waterhouse (later Follett) recalled how during the War, the working shire horses were brought from the mill at Stoneferry to remain safe from incendiaries in the farm fields.  But on the night of 9 May 1941, an enemy aircraft emptied its bombs onto the field, killing all the horses.

*Mr Waterhouse surveying bomb damage on Chestnut Farm*

The Waterhouses were also very involved with Sutton village and the church. In 1947 William bought the old cottages and land in front of the church hall - subsequently known as Church Cottages - and made a gift of them to the church. The church garden at the foot of the west steps, though not on the exact site, is sometimes referred to as the Waterhouse garden.

Freda Waterhouse was the daughter of the Winkleys, formerly of *Tilworth*, but from 1900, of *Addison House*, next door to *Three Trees*. The castellated dwelling, with its datestone of 1900, is now the residence of a more prominent personage.

*Enid, Freda and Lois Winkley, of Addison House, 1900?*

Thus, the extended Waterhouse family occupied the greater part of Second Sutton Lane, as it was called. *Aingarth*, *The Hornbeams*, once occupied by the Bladon family, and *The Hollies*, complete the walk into Sutton.

Leonard Rodmell, from whom Edwin Robson bought land for the Playing Field, was the son of Abraham Rodmell (1834-1910), who held a farm called Mount Pleasant, situated east of the parsonage on Wawne Road.6  Built around 1870, it was a typical Victorian model farm, with arched, decorative window-heads, polychromatic brickwork, and angular gables.  Indeed, it was known locally as 'Model Farm'. Abraham and his wife Emma, had eleven children - "She made all their shirts," remarked a relative, "and knitted as she went down the field to fetch the cows up."  Eventually, the farm passed to Leonard. He lived there with his siblings Harry, Billy, Frank, Lily and Marion.

Tragedy was to befall Frank, who was killed by a train between Sutton and Swine when he was crossing the track with a flock of sheep.  It was a windy day and he failed to hear the train.

*'Model' Farm, c1930*

In 1927, Leonard and his wife Alice, moved to Hill Farm (*Rose Cottage* on the 1890 plan of estate - Mr Liddell's land). The land of the two farms was worked together, comprising about 147 acres, and extending behind *Barton House* and *Holly Bank* on the west, and behind the Reading Room and railway, the school and churchyard, to the east.

Alice's sister Emily, married 'Rowley' Thompson (he was a familiar figure milking his cows in the pinfold next to the school) and they lived in 'Highgate' in Wawne Road after Miss Barker left. Their two sons, Harold and Frank, helped on the farm.  Leonard and Alice had no children of their own, and later, Harold and Frank became part owners. Before Mount Pleasant passed to the Council in March 1959, Frank and his wife Barbara, farmed Mount Pleasant. The farmhouse was demolished in 1968/9.

Astral Way, a private residential development, now occupies the site of Hill Farm.

*Frank Thompson with Uncle Leonard Rodmell*

In his early years as a farmer, Leonard Rodmell became the first tenant of Wold View Dairy Farm, sited on Leads Road, now the corner of Midmere Avenue. Built in 1912, it comprised 54 acres, 18 of which were contiguous with the farm, and the remaining 36 acres adjoined 'Hospital Lane' (also known as Pool's Road or Green Lane). Dr John Lamplugh Kirk was the owner.

In 1927 the Smith family moved to Wold View, father and son George. George Smith recalled the early years:

*"I remember delivering the milk in churns, from horse-drawn carts. They were hard years for farmers; apart from the economic problems, there were several wet summers and the crops were lost. Many farmers, who tended to be arable, went over to dairy. It was safer because you collected a steady income. The dairy farms tended to be on the main roads, and crops grown further out. We would leave the churns at the farm gate where they were collected, and the milk taken to Hull. As more farmers turned to dairy from arable, the locals would remark, 'He's on his way out,' when they saw the milk churns outside the farm gate.*

*Wold View Farm c1912*

*"We ploughed the land with horses. I remember the excitement when Carlam Hill Farm in Wawne got the first tractor in the area. Another Wawne farm created a 'first' as well; Ings Farm was the first to 'marl' the land (a process which prevents the top layer of soil from blowing away).*

*"We bought our first petrol-driven milk van in 1932, instead of the horses. We employed two roundsmen then. When we got bottles, Edith (his wife) would wash them all by hand, about 400, from the copper in the kitchen."*

Mr and Mrs Smith were still working Wold View when, in 1965, the Council bought the acreage from Dr Kirk's daughter. The Smiths stayed on in the house, and watched the building of Truro Close, Wendron Close and Redruth Close on their farmland. Midmere Primary School was built on one of the fields. The old farmhouse survived, happily in use as a children's nursery.

*Part of the plan of Sutton House Estate, 1890 (click it twice)*

Dr John Kirk's father, Thomas, purchased land in High Street between 1853 and 1855, and built 12 messuages comprising the twin terraces of Church Mount.

*Church Mount c1905*

Around 1860, he built a farmstead in the High Street, in Georgian brick7  (Kirk Close is built on the site).

John William Kirk, son of Thomas, who built Church Mount, died in 1872 aged only 27. His widow, Mary, married Benjamin West, stockbroker.8  Together with her young, son John L Kirk, they went to live firstly in Church Mount and later to *Springfield*, situated on the corner of Leads Road. The couple had one son, Arthur.

*Springfield c1905*

Some time in the 1890s, Abraham Rodmell (apparently unrelated to the Abraham of Mount Pleasant) became the tenant of Kirk's Farm, later purchasing the farm. His wife, Polly, established a new name - *Holm Oak* - by virtue of the splendid tree in the garden.

*Abraham and Polly Rodmell at Holm Oak*

Abraham gave up farming in the 1920s, and sold the land, comprising about 80 acres, to the Hakeney family. After Jack Hakeney died, Abraham's son-in-law, Con Calvert, bought back the land, and re-let it.  The farmhouse was demolished in the late 1970s. Only the old cowshed remains, and the original name, Kirk Close.

*Springfield*, the home of the Wests, was built by shipowner Benjamin Holland, in the 1820s, and occupied a site of more than six acres. When he died in 1847, it passed to his daughter, Eliza Graburn. Benjamin West bought it from John Storry. Mr West was well-known in the village for his assortment of vehicles. His son Arthur, was a colourful character in Sutton, remembered for his penchant for clocks, especially other people's. Aptly nicknamed 'Clocky', his house on Wawne Road was found to be 'jammed with clocks' after he died.

*'Clocky' West*

When Thomas Bell's property was broken up after 1851, a good deal of re-building took place in that part of the parish during the next decade. *Wincolmlea* was demolished, and two separate residences were built - *The Elms* and *Beech Lawn*, both similar architecturally. The line of houses opposite, Victoria Terrace, was built, and cottages in Watson Street, site of Bell's kitchen garden, still bear the datestone, 1864. Albert and Rutland Terraces were constructed, with the house on the corner (later Singleton's) bearing the datestone, 1856.

Horace Waterhouse lived at *The Elms* by 1881, and as his family grew, so did the servants, there being a cook, nurse, housemaid and governess by the census of 1891. After the Waterhouses moved to *Woodside*, the Cocklands moved into *The Elms*.  British Gas Light & Coke Co acquired the house by 1925, and the manager, Harold Copp, was resident. His successor in 1939 was Mr Arthur Higham. He was awarded the MBE for his work during the War, being constantly called on both day and night to deal with fractured pipes and leakages. The land-mine on Watson Street, 25 March 1941, blew in all the doors of *The Elms*, and the window panes were thrown onto the lawn, incredibly remaining intact.

Mr Higham's daughter remembers *The Elms* as being a lovely home with a large lounge and billiard room. The gardens were extensive, reaching as far as Jessamine Cottage. The grounds boasted a tennis court, stabling, carriage house, pig sties and chicken houses. Masses of bluebells filled the driveway in spring.

*The Elms 1950s*

*Beech Lawn* was acquired by Thomas Kidd Bulmer (1834-1902) a seed crusher in partnership with Mr Field. He lived there with his wife and eight children.

Henry Frederick Smith (1836-1914) was the next owner, who came from *Lamwath* after selling to Charles Hellyer in 1896. Henry's family had lived in Sutton for many years, his father being John Lee Smith JP, of *Elm Tree Cottage*, a tea merchant. His grandmother was also of Sutton. Henry Smith was head of the firm of Messrs H F & Lee Smith Ltd., seed crushers of Wincolmlee. He and his wife Ada, had ten children, all adopting the middle name of Lee.

John Lee Smith (1875-1968), a Major in World War I, inherited *Beech Lawn*

Both these gracious houses were converted in recent years into residential homes for the elderly.

*The Lawn*, sited between Watson Street and Tween Dykes, stands on ground formerly owned by Thomas Barnby, later his daughter Mary. Built around 1880, it had six good-sized bedrooms, large drawing and dining rooms, kitchen, pantry and cellar. The splendid pigeon cote was inherited from the Barnbys. By 1899 the house was occupied by Mr and Mrs Fenton. The house has rather unusual galleries at the top, which apparently became the downfall of two maids who, when the mistress was out, went up to "take the air and admire the view. Mrs Fenton was not amused, and they were sacked.9 By 1913 the Fentons had built an extension for billiards at the side opposite the conservatory. There was also a tennis court.

*The Lawn, 1905*

Thomas Pentith and his family moved from *The Limes* to *The Lawn* for a few years. Colonel Alfred John Downs of Rose, Downs & Thompson, engineers, was the owner possibly up to the Second War. The Government took over the house then, no doubt relishing the roof galleries for signalling purposes. After the War, the Singletons bought the house, intending it for flats, but instead it was converted into a Club.

Mr Thomas Riley bought *The Lawn*, c1952, and had an extension built on. When the family sold much of the land, garages were errected close up to the original frontage.10

Elm Tree Cottage, the residence of Henry F Smith's father, was situated opposite to where the vicarage now stands. The kitchen garden was the site of one of the ancient manor houses, 'the remains of which were pulled down in 1847 by Mr Smith'.11 The pleasure grounds were extensive, extending all the way down to Tween Dykes, and on the west, to the railway. The front lawn alone was 30 acres!

William Walker and Henry Hodge, both seed crushers, occupied the house, and by the census of 1881, George and Zilpah Hodge were there.  He employed 61 men and three boys, presumably in his business as a seed crusher.

By 1889, Dickinson Hurtley, corn miller at Wilmington, owned *Elm Tree Cottage*. He demolished the house c1907,12 and built the present mansion of red brick and tiles. It was of fine workmanship, each brick being wrapped individually.13 It was re-named *Elmtrees*.

*Sutton Village Care Home, formerly Elmtrees*

Mr Hurtley died soon afterwards, at the age of 86, and his sons Joseph and Edward, also corn millers, inherited the house. It was put up for auction in 1917,14 when the buildings and land still comprised about 20 acres. The frontage was to the south, the rear facing High Street. The house contained about 44 rooms, including ten bed and dressing rooms, billiard room and library. There was stabling for ten horses, coach house, and numerous outbuildings.

In addition to the main residence, there was another house with five rooms and bathroom; a farm house with buildings and land; three four-roomed cottages; and a site for two further cottages. The property passed to Robert Williams, who filled the rooms very well, having a family of 21 children.

Later in the 1920s, the Sutton building firm of Sewell bought some of the land, and Highfield was built.

In 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, 30 to 40 Basque children lived in the big house. In World War Two it was used by the Army and as a fire station.

Since the 1940s, the house has undergone a variety of changes, including being let as separate offices. It is now a residential home, Sutton Village Care Home.

All these large houses in Sutton, and their owners, provided regular entertainment and enjoyment in the early years of the century, with a round of garden parties, fêtes and bazaars in spacious grounds - a gentle way of life that many of us would envy today.

*Garden party at Elmtrees, early 1900s*

##### Notes

1     Letter in Borthwick, York

2     Hull City Archives

3     Thanks to James' granddaughter who has supplied photographs of several Robson carriages

4     Harold W Brace: *History of Seed Crushing in Great Britain*

5     Thanks to Ursula, their daughter, for information and photographs.

6   I am indebted to Heather Clubley (née Calvert) for this, and much more information, many photographs she has borrowed for the church's education department, and for her continued interest and friendship.

7     Ibid.

8     Thanks to Miss Kathleen West, granddaughter.

9     Mary Salvidge tells this tale, her aunt being one of the maids.

10    Thanks to Jack Riley of *The Lawns*

11    Sheahan & Whellan, 1856

12    Notice of Sale

13    Mary Marsters, Sutton resident, remembered this.

1. Notice of Sale 1917

**CHAPTER 11**

**The Railway - Shops and Trade at  
the Beginning of the 20th Century.**

A century ago, everyone in the villages of Sutton and Wawne 'knew their place'. The people who lived 'in the big houses' employed gardeners and servants. It was a way of life and was accepted.

Despite the disparity in terms of wealth, the villages were close-knit communities. On leaving school, the girls often went into 'service', and the boys worked as gardeners or handymen. Jobs were plentiful. Many people never ventured outside the village for goods, services or entertainment, particularly the inhabitants of Sutton. Here there were three butchers; grocery and provision shops, and those selling clothes and hardware. The village had a police station; two public houses; Post Office and Telephone Exchange; its doctors and chemist; dressmakers, tailors and shoemakers; blacksmiths and joiners; plumbers, decorators and bricklayers; piano teachers and elocutionists; and, at the end, undertakers.

The majority of villagers worked hard for their living; they loved their village, and knew and respected their neighbours. Sutton and Wawne were closely integrated; tradesmen served both places, the postman delivered letters to both, and folk took a leisurely stroll 'down to the ferry' from Sutton on Sunday mornings after service. The farms and market gardens between the villages served both communities, and were dependent on them.

*Postman Robert Smith, who lived at Jessamine Cottage,  
and was still walking the six miles to  
Wawne and back at the age of 83.*

The railway not only provided passenger transport - it was indispensable to many traders. The Hull to Hornsea line was officially opened in 1864, with a station in Sutton-on-Hull.1 George Liddell and a partner had raised £20,000 for the Railway Company in 1833, so George's son must have been elated to have the station almost on his doorstep. No longer was the annual run to Hornsea in the phaeton confined to the likes of Thomas Bell, the Priestmans or the Revd. Nicholas Walton - now even the poor could enjoy one glorious day out at the seaside. Not that Hornsea welcomed the intrusion at first - they were scathing about the day trippers - but of course, the Victorian heyday of the railways was here to stay, at least for a while.

The two Sutton schools organised an annual trip for children, parents, grandparents, friends, a tradition that continued for almost a century. At first the line was only single track, but the trains made good time, and there were plenty of them; on Monday 20 October 1884 records show that the last train from Hull at 10.50pm reached Hornsea and 11.40pm. taking just thirteen minutes to arrive in Sutton.2

#### The track was doubled around 1902

#### Sutton Booking Office c1905 - 'every boy's dream'

#### Tween Dykes Railway Crossing c1907

The line operated for just 100 years, and was left derelict for several years, but is now a much-used cycle track and walkway from Hull to Hornsea.

Two families well remembered today were already established in Sutton long before the turn of the century, George Calvert, blacksmith, and Robert Holmes, butcher, both appearing in records of the 1820s. The blacksmith had his yard opposite the church, on land owned by John Lee Smith.3

*Blacksmith's yard 1892, George's grandson James, in foreground.*

*The Board on the House by the Yard  
in the image below reads:****JAS S CALVERT -   
BLACKSMITH & INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER*** *(Church Street c1910)*

When Miss Potterill died in 1910, aged 92, James and his wife, Kate, bought the properties at the top of Potterill Lane, transferring the business there. The lane then, not much more than a cart track, was almost devoid of houses, apart from three bungalows on one side. Later, James often worked in conjunction with Jack Fletcher, joiner and wheelwright, then of 77 Church Street, who had served his apprenticeship with Arthur Carrick.

*Jack and Edith Fletcher, 85 Church Street, 1950s*

James was very much involved in the life of the village, and it was rare that the smithy was empty of a companion. His work as a shoesmith alone kept him busy, in the years before mechanisation, with working horses on the roads and fields being the natural way of life. He lived with his family in Laburnum Cottage. He was made a J.P. in 1927.

*James stands centre back with a group from the village.*

When James died in 1928, his son, Conan4 was 28, and already following in his father's footsteps as a blacksmith. He was a leading light in the village and everyone knew and loved him. He and his wife, Emily, had four children, and all surviving retain their links with Sutton, Frank's family still continuing the Calvert name. Con was churchwarden for many years. When Emily died in 1967, he had the vestry at Sutton completely re-furbished by 'Mousie' Thompson in her memory.

#### Con Calvert at work in the Blacksmith's Shop, 1950s

Another blacksmith whose name appears in the Directory of 1823 is Daniel Robinson. Before 1883 John Robinson owned the poorhouse cottages by the church. After the Poor Law Act, Sutton poorhouse was converted into six cottages; three faced High Street, backed by the other three, divided by a narrow passageway. They were variously called Old Poorhouse, Poorhouse Yard or Row. John Robinson occupied the cottage on the left and had his smithy at the back.5

#### Plan of John Robinson's Smithy, 1883

Joseph Robinson followed his father as blacksmith for many years. He had a large family. Holley worked in Thornton-Varley's, later becoming a buyer; and Carrie was well respected as the kindly infants' teacher at St James' School.

#### Poorhouse in the right foreground, c1910

By 1919 George Dearing occupied the cottage, using the former smithy as a workshop for making and repairing cycles. Behind the cottages, a communal tap was affixed to the wall, and in the yard were built six earth closets. Although the former poorhouse was of three storeys, the upper floor appears to have been used only for storing hay.6 The poorhouse was demolished about 1936, and the bricks used to build the Waterhouse garden wall.

One of the occupants of the poorhouse in the 1920s was Robert Marsters, the plumber. Like many men, he had an aversion for shopping, and would let down from his window a basket with a list and money, to any kind-hearted lady who was passing. The job done, he would haul up the basket the same way. He had a little shop, which now serves as someone's garage, on the north of Church Street just going out of the village.

#### Mr Marsters the Plumber

John Robinson had another son, Alf, who became a blacksmith. He set up business in the smithy in Fairholme Lane (Often called Blacksmith's Lane, or Bargate Lane), Wawne.

#### Alf Robinson, Wawne blacksmith, c1905

The joiner's shop was next door, and in 1902 George Westerdale Blakey, also from Sutton, began work there. He worked on farm machinery, rulleys and carts. Often he and Alf would work together.7 He lived with his family in the old school. His son, Percy, succeeded him.

#### G W Blakey, Wawne joiner, on right

The joiner with whom Jack Fletcher learnt his trade in Sutton was Arthur Carrick. He lived at 2A High Street, and it is thought his father, Thomas, built the house with the two adjacent cottages around the mid-19th century. The two cottages were let to the Police.

#### Old Police Houses, 1999

Although the complex now houses a doctors' practice, the cells can still be discerned just beyond the entrance. George and John Long, father and son, were constables in the 1870s and '80s, followed by PC Jackson, coincidentally a joiner by trade himself.8

#### PC Jackson and family, police house, Sutton, c1898

After Thomas Carrick died in 1908, Arthur carried on a thriving trade. Two of his sons worked with him, alongside four or five other workers. The board on the wall announced:

**A CARRICK & SONS CARPENTERS, JOINERS, WHEELWRIGHTS.  
WRINGERS MENDED**.

They were also undertakers. Their business covered a wide area, the staff often away for some time, restoring large houses.9

*Arthur Carrick and family,  
2A Church Street, Sutton, 1913*

The other family whose roots go back to the early 1800s, was that of Holmes, the butchers' family. It appears that Robert ran his business from Lowgate,10 but his son James, born 1838, had his shop in High Street (now William Hill). His granddaughter, Brenda, born 1904, recalled a very different Butcher's life:

*"Some time in the 1870s my grandfather moved to 5 College Street, then called St Winifred's Villa. It had been a Brewery, I think. The house had five bedrooms, and our staff slept in the largest, when I was small. I always got up first to slice two loaves for breakfast, which we served with cold salt beef. In those days our assistant butcher, Charles Kennington, lived in 1 Butcher's Row, which James owned as well. I had a little basket with a white cloth, and I took the ladies of the College their lamb chop or piece of steak they had ordered. Everything was delivered daily as required.’*

*Holmes' Butcher's Shop, College Street 1905  
(Telephone Street in the photograph on account of the*

*Sutton Telephone Exchange there)*

*‘James and his wife, Elizabeth, had eight children, but she died aged 52.11*

*My father, Arthur, took on the business. He is on the right of the picture. The trestle table was only there for the photograph; you were not allowed to have tables on the pavement.*

*We had a big slaughterhouse and killed the animals once a week. It is now a Pottery.12 We had three horses and kept them in a field in which there was a large shed. It was in Lowgate next to 'The Lawns' at the corner of Watson Street and went right down to Tween Dykes Road. Arthur went to Hull Cattle Market every week and bought the bullocks and sheep and kept them in the field until required.’*

*"We had another butcher's shop in Stoneferry, so we had two butchers' carts. When I was four, I was sometimes allowed to go with my father to all the farms we visited with the meat. Our last call before home was Wawne Ferry, to see Mr and Mrs Don Brewer. James used to go in the pub for a drink and Mrs Brewer always came to see me and brought me a homemade bun and glass of lemonade, a great treat."*

Brenda's brother, Arthur, began work as a butcher, but died of kidney disease in 1932, aged only 24.

*Arthur Holmes junior, aged 16,  
setting off for Cottingham Horse Show, 1924*

Brenda, then married to Douglas Hamilton, and with qualifications from Hull Art College, founded The Sutton School of Art & Crafts, at their large old home in Chamberlain Street. This came to an end before World War Two.13

*Syllabus of Sutton School of Art & Crafts*

As well as Holmes' butcher's in the early years, there were two other butchers' shops. Rodmell's near the corner of College Street, also had a farm and sold milk; when Mr Rodmell died, his daughter Renée ran a sweet shop for several years, which many older inhabitants frequented. The other butcher's, opposite *Beech Lawn*, belonged to John Hakeney.14 In due course, the business passed to the Hickey family, who were still trading in the 1960s.

*The new petrol-driven Morris butcher's van, c1930.  
Bert Hickey and Aubrey Foster 15*

*Hickeys' Family Butcher, c1959*

Renée Rodmell's sister, Nellie, married a Mr Wheelhouse from Stoneferry, and they took over William Hart's grocer's shop opposite the church, when Mr Hart retired.

*William Hart's shop with delivery cart, High Street, 1870s 16*

The Wheelhouses ran the shop for many years, their daughter Nancy, running part as a hairdresser's salon at one time.

The 'Brewery' to which Brenda Holmes referred, was connected to *The Duke of York* public house. This was probably built or re-built on the site of an ale-house at the end of the 18th century, Peter Killin being the owner at that time. It was a popular name for an inn, for the later George IV was commander in chief of the British forces. Robert Spicer, farmer, was the landlord by 1840, and by 1851 17 he owned the inn and also the land south of it, having built messuages and outbuildings on the site.18 He rented the corner part to the Revd J.A. Eldridge for his school. The messuage and beer shop adjoining, was known as the *Albert Brewery*, and it is probable that, as licensee of *The Duke*, Robert Spicer supplied the beer shop which he owned out at the back. The year after died, 1876, James Holmes purchased "the messuage and beer shop, the brewery adjoining, and the malthouse, granary and buildings called the *Albert Brewery*."

*Duke of York, c1905 16*

*The Duke of York* was of modest size then, that of an average house, as were most inns. In the photograph, a small shop stands to the left of *The Duke*, long since forgotten. According to a Directory of 1890, it belonged to Mr Rickwood, grocer, whose window boasts an array of fruit, nuts, dates and sweets.

*Mr Rickwood, c1895*

*The Duke* was under the auspices of the Websters for nearly 40 years until 1920, when it was acquired by the Hull Brewery Company. Mr Rickwood's old shop vanished in the resulting extension, and the public house was re-modelled in mock Tudor style. Andrew Murphy is the present licensee; it presents an attractive frontage, and good food!

*The Duke of York, July 1999*

The shop on the other side of *The Duke* in the photograph of 1905 was the Post Office. Even before the Railway, Sutton had a postmaster, Thomas Campey, who was also a grocer, and boot and shoe maker. Letters arrived from Hull and were despatched daily. In 1892, John Forfitt was grocer and postmaster, and also ran the telegraph office and savings bank. Probably by that time it operated from Poorhouse Yard.19 Soon after 1897 the postmaster, Wilson Labourn Smith, transferred the business to 68 Church Street. W L Smith was also a keen photographer, and the back room of the shop was fitted out as a studio.20 His other hobby was repairing and building cycles, and he would bring parts by train from Hull. For the most part, he left the running of the Post Office to a Mrs Coates, as he worked in Insurance in Hull.

*Sutton Post Office 1913*

*(Alice Coates, whose granddaughter supplied the picture,  
is the young girl. Harry Easingwood with cycle)*

After the First War, the Post Office was run by Arthur Taylor, and moved to 42 Church Street.

*Former Post Office in 1994, prior to the recently-built units.  
The premises now occupied by Debbie's Photo Parlour.*

In recent years, the owners have been Pam and Keith Vickers.21 In the 1990s, wishing to extend the business, they began looking for a suitable site. An old building on Church Street appeared an unlikely venue, but in better days it had been a farmhouse built soon after Enclosure, in 1792. It was 'a perfect example of Georgian symmetry', each of six rooms being 15 feet square. A certain Thomas Ross had lived there (the very churchwarden who caused a rumpus in church in 1803). The house passed to his son, Charles. He and his wife, Isabella, had a son (whom they called Thomas) and a daughter, also named Isabella. She is the lady whom older villagers remember, who lived with her companion, Miss McAllister, in what was known as *Poplar House*. Miss Ross died in 1937. It is thought that the farmhouse was used in World War Two for homeless people.

In 1968 the house and garden were 'listed' by virtue of their historic value, but in course of time the property became derelict.

*Old Farmhouse 96/98 Church Street, c1990*

Fortunately, Pam and Keith Vickers rescued the dilapidated dwelling, and on 3 February 1994, the handsome new Post Office opened. At present it stocks stationery and a large selection of cards. It serves an ever-growing community, for the former garden now comprises a small estate, Priestgate, built by the firm of Sewell.

*Sutton Post Office, July 1999*

*The row of shops*

Opposite the Post Office stands a line of shops and cottages.

On the left is William Hill, the shop which was occupied in the 19th century by butcher James Holmes. When he moved his premises in 1876, the shop was taken over by Miss Emma Heron, a dressmaker of 32. She was an extremely able lady, small in stature, but assertive. She sold materials and haberdashery, and continued making clothes. Mary Marsters, who worked for her for 14 years, recalled:

*"The shop was originally two houses, with a double door at the front, but Miss Heron had the front made into a shop. We had a step outside the door and a little bell which would ring when anyone came into the shop. We had a staircase from the shop to the upstairs. Of course I lived in, just the two of us, with Miss Heron's Old English sheepdog.*

*"The shop went right back to a long garden, where the toilet was, and we had to fetch water from outside too. There was a huge place behind, which Miss Heron called the warehouse. She kept all the coal in there. She used to buy it once a year. Every Tuesday and Friday, the Sutton carrier, Mr Edward Rodmell, would come to the shop in the morning, take Miss Heron's order, and go into Hull to the Hudson Smith warehouses, bringing the goods back by cart in the evening. Once a month she went to pay her bills.*

*"She would sell materials - best calico was 2½d a yard; cottons, silks and wools. We made men's shirts ourselves in those days, with separate collars. Cotton was 1d a reel. She used to sell wool and oilcloth; best black cashmere stockings at 11½d; hessian aprons; boys' laced boots at 5/11d a pair. She bought boots and shoes from a traveller who came from the Bull Ring in Birmingham.*

*"Customers would come from Wawne and all the district. I remember Arthur West used to come in a lot to buy big rolls of hessian for coarse aprons. I got paid 3/6d a month at the shop."*

Miss Heron is remembered as being quite an acerbic old lady, demurring to sell a bra to a young girl on account of her 'not having a boosom'. But she ran a successful shop for many years until she died in 1927 at the age of 83. Mary Marsters moved away, but after she retired, she returned to Sutton, and recorded her memories at the grand age of 97.

*Miss Heron's Draper's Shop early 1900s (now no.71 Church Street)*

In this photograph can be seen a typical parlour shop, advertising its Tea and Cocoa from the front window. The store next door was also run by a lady - Miss Moody - who sold wallpaper and hardware. She had one table set as a mini-café. Her companion with whom she lived was Sarah Harrison, sister-in-law of Jack Hakeney, and an expert needlewoman.

*Miss Moody's Hardware and Hakeneys' Grocer's Shops, early 1900s*

Cliff Hakeney, born 1907, recalled his parents' shop:

*"What is now a hardware store was the shop and front sitting room. I remember the bins of flour and the cask of vinegar. Sugar and sweets were sold in blue, cone-shaped bags. Everything had to be weighed and packed. Butter was stamped, bacon sliced and cheese cut. We also sold firelighters and tobacco."*

Yet another shop was situated on the corner of Albert Terrace where Martha Cross (née Sewell) had a haberdashery and general store, next to the Primitive Chapel (photo chapter 6). She also did dressmaking. Thomas Cross repaired and sold bicycles there in his spare time. However, Martha died in 1921, and shortly afterwards the two daughters, Mary and Marjorie, were living with their grandparents.22 Many villagers remember the later owners of this shop, Misses Mabel and Eva Singleton. It has been boarded up for many years now.

*The Ship Inn* was probably re-built around 1804. The trustees of Leonard Chamberlain, who owned the land,23 erected a house for four people, and papers24 of 1815 record the lease of the Public House, buildings, stables and garden, to David Habbershaw, tenant. The document refers to the messuage as 'now used as Public House'. Three stables were erected in 1856 with roof spaces for corn and hay (these are still standing). Two almshouses, one for six widows, one for four, were also held by the trustees.

Eric Wales, whose grandparents, the Tindills, kept *The Ship Inn* in the 1920s, recollected:

*"The pub was very much like a house, with the living quarters on the left. The kitchen was on the left of the steps, and a door from there led into the tap-room, and through the back into the yard. Fifty yards from the back door of the pub were three stables, and a smaller stable where a pig was kept; and the rulley. Outside the back door was a gents' toilet. Round the corner a beer cellar, where the barrels were kept; then the ladies' toilet. The copper-house was next, and a coal-house. Upstairs were three bedrooms, and two attics with a fanlight in the roof."*

The Chamberlain Trust sold the *Ship Inn* in 1953.

*The Ship gardens at the rear before the car park became a necessity.  
Bessie Steele with niece, 1952, just before alterations.*

It was probably at this time that the name became *The Ship*, and when the cottages next to the inn were acquired by the new owners in order to enlarge the premises, for it was in 1954 that the new Chamberlain Homes were built to the rear of the pub next to the car park. These have just been demolished. *The Ship* is another beautifully-kept public house in Sutton.

*The Ship, July 1999*

The name of Easingwood was familiar at the turn of the century. Thomas Easingwood was a builder and bricklayer. It is thought by the family that as a young apprentice he assisted with the building of Victoria Terrace in the mid-1850s, soon after Thomas Bell's estate was divided. In later years, he owned this terrace.

*Victoria Terrace, College Street*

Thomas Easingwood re-built the church room fronting the school in 1867. This has had many uses over the years, including premises for the Trustee Savings Bank. In 1896, Thomas erected the four cottages of Providence Row, and also built four houses near the top of Potterill Lane. In 1918, then aged 78 (it was a time when many working people did not 'retire'), he planned two houses opposite the church. Sadly, only one was completed before he died - *The Nook* - but happily, Thomas' wife Rachel, settled there for her last 12 years, and the house is still in the family.

*The Nook, 1918*

Thomas Easingwood lived in West Parade, but his relative, Harry, lived in Providence Cottages, working as a shoemaker and repairer. William Easingwood junior, occupied a cottage in Victoria Terrace. He was a joiner. Next door but one, occupying the gabled end-of-terrace house in the foreground was Charles Pickering, painter and decorator. In 1895 he sent Charles Hellyer an estimate for painting Westfield Cottage - a fair amount of work for £6.18.0d.

*Tender for painting farmhouse, 1895*

Many villagers remember Charles Pickering's son, Bert; the plaque on the wall advertises the business.

Several of the descendants of George Sonley, of *Beech Cottage*, were still in Sutton around 1900. John Blenkin Sonley, born in 1838, established a multi-skilled business as wheelwright, joiner, builder and undertaker. He built Fern Cottage (opposite 12 Church Mount). His son, of the same name, was born in 1876, and worked hard like his father. Working at *Addison House* one day, he met Bertha Massam, who had taught at Lambert Street School, specialising in music, but at that time was governess to the Winkley girls. The couple married. John helped Thomas Easingwood build *The Nook* and the former Post Office (no.42). When his father retired, he moved to West Parade, and John junior, and Bertha moved into *Fern Cottage*.

*Fern Cottage, home of the Sonleys.  
Leslie & Mary are two of the children.*

It was a large complex of buildings, with a joinery and another large building which the army took over during World War One for fumigating purposes (blankets, etc). Bertha did the book-keeping and helped build up the business, and the couple owned many houses in Sutton. However, John often waived the fee if a child died, and lined the little coffins with satin, decorating them with ribbon. He remembered with grief making coffins for three of Emily Pitcher's children. 25

*John Blenkin Sonley had a hearse, and a pony and trap*

The old occupation of Carrier has disappeared now, never to return. Roads and communications improved slowly after Enclosure, and Sutton had a regular carrier service from the beginning of the 19th century. Richard Clappison, whose descendants still live locally, departed from 'Mrs Jenkinson's Pot Shop, Lowgate' on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1810. As Mary Marsters remembered, Edward Rodmell was the Sutton carrier by the 1890s, and also a coal merchant. His grandson, Cliff Wright, remembers:

*"My grandfather would go to Hull every Tuesday and Friday. The previous evening people would bring goods they wanted to sell, dairy produce or parcels, and give lists of things they wanted to sell in the shops. They could travel in the horse-drawn cart if they wished. They went to the market-place by Holy Trinity. For the return journey, boys with hand carts would bring produce that was to go to Sutton, and my grandfather would return to Sutton.*

*"My father started in the business, but after the War, in 1918, there was no call for it, and he became a corn factor."*

'Carrier Cottage' was in Chamberlain Street. The cottage still stands, though with three additional bedrooms in the roof.

*Edward Rodmell, Sutton Carrier, early 1900s*

Noel Thompson and Brian Lazenby ran a horse bus service from *The Duke of York* to Hull around 1900, and later the latter aspired to a taxi service, acquiring a fine new Darracq for the purpose.

*Brian Lazenby and Taxi, c1910*

Wawne village, too, had a carrier service in the 19th century, and Police Constables served there; George Long was in Wawne from 1875.26 PC Hobson, who had previously worked as a farm labourer for Ashe Windham, was killed in a motor cycle accident in Pocklington. PC Roantree was specially commended for apprehending a thief.

*PC Roantree at home in Kenley Cottages, c1910*

He retired to Little Weighton, built himself a house there, across the lane from the school, and gave over part of his large garden to the school for gardening lessons.

Around 1900, there were in Wawne the blacksmith and joiner, Mr J Brown the grocer, and Mr Brown the tailor, and a shoemaker.

*Wawne: tailor's shop in foreground, next to general store*

Thus, the villagers depended mostly on tradesmen from Sutton and the surrounding area. James Farnaby, who lost his Post Office in 1911, was the shoemaker. The Post Office was transferred to Church Row, in the little cottage opposite the church. It was run by Mabel Richardson.

Muriel Blakey's grandfather became sub-postmaster in 1916, but her mother looked after the office. They lived in a cottage in Greens Lane, next to the school. In 1942, Clara Blakey was appointed as sub-postmistress, and four years later moved to 21 Main Street, where the business was run from a table in the hall. She retired in 1966, and the Post Office moved to its present shop in Main Street.

Various references have been made to the ancient Wawne Ferry, and traders from Beverley and Dunswell took advantage of the river crossing to sell their wares. Slightly later in the century, Frank Norton remembers 'Tin Hat Man' who lived in a houseboat moored at Thearne. He came to Wawne with his tin box crammed with lace and handkerchiefs, pins and needles, buttons and bootlaces.

In the 19th century, the ferry was operated by successive tenants of the former public house close to the landing stage on the east bank of the river. In 1840 this was known as Ferry House, with William Breeding as the victualler. William Breeding, junior, was still operating the ferry in 1872, but his house was also known as Anchor Inn at least as early as 1853, when it was so named on the OS map. By 1879 the landlord was James Brewer, originally from Little Weighton, who had nine sons and three daughters. In the graveyard of St Peter's church there stands a memorial stone to James Hall Brewer, who died in 1889, aged 55.

The 1892 Directory shows Anchor Inn as being occupied by William Gray, victualler and farmer, but by 1895 it had been taken over by John Wood, who stayed about a decade. Donald Brewer, who appears to be the seventh of James' children, took over the Windham Arms, as it was then called, in 1909.27 Residents of Wawne recall paying one penny to cross the river and back, twopence for a cycle; sixpence for pony and trap. Donald Brewer ran the ferry to Thearne almost until the time it ceased to operate in 1946.

*Wawne Ferry 1922; Donald Brewer ferryman*

*Sutton High St, looking west.  
The 'Duke of York', left foreground; 'The Ship', centre back, c.1910.*

Notes on Chapter 11

1   The history is well documented by Peter Price in his *'Lost Railways of Holderness'*. Thanks to Peter for photographs.  
  
2   Hedon Railway Exhibition  
  
3   Tithe Map  
  
4   His mother was reading Sherlock Holmes at the time of his birth!   
  
5   OS map 1853  
  
6   Nellie Myers  
  
7   Thanks to Muriel Blakey for information and photographs  
  
8   East Riding Constabulary Records - E.R of Yorkshire Archives and Records Service  
  
9   Thanks to Carrick family  
  
10   Tithe Map  
  
11   One of the children became the teacher, Alice   
  
12   Sutton Mushroom Pottery, owned by Dave Boyes  
  
13   Many thanks to Brenda Holmes who died in 1997, and was a wonderful letter-writer

14   Now Dave Smith, antiques  
  
15   Thanks to members of the Hickey family for interest & photographs  
  
16   Thanks to the Calvert family for these very early photographs   
  
17   Tithe Map  
  
18   Deeds - E.R of Yorkshire Archives and Records Service   
  
19   Grace Smith, daughter of W L Smith, recalled this   
  
20   His photographs in this book are initialled with WLS  
  
21   Thanks for information and guided tour!  
  
22   Thanks to Mary Moorhouse  
  
23   Enclosure of 1768  
  
24   E.R of Yorkshire Archives and Records Service   
  
25   His daughter, Mary, later Train, supplied this information.   
  
26   ER Constabulary Notes - E.R of Yorkshire Archives and Records Service  
  
27   It is believed that the Brewers were relatives of the Grays - Dorothy Norton.

## CHAPTER 12

Leisure & Entertainment - Sutton Reading Room  
The Great War - The Church Cottages  
Between the Wars; village activities and amenities  
The Second War & its Casualties

Building of Bransholme

The Reading Room at Sutton was established some years before the Windham Reading Room at Wawne, being a re-building of the first Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, though it appears to have been a domestic dwelling in the interim. The existing Reading Room in Church Street was established in 1877, aided by a grant of £25 from Henry Smith of *Lamwath*.1 The Minutes of 1893 record Benjamin Pickering as President, and all the well-known Sutton names were on the committee - Holme, West, Topham, Calvert, Blashill, Twidale . . . It was a large room; billiards, bagatelle and darts were favourite pastimes.  In these days of constant cacophony assailing our ear-drums, it is slightly amusing to note that a resolution was passed in the early days, for a covering for the dominoes table 'on account of the noise.'

The Room had a good-sized library, and periodicals; the gentlemen of the village presumably ambled to the Reading Room when dinner was about to be started, for generally speaking it was too early in history for this task to be shared.

Vice-Chairman John Topham instigated some fund-raising in 1903, when the old bagatelle table was replaced by one for billiards. Arthur West, perhaps waiting too long for his turn, gave a gift to the newly-furbished room - of course, a clock!

Although not yet members, ladies were induced to do the catering for special events and, before any village or church hall existed, these were quite frequent. Concerts; visiting speakers, often of national repute such as Mrs Bramwell Booth; parties and entertainments; Annual Tea; the occasional wedding party; fancy dress balls. All - not forgetting the Pierrots - were eagerly anticipated.

*Sutton Reading Room Fancy Dress Ball, 1914.*

Sometimes village groups, such as the thriving Cricket Club, hired the Room for meetings. Dancing classes were held. Any card games other than whist were forbidden. A succession of resident caretakers ensured that the rooms were kept clean, windows washed, and billiard table brushed and ironed.

In 1909 the grounds were extended to include a Bowling Green, and a Bowling Club was quickly formed, opened by Mrs Pudsey of *Sutton Hall*. Even ladies were invited to use the Reading Room - "a further departure has been made by allowing them the use of the Reading Room and Library on Thursday afternoons, at a subscription of one shilling per annum." In 1913, Mr and Mrs Frederick Scott of *The Hollies* raised £140 by holding a fête in their garden for a pavilion and shooting range, and for an extension to the bowling green. Arthur Carrick erected two gates at the entrance to the new green.  Tennis and croquet sets were bought, and netting provided to enclose the grass court.

All of this was enjoyed for a mere three months before War cast its deadly shadow. Already by August 1914, Sutton was flooded with 1001 soldiers, pouring into the Reading Room; the schools (Winnie Robinson recalled her 'vestry' lessons); Church Mount; all available shelter.

*Postcard: Sutton Reading Room, 1914*

The message on reverse of the card reads;

*'Dear Wife, this is the room where I am staying – Eddie*

One young Lancashire soldier, enlisted on 8 August, 1914, didn't think much of Sutton: 2

*"We were billeted in a school and barns. Our training was harder than ever it had been, and our liberty absolutely nil. This did not go down well with the boys and there was a lot of crime, the boys breaking out of the village and some not coming back at all. Others volunteered for active service and were actually clamouring to be put on drafts for the front, preferring the dangers of France to the hard training and strict routine in that village . . . "*

*Soldiers encamped in the fields of Holm Oak Farm, 1916*

The presence of large buildings of course, was one of the reasons why Sutton took such vast numbers of soldiers - but also it was rural, and it had a train station, ideal for delivering rations and equipment.3 Not that the men at first *were* equipped, either with uniforms or weapons. The basic training consisted of foot drills and route marches, quick responses to discipline, field techniques and formations. The men would train only for a month or so before being drafted to France, and another battalion would be formed, only to be decimated at the Front.

*Recruits lined up outside James Calvert's smithy, Potterill Lane, 1915  
The small boy is Cliff Hakeney*

People at home 'did their bit'. Elizabeth 'Grandma' Bayston ran a knitting class at her home near the top of Potterill Lane. Little Ethel Pinkney, aged 5, knitted socks for the soldiers. Dorothy Porter press-ganged village children into holding a stall outside Kirton's shop in 1914, and raised £2 'for the Belgians'. She holds the pot of money in the photograph below.

*Village children and their fund-raising for refugees*

Later, after conscription had been introduced, the army erected a large hut near the site of the present church hall, leaving it after Peace was declared to the young people of the village, and thus dubbed the 'YM hut'.

*Outside the YM hut, Feb 1915*

The list of Sutton casualties makes miserable reading - 36 from a comparatively small area. Ethel Pinkney's father was killed, leaving his wife with eight children to raise in Albert Terrace; two of the Baystons gone; Alice Coates' 21-year-old brother, Richard, only just married; three of the Wilkinson family. Many others wounded, like Albert Topham and John Casson in the Battle of the Somme. Eventually, villagers collected for the inevitable War Memorial, an ever-present reminder.

*Sutton War Memorial, 1921*

Sufficient funds were raised for a Memorial Cottage in Potterill Lane, purchased for a resident nurse. The house still bears the plaque, though its use was felt to be superfluous when the NHS was introduced.

In Wawne, just one young man was killed - the son of the grocer Mr J Brown. The Celtic Cross in the churchyard bears his name, and that of Arthur Bromby who was to die in 1941.

Soon after the war ended, Daniel Kirton, the shopkeeper at the corner of Church Street, was preparing for a wedding. He was a sadler, making horses' saddles, bridles, reins, and whips. One window of his shop, in which he arranged these goods, looked onto College Street. He would sit on a high stool at his wooden counter where he kept his tools, and was 'an excellent craftsman'

His daughter Lilian displayed 'her' goods in the Church Street window - boiled sweets, liquorice, and ½d. bars of chocolate. At Christmas she sold coloured tissue paper, tinsel and small toys. She was a great favourite with the children, and ran a scheme whereby they could save 1d a week for Christmas presents.

It was Lilian's sister, Emily, who was getting married.  Her future husband was Thomas Robson, the stationmaster, reputed to be "a wizard at Maths. He could do any calculation in his head."4   'Tommy' was involved in many village activities. He was a widower of 43 in 1918, having two daughters, Elsie and Ivy.5 He and Emily had three children - Kenneth, Enid and Betty.

*Bowling Club 1923  
'Tommy' Robson on right. Child Kenneth front*

Newcomers to the village in 1924 were Mr and Mrs Porter, who moved to one of the four cottages adjoining the Church Room, which were later bought by William Waterhouse. These cottages were interesting historically, as they were thought to date from pre-enclosure times. Charles Porter's sister had been the previous tenant, and Charles saw in its design a good opportunity to set up a shoe repairer's business; it consisted of a small workshop (the tallest part in the photograph below), attached to the cottage. Charles' son, also Charles, takes up the story:

*"I would be five when we came to Rokeby Cottage, and my father started the business. This wasn't very popular with some people, because we found out later that there was another shoe repairer in the village, a fellow called Pooley.*6 *There was a happy truce, though, because if Mr Pooley ran short of heels, my father would lend him some, or if my father ran short of sole or nails, I was despatched to Mr Pooley's to get some.*

*"Going from the Church Room, there were people called Hannah, then our wee shop and cottage, then the Feaneys, and Suddaby nearest the church. Outside it was all cobbled. There was no kerb edge, the cobblestones went straight into the road. At the back there was a yard, which my father covered over with wood to make a sort of roof, and you could look over the fields except it was like a rising bank from the back yard up to the fields. Standing at the back door looking left, there were three doors; the first was for storage, the second a coalhouse, and the third was a loo, not a water toilet, but one of those things where the chap had to come every week and carry the bin away.*

*"Going in the front door, it opened directly into the general purpose living room. Most of the cooking was done on the Yorkist stove. We had gas then. On the left was the master bedroom where mum and dad were. In the corner of the living room was a doorway and then stairs, which led up to a sort of attic with sloping roof. My father quickly lined it with timber and it made a very nice room, one for my sister and one for myself*." 7

*Church Cottages 1923*

When the church cottages were threatened with demolition in the '60s, amateur artists came to paint them - but inevitably they were knocked down in 1972. The Rectory garden was laid over heaps of masonry and rubble from the old cottages.

The older inhabitants of Sutton always maintain that the years between the wars were the best. It was a companionable community, bursting with fun and vibrancy. The Reading Room continued from strength to strength, the ladies actually being voted onto the committee by 1922, and were allowed to play whist and even read.  The Tennis Club was the 'in' thing for the youth of Sutton in the 1920s and '30s.

*Harold Beckett, Dorothy Stainton, Doris Beckett, Benjie Bruce*

An extension to the Room was built in 1935, slightly discernible in the roof line and brickwork.

Until 1954 the Reading Room was open most weekends and holidays until night-time. That year it was resolved to close at 5pm on Christmas Day. It is interesting to note that equipment such as the lawn mower remained unlocked at that time. It was decided by the men that perhaps it wasn't such a good thing to have ladies after all, and in 1959 the females were instructed that after dusk they were to leave the room to the men and lock the door behind them!

In the 1970s, a financial crisis occurred, followed by theft and vandalism. The Reading Room only just survived the ensuing years, and the greens were unused.

There has been a revival of interest in the last few years, and a band of committed enthusiasts have done much to recreate the Reading Room as an entertaining, recreational and informative facility in this important area of conservation.

*Sutton Reading Room, July 1999*

The old YM hut was much-used after the Great War. Fancy dress festivities, May Carnivals, 21st and engagement parties, pageants and plays, concerts and meetings filled the evenings.

*Fancy-dress Party in the YM hut, 1932*

One of the last parties in the YM was Nancy Wheelhouses's 21st/engagement party, held in 1933. A large poster was displayed appealing for a Mile of Pennies for a new church hall. The new vicar, Mr Paley, energised everyone and constantly found new ways of raising money. Eventually the new brick-built hall was opened on 18 October 1933. 'Snow White' and 'Wedding of the Painted Doll' spring to mind as two of the best shows in those early years of the new hall.  Nowadays, the hall has an extension, providing a modern, well-appointed kitchen. The Mothers' Union; Women's Institute; Townswomen's Guild; Dance Group; Brownies; Playgroup - all regularly use the hall, not to mention the indefatigable ladies of the Tuesday Sale.

Before Mr Paley's time, when Mr Evans was the incumbent - the vicar who had so intrigued the journalist - he founded the Girl Guide Movement in Sutton, with the help of Violet Robson of *Sutton House* and Barbara Reckitt of *East Mount*. Brenda Holmes and Dorothy Porter were the first leaders of the Brownies.

*Brenda Holmes, Brown Owl; Dorothy Porter, Tawny Owl, c1925*

Winnie Leake became Guide Captain, assisted sometimes by Clare Coleman and Alice Lee-Smith. After the War Winnie began a Trefoil Guild for older Guides. She was particularly involved with a Guide Company at the Tilworth Home.

The boys were not far behind. When Clifford Hakeney was still a teenager, he began the 1st Sutton Scout Group, assisted by two older friends until he reached 21. Clem Robinson started the Sutton Cubs a little later. Jessie Hakeney, Jack Reed and Douglas Hamilton were also leaders in the years before the War.

*Sutton Cubs. Clem Robinson and Jessie Hakeney.*

When Jessie and Cliff were married in 1933, there was a good turnout from the uniformed organisations, and well over 100 guests enjoyed the reception in the YM hut.

After the War, the Organisations thrived for several decades.

*Preparing for Parade Service 1980  
Bill Peterson 'Acorn'; David Cross Cub Leader*

The Chapel also began a Guide Company back in the early years.

*Sutton Chapel Guides 1960s*

The Scouting/Guiding Movement struggles to survive in some areas today, mostly from lack of leaders rather than disinterested youngsters.  Of the new packs in Bransholme, those attached to St John's church and Mary Queen of Martyrs are doing well.

Two little girls who joined the Brownies soon after they arrived in Sutton were Dorothy and Joan Stainton. Soon after the village was taken into the City of Hull in 1929, the former police houses changed status, soon to become the doctors' workplace. Mr Charles Stainton was the new constable and he settled into the new police house built at the other end of Church Street. The two cells still remain.

*The Stainton family outside Police House, Church Street, c1930*

Next door, on the site of the orchard of Holm Oak, a new chemist, G.S. Fanthhorpe, made its appearance.

*G S Fanthorpe, Chemist*

Ethel Pinkney's sister, Nellie, came with her husband and in-laws, Mr and Mrs Myers, to a shop a short way from Fanthorpe's. They bought the property in 1932 from Miss Amy Cottingham and opened a general store, selling fruit and vegetables and tinned goods, bread and cakes. The business did well, and the Myers' soon had a jolly café service. When troops occupied the village, the shop and café were very busy.

*Nellie Myers in the Shop*

'Grandma' Elizabeth and husband John Bayston ran a carting and carrier business in the yard of 110-114 Church Street. Around 1930 the Bayes' family moved into one of the houses in the yard and built up a wet fish business which flourished for many years.

It was thought that the Sutton Feast had been consigned to the history books long ago, but in the 1920s it enjoyed a revival, Jack Hakeney's field behind the farm becoming the new venue. Peas, pies and games became the order of the day, and many folk came from neighbouring villages to celebrate the day. Recently, the Saturday nearest to St James' day (25 July) has been an occasion for a Garden Party.

Behind the Church Mount houses, the 'old boys' recall with nostalgia 'Cat Island', though the origin of the name eludes everyone. It was the old Cricket Field. Sutton Cricket Club existed at least as long ago as 1893, when an old photograph reveals the familiar names of Calvert, Rodmell, Jack Lee Smith, Bayston and Thacker. Apparently the mowing and rolling of the grass represented mortal danger; it was reputed that someone was killed when the mower ran its own course down the steep bank. Perhaps it's no wonder people were hurt when the young daredevils of the 50s were driving . . .

*Sutton Cricket Club - no seat belts here!*

It was a red-letter day for the Club when on 16 June 1955, the new cricket ground behind Netherhall was opened by Norman Yardley, with Walt Blanchard and Ted Found close to hand.

*Opening of new Cricket Ground, 16 June 1955*

Rugby and football were played on the Barbara Robson playing field after it was opened.

*Sutton Recreation Football Club, 1930s*

*Sutton School Rugby Team, 1930  
(familiar names of Blanchard, Blagg, Hickey, Beckett, etc)*

The new Golf Course at Riseholm opened in 1935, and a café was opened in the farmhouse.

In July 1937 an enthusiastic band of ladies knocked on doors in the village persuading people to form a Sutton Townswomen's Guild.  Consequently, an Afternoon Guild was quickly established. Eileen Found is the longest serving member. During the War the ladies met in the Chapel rooms in Potterill Lane, and helped in the 'war effort' in various ways: they ran a house for the homeless at the corner of Gillshill/Cavendish Road; held a Sewing Circle each week to make items for the Red Cross; and sold Saving Stamps.

After the War, in 1945, an Evening Guild was started to provide for women who were working. The two merged in 1949. Later, the Guild had an excellent choir. The Sutton Townswomen's Guild is still very popular and well attended.

Wawne was still served by mobile tradesmen between the wars.8 Bayes, Sutton fishmongers would travel by horse and rulley, the fish piled high, all round the villages of Sproatley and Skirlaugh, Catwick and Atwick, where they would stay overnight, and then end up in Wawne. Holmes and Hickey both brought their meat to Wawne, and so did the Co-op cart from Hull. This was a 'proper' provision vehicle, and was one of three who visited regularly from Hull, the others being from Cussons and Fields.

Mr Foggin, a Hull draper, would ride an old carrier bicycle to Wawne with a huge bundle of materials and clothing on the front carrier.  Mr Boswell of Beverley, also a draper, was another regular visitor. He, too, rode a bicycle to Tickton, Routh, Meaux and Wawne, over the ferry to Thearne, Woodmansey and back to Beverley. 'Clarky' was a travelling fruiterer from Beverley. Another visitor was Mr Calvert the corn merchant, selling flour, corn and meal. Then there was 'Oily' Brown from Stoneferry who stocked 'everything' on his rulley - pots and pans, brushes, chocolate nugget bars. He had two tanks fastened beneath his rulley, one for paraffin, the other for malt vinegar.

The visits of these travelling salesmen were anticipated with delight by the children, who would crowd on the road edge to watch them unpacking their wares. There were also six or seven small shops in the village at that time. One of the little cottages in Church Row opposite the church, owned by the Wests, sold cigarettes, sweets and paraffin. Mrs West would say that she sold cigarettes because "the Browns are Methodists and can't sell them." They were also sold at a little 'parlour' shop, 'White Cottage', which was situated in Middletons' Field, and run by Mrs Squires, who also sold sweets and crisps. Paraffin was sold in most shops for no other fuel was available.

Wawne Cricket Club played on the field on Main Street, opposite the present village hall. It was reputedly very uneven and also used for cattle, which can't have been kind to either cricket or cattle.

*Wawne Cricket Club 1930s*

After the War, when the land was bought for housing, Muriel Rogerson, who never ceased raising funds for most of her 90 years, collected enough money for the new cricket ground in Ferry Lane. The village hall; electricity in the church; church vestry and bells - all were targets of Mrs Rogerson's boundless energy and drive. No wonder she received the BEM.

*Opening of Wawne Cricket Ground by Sidney Hainsworth, May 1964*

In 1939 a new Methodist Chapel was erected in Wawne, on land given by Mr J.F. Farnaby. The Minister was Revd J Ridley of Sutton, who would, like most people then, make the journey on foot. To raise money, he went from door to door with the collection plate, and eventually the chapel opened completely free from debt.

*Chapel opened 4 May, 1939  
The old chapel can just be seen at the rear*

Church and chapel attendance always rises in times of stress, and during the war, the old chapel was also well used as a canteen. A plaque marks the gratitude of the Forces stationed in Wawne. Sadly, with modern living styles changed so radically, the chapel was forced to close recently.

Wawne was to lose one young airman in the Second War, Arthur Bromby, who lost his life in August, 1943, aged only 21. Each village had its Home Guard.

*Wawne Home Guard*

*Sutton Home Guard at Springfield, 1941*

Mr J. Redfern whose home was at *Springfield* during the War, was captain of the platoon.9 He trained his men on Sunday mornings in the grounds. Some training weekends were spent at Rolston camp. Another Home Guard gun site was at the bottom of Wembley Park Avenue. "When the guns went, it felt as if Sutton was falling down," remarked a nearby resident.

As in the First War, Sutton was 'full of soldiers.' Older inhabitants remember them "coming round to the back door, propping their guns in the scullery, and sometimes staying to supper. There were hundreds of men at balloon barrage and gun sites on Wawne Road and Mead Street. They just wanted to talk about their lives and homes"10

Many villagers served in various ways during the War - in the Red Cross; as ARP wardens; in First Aid; and in the Fire Station that was set up in *Elmtrees*, and included a brick-built Telephone Room which was constructed at the front. Six firewomen manned the switchboard on 8-hour shifts. Nancy Wheelhouse, Jessie Hakeney and Gladys Dunn all worked there.11

*Gladys Dunn working on the Switchboard, WW2*

The stables were used as a fire station, and a sub-division operated in *Mona House*.

At the beginning of the war, the officers of the Balloon Barrage on Wawne Road lived away from the site, but later, four houses were built on Wawne Road (now 1-4 Sutton Close), and more RAF houses were built in West Carr Lane. There was just one fatality.

Corporal Thomas Tierney of the RAF worked as a driver of a huge type of trailer nicknamed the 'Queen Mary', which collected gas bottles from Immingham for the Sutton site. He met a young Sutton girl at one of the dances in the large hall there, and married her at Easter 1943. One day, when driving bottles to the RAF site, the chain of a balloon swung free and hit Tommy on the knee. He went to Canada to train as a pilot navigator, but cancer affected the wound. He died before Christmas, and his body was brought back to Sutton and buried in the churchyard."

*Gravestone of Thomas Tierney*

On the opposite side of Wawne Road a gun site was set up in the winter of 1939/40, and for the first three cold months the men lived in tents on marshy ground until wooden huts were built.12 Later, a small bungalow was erected as an officers' mess next to Avondale house; the entrance to the site was flanked by the guard room and sentry box. The bungalow still stands, in use as a domestic dwelling. Initially, the site was in the charge of 2nd Lieutenant Mark Horsley (cousin of Diana Alec-Smith). The guns had to be ready for action within two minutes, 24 hours a day. Particularly severe attacks took place in 1941, but during the whole war, only two deaths occurred: in May 1942 a German bomber made for the radar lights of Castle Hill Lane. It dropped a 'stick' of bombs on the gun site, killing two men. R N Sheppard is also buried in Sutton churchyard.

There were several air raids in the Sutton area, resulting in a fair amount of damage; the church roof was endangered more than once. Two houses in Watson Street were demolished in March 1941, never to be re-built (a garage occupies the space), and a landmine fell on Highfield on 15 April 1941, causing huge damage and killing two residents.

*Landmine in Highfield, 15.4.1941*

*Bomb damage in Watson Street*

Many men of Sutton lost their lives, including one of the Pinkney boys, Frank, a Royal Marine who served on *HMS Achilles*; and the two Rowntree brothers, Midshipman Kenneth, lost at sea aged only 16, and Pilot Officer Raymond, aged 21, both killed within six months of each other in 1941

*Kenneth and Raymond Rowntree*

As the villages settled down to face the post-war future, it was soon clear that nothing would ever be the same again. 'Slum clearance' prompted the Corporation to enforce vigorously the Acquisition of Land Act of 1946.  On 1 January 1948 the Council began buying up fields in the areas of Wawne Road in preparation for a huge housing estate. By 1960, Compulsory Purchase Orders had been served on most farmers and landowners, and Bransholme was re-created.

The massive building programme has never stopped, with the new Kingswood Estate still being constructed at one end of the parish, and the development near to the Princess Royal at the other. The population is now reckoned to be in the region of 90,000.  The children are served by 27 schools, undreamed of just a few decades ago. Several churches, mostly opened in the 1970s, serve the community well. North Point Shopping Centre is a lively, bright hub of activity. Libraries, medical and community centres offer information and the latest technology. Bransholme is the nucleus of a huge regeneration scheme linking the villages of Sutton and Wawne - a very positive Education Action Zone for the new Millennium.

*North Point Shopping Centre*

Notes

1     From letter of 1927 by Wm Foster Smith

2     George Ashurst: *My Bit*

3     Thanks to Ray Bristow for information

4     Eric Wales

5     Thanks to Ivy Robson

6     A little shop next to The Duke

7     Thanks to Charles Porter for his description

8     Much of this is recollected by Frank Norton, formerly of Fairholme Lane

9     Information from Roy Everatt and Tom Steele

10    Doris Kirby

11    Thanks to Jessie Hakeney and Gladys Dunn

1. Thanks to Mark Horsley and Peter Lund who both served here.  
     
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## FINAL THOUGHTS - by Merrill Rhodes

This work seeks to explore the history of Sutton, Wawne and Bransholme as they have evolved over the last thousand years. In that time Sutton has grown from a tiny hamlet of 18 households to many thousands. On the other hand, the population of Wawne has fluctuated in tune with its importance. It was bustling and industrious in the Middle Ages, with a ferry crossing to Thearne and Beverley. Its popularity waned after the Dissolution, rose again in the 17th century, and later declined. At the turn of the second millennium, it stands as a fairly small, 'no-through-road' village, but with a strong sense of community. Bransholme, once an island, and in later centuries essentially a farming community, now teems with life.

In these pages we have seen how the Church wielded its power over many centuries, the abbey of Meaux having enormous influence not only parochially, but in a much wider area. At the same time, it frequently suffered poverty and hardship in terms of material wealth. The Lords of Sutton and the College of Priests towered above their contemporaries, respectively distinguishing themselves in politics and religion. We have reflected upon the might of Monarch and Government, reducing lesser mortals to poverty and even death. Locally, the philanthropic power of the Windhams, the Pools and the Liddells, have all been manifest.

The Church has stood firm throughout all the centuries, at no time caring for so many people as it does now, all with unique needs and desires. As St James' church celebrates this special anniversary year, our thoughts inevitably turn to the Reverends Terence and Deana Doherty, who have served this area so devotedly and effectively. In the field of education, and in the history of our parish, Deana's exuberance, enthusiasm and interest have been a constant inspiration in the compilation of this book. She and her husband are retiring very soon. They have worked tirelessly in the parishes of Sutton and Wawne for 21 years, giving comfort and pleasure, fostering and sustaining the spirit of community as the areas of Sutton and Bransholme continue to grow.

They will long be remembered in the hearts and history of this place, and we wish them well in the future.

*Revd Terence and Deana Doherty*

*Deana Doherty at St John's*

*The three paragraphs below are included from the original manuscript to the First Edition, and do not appear in the Second.*

*It was thought worthy enough, and still of relevance today,*

*to include it here on this digital version.*

**SUTTON-ON-HULL - PARISH POWER AND POVERTY**

There are powerful people who live in our area today - but perhaps we need power to keep us from poverty.

Again, it depends how we view Poverty. Do we consider Charles Porter as being poor, forever repairing boots and shoes in his dinky gaslit workshop adjoining the little cottage?  Or Rachel and Frank Norton in their minute cottage at Wawne, with 16 children and no water nearer than Meaux Lane? They, and their descendants would quail at the thought. They may have had little in terms of shillings, but no poverty of spirit - and that, after all, is the important thing.

This cannot be concluded without quoting Deana's favourite anecdote: There was an old Quaker who had a cow. He was milking it one morning, but she was rather fractious and when the bucket was half-filled, she kicked it over. The Quaker did not say a word. He tried once more and when the bucket was a quarter filled, she kicked it over again. That was more than the Quaker could stand. He went slowly round to the front of the cow, took hold of her horns and looked her sternly in the eyes. He said, "Thee knows I am a Quaker and therefore I cannot beat thee; thee knows I am a Quaker and therefore I cannot curse thee; but what thee does not know is that tomorrow I am going to sell thee to a Baptist and then God have mercy on thee!"

**Further 'Final Thoughts' - 2016  
*by the webmaster and producer of this DVD***

Firstly, *THE OLD SCHOOL and the MUSEUM - the first 16 years:*

and then further down;  
*the story of how the video and website came about.*

It is now over 10 years since Merrill edited the first edition of her book, making many ammendments to correct previous oversights as well as to include extra information that had come to light since its first publication. I thought it appropriate to add some words here explaining to readers, new and old, some of the events in the life of 'The Old School' since this second edition was published.

At the time Merrill re-edited her second edition, it was still her practice, and that of all the volunteers, to refer to what we now call the museum as 'The Sutton Resources and Education Centre'. Indeed, that title that can still be seen on our now fading and peeling old signboard by the school gate. Technically, that was correct, for it was exactly that. But we realise now, looking back, it had already become something more. Merrill's 'exhibition of village life' had really been a de facto museum for a long time before 2005. Indeed, it could already have been styled as such when I first called in at the Old School around the year 2000. I recall being astonished by the place, and by the amount of artefacts - big and small - gathered into such a small room, as well as the family histories, research volumes and even by then, a prodigious collection of maps. Indeed, there already was the nucleus of a small costume museum.

It certainly was an 'education centre', and Merrill and the enthusiastic team of volunteer attendants gave many guided tours to school class visits, explaining local and social history, connecting each generation of children to their forebears whose own attendance at the school could be witnessed by their entries in the preserved registers. The new St James' School down Dorchester Rd were perhaps their most regular visitors, being the old St James' school simply removed to a modern building. Other visits were, and continue to be, from Cavendish Rd, Ings and Spring Cottage Schools, and more recently, Biggin Avenue School have started to make visits. In all these cases, the schools are close enough for the children to 'walk in', in long lines of pairs of boys and girls being shepherded along by their teachers and volunteer parents. All these schools have been very supportive, not just in their enthusiasm for our project, but also in their generous fund-raising to keep us going.

Increasingly, the Old School opened its doors not just on Fridays, but selected Saturdays on some special weekends too, with extended opening till 4pm. For instance, major anniversary weekends such as the 60th anniversary of the end of WW2 in 2005, and more recently for two or three days over the City Council's Heritage Weekends every September. This partially addresses the problem of giving access to the many families who cannot get in to the museum on Fridays.

Admittance has always been free, and we strive to continue in that vein. Major running costs such as heating and lighting have hitherto been largely underwritten by annual support from the local charitable 'Ann Watson Trust.' The Trust gives support to start-up projects, and had a particular interest in the Old School as one of the terms of the Ann Watson bequest was that support should be for projects of an 'educational nature.' As well as the initial massive financial input from the Reverand Terry Doherty and his wife, the Reverand Deana, which saved the school in the first place, it was the Trust's support that enabled it to open as a heritage centre for it's first 15 years or so. Other funds were raised weekly by visitor donations, raffles, events on those special weekends, etc, and by many anonymous donations of various sizes over the years.

A milestone was passed in 2009, being the 150th anniversary of the building of the school in 1859, on land donated by the Harrison-Broadley family. We did indeed have a school re-union party, and a re-union cake! The Old School hall resounded to laughter as old school friends, some in very advanced years and some who had travelled very great distances to be with us, exchanged news and tales of the old days. We learnt even more about how happy a school St James' was, and the affection old pupils had for their teachers than we already knew.

Artefacts continued to come in periodically, as well as many photographs to enhance what is already a remarkable photo archive for such small places. For indeed, the collection and information relating to Wawne continues to grow too. It took me quite a while to latch on to the fact that St Peter's at Wawne had been the senior church back in the aons of time. Sutton's church, consecrated only in 1349, was a mere 'chapelry' of the much longer established St Peter's at Wawne. The links between the two villages are indelible, and no doubt go back much further than the thousand or so years of our written history. We see it as our business to tell that very long story and keep those ancient links very much alive. The total photo collection already in albums numbers some 30 or so volumes, all laboriously indexed, and even more enhanced by large collections of donated glass plate positives, negatives and more modern slides. To us, they are more than just photos. They are people. Moreover, they are families - the very families that built and grew the places we love and seek to preserve now. They loved them just like we do.

A sort of cross-roads was reached in 2012 with the condemnation of the old gas boiler. The radiators are original to 1911, though we think the boiler was more recent, perhaps 1950s. It had had a good life, but was not all that efficient anyway, and a source of constant problems. The time inevitably came when, although it had not failed altogether, we were told spares were no longer available, and we were strongly implored to 'consider its position'. An immediate campaign was started to raise the funds required, and so the "Friends of Sutton Old School" was started, and proved to be a remarkable success. Against what seemed to be horrendous odds, the funds were indeed raised to replace the system - before it failed altogether - with modern, electric oil-filled radiators that are not only more mobile, but also have more efficient thermostat controls on timers. Another crisis was passed.

The problems with heating and the boiler also coincided with the news that the Ann Watson Trust could no longer offer continued support to the Old School as they had done since the start. From the spring of 2016, we have to be self-supporting and pay our way. A major effort is even now under way as I write to source other funding and ensure the Old School in Sutton, and it's increasingly famous museum within, continues to exist for future generations of Sutton, Wawne and Bransholme, and indeed, residents of the wider Hull area, to learn more about their collective past and very rich heritage.

***PRODUCTION OF THE 'SUTTON VIDEO' . . and the WEBSITE:***I only became involved with the museum initially to post up a couple of helpful web pages, announcing to the world at large a Family History research facility that helped to put Sutton on the map. From that tiny beginning, the web pages grew and grew as I invited Merrill to give me more and more lists and details of items such as census discs and monumental inscription booklets that were held in this amazing 'Resource Centre'. Merrill most firmly did not see the place as a museum, but with so many donated artefacts over a very short period of time, it could not really be anything else. She had created, almost unwillingly, a real 'folk museum' and remarkable exhibition of village life.

The reason I was up at Sutton at all, not living in the parish myself, was on the recommendation of a friend, who implored me to call in one Friday when I could get by. I was in full-time work then, and Fridays were not generally mine for leisure. I had first got involved, and interested, in Sutton's history, through another good friend, Rob Walters, who has sadly since died, in 2008. He came to me at work one day and blandly announced 'we' were going to make a video. Of what? Of Sutton village, he declared. We? Yes, I was going to help him, he informed me. Rob was at that time an amateur but aspiring video maker, who had progressed from 'home movies' to making documentary films.

At that time, we both worked as bus drivers, for Hull City Transport. For myself, I had always enjoyed working service 32, that old route that had started right back in the 1920s in the early days of buses themselves. I very much liked both Sutton and Wawne, the twisty, winding streets and lanes, the old cottages and beautiful churches. Even in the 1990s, the atmosphere of ancient history was palpable, you could feel it in the air. At that time, the 37 also went through Sutton, turning right out of Leads Road when that was a mere 'T' junction, and terminating at the far end of Salthouse Road. Working through Sutton on a Sunday, just as the congregation were leaving church, and the bells were ringing, really was a step back in time and a real joy.

As well as working the bus routes like myself, Rob also very much liked Sutton. He was more local than me, and had known the area since boyhood. Furthermore, as part of his growing video business, Rob had already attended weddings at Sutton as the 'video man' and also had a strong feel for the place.

The first film I helped Rob with was not about Sutton, it was on the Humber Ferry. We went on to do two volumes about Hull trams and trolley buses, and a few others about the Hull trawling industry, before he announced his plans for a 'Sutton Video'. I sort of got roped in, mainly because I was getting fairly good at computer graphics, which he required for maps, diagrams, titles, etc, and also as a narrator for the film. He was determined I should narrate his films because he thought my fairly 'neutral' East Midlands accent would sound better on video than his own. I had only lived in Hull since 1973, still very much a newcomer and with a 'southern' accent at that. I was very concious of not being 'local', particularly when making the trawling films. But that is what he wanted. Rob's own accent was, bless him, broad 'Ull - he did have a point.

Rob used to get a lot of people bringing him film, old ciné film of Hull in general, and old trawling and fishing film in particular. Indeed, he advertised and sought these old films out, the deal being that if the owners allowed their use, with credits, in his documentary films, then he would not only give them a free copy of the finished programme when it was released, but also a full VHS video of their own film copied entire and transferred for free. One such 'customer' to call in at Rob's studio one day was John Riley, a former TV electrician and shop owner in Sutton village, and by then retired. He brought Rob several reels of old ciné-film for conversion that he had taken himself, in and around the village and at Sutton fêtes and fairs in the 1960s. Thus an inspired idea was born.

I think it was on Remembrance Sunday, 1999, that Rob phoned me at home and told me to get myself up to Sutton, as he was taking his video camera to get some modern footage of St James' Church to include in his film. This was early days on the internet for me, and try as I might, I had found very little about Sutton, or its church, other than a web page detailing a group of regular bell-ringers. If I was going to script, and narrate, Sutton's history as Rob had in mind, I needed to get up there and start talking to folk, but I was very unsure about just turning up and expecting to be able to film. It turned out that it was already partly arranged, as he had already spoken to the then vicar, Rev'd Tony Rablen, and had his permission to film inside the church after the service.

It was whilst Rob was moving around between the pews, with his Panasonic camera on his shoulder filming this and that, that I got talking to some of the 'church ladies' at the back of the church over a coffee. I happened to mention that information on St James' was frustratingly difficult to find online, and ventured the opinion that it was a shame that they hadn't already got a website. One of the ladies quipped, in a sort of joking retort, "Why, are you offering?" Well, I suppose I could do them a page, basic information, etc, and post it on some spare space on my own webspace.

After the main congregation had dispersed, and the memorial garden was more clear, Rob also decided to take video of the memorial area, including all the name plaques of the war dead. Hence he filmed the names carved in stone around the base of the cross, of the 36 Sutton men, and also the plaques set into the ground around the base of the steps that had the names of all the 140 or so men of Stoneferry, Wilmington and The Groves. That was when I decided to transcribe all the names from the film stills, and post those up too, onto the "new St James' Church Website" I was going to create.

So for me, my involvement with Sutton was well underway. It was around then that I called in one Friday at the Old School for the first time, and met Merrill. And thus the next dice was thrown in what has become a very fulfilling, and so far 16-year involvement, with the Old School and it's now increasingly famous museum. An involvement that has made me many new friends.

The first VHS edition of the film, "Sutton; Portrait of a Village', was released around mid-summer of 2000, and sold very steadily from the start. Rob suddenly died in February of 2008, though considering he had already had quadruple heart by-pass surgery, we shouldn't have been all that surprised. Heart problems had been the reason for him to take early retirement from driving buses and so set up his own video studio full-time - and he knew he was on borrowed time. At the time of his death, he had just been on the point of converting the VHS video edition to a new digital version for DVD. Indeed, he had made a master copy, though try as we might, we never found it in his studio afterwards. It seemed that, for a while, sales of the video would lapse.

Up to the plate stepped Ken Cooke, one of the original team of volunteers and also a dab-hand at ciné and video work himself. He undertook the task to make a digital copy from the VHS copies he had, and re-issued them in a printed sleeve and so for quite some time, Ken alone kept Sutton's story alive. It had come to be seen as a very nice adjunct to go with Merrill's book, and the two often sold together.

Into the ring then stepped Ian Wolstencroft, the mutual friend who had first advised me to go up to the museum and see Merrill in the first place. Ian and Rob were already long-time friends, mostly because of Ian's classic car film interests and Rob had already produced a classic car film that Ian had provided film and photos for. This had all been around the time that Rob's video was almost completed, and essentially, the research and scripting had already been finished. In a sense, I was almost too late. What I found up there, and in the hastily borrowed copy of Merrill's book, was more than enough material to make the video far more interesting, and complete and accurate. As it turned out, it was a reasonably good effort, for an amateur such as myself. I just wish we had taken a little more time, we could have made it *really* good.

As a result of meeting Merrill, Rob had also been introduced to the late Eric Johnson, the last headmaster of Sutton school when it closed in 1977. Mr Johnson was himself a prolific and accomplished photographer, and Rob received permission to include a great many of his photos in the finished film. It would be much later that I would learn more about Mr Johnson and his photographic skills, and about the tremendous slide archive and legacy of Sutton he has left for posterity. Sadly, Mr Johnson never got to see the finished film, he died just months before it was released.

Following Rob's death, after his studio had been wound up, his daughter Tracy offered Ian several master copies of various videos she had found and didn't want to keep. She gave Ian the master tape to the Sutton video, essentially transferring to him the legal copyright, which Ian most gratefully received. He set about doing a digital conversion from what was a very good VHS professional master and we believe the one Rob would have used himself. That has since been a little re-edited, to erase anomolies and mistakes in the first editions, with additional film of recent events like Christmas Fairs in the village. To all intents and purposes, it is clearer than the VHS film we formerly sold. It is that version we have, and still sell, today.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Merrill Rhodes worked as a teacher in Hull for many years. In 1990, she was appointed as the Schools' Liaison Officer for the Sutton and Wawne Team Ministry, working with more than 20 schools in the parish. This book was written to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the dedication of St James' Church, Sutton, on 12th September, 1349. It also celebrates the 150th year of the founding of St James' Church of England School in 1849, and marks the 850th anniversary of the much older foundation of Meux Abbey. This is a splendid book which will surely give much pleasure even to those who have no intimate knowledge of the Sutton and Wawne area. It not only reflects events of great significance to church and state, but homes in so easily to the lives of local personalities, their everyday experiences and concerns. There is sound factual information with happy anecdotal material. It is easy to read, and each chapter stimulates interest and the desire for more.

This book is dedicated, with great affection, to:  
Rev'd Deana Doherty

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