

THE GROWTH OF A TOWNSHIP

A Further Account of the Parish of Guilden Sutton

by

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A tribute to the older residents of Guilden Sutton
who by their generous provision of information have
in large measure made this account possible

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Township originally referred to the sharing of a small 1 settlement, by two or more farmers, then to a larger community living close together and then finally to the place itself in which they lived. Where a parish consisted of a single township, the two words came to mean the same thing. It seemed appropriate to use township in the title of this account, since the early sections are a brief survey of Guilden Sutton's development from a tiny manor to a civil parish. It is also called a further account as it should be regarded as complementary to the eminently readable account written by the Rev H A Clarke in 1964 entitled "In Pastures Green".

My sources of information have been

- (i) histories, maps and preserved documents
- (ii) buildings standing in the parish
- (iii) the memories of older residents

Regarding the first of these, I am grateful to the staffs of the City Archives and the Cheshire Records Office for helping me to trace the rather sparse and scattered evidence that is available. Mr Geoffrey Saunders of Guilden Sutton has also been a great help in this respect. Regarding the third, I hope the tribute on the title page adequately expresses my gratitude. The final section traces the histories of the older buildings and the people connected with them and has been assembled from scraps of information gleaned from many quarters. There may be omissions and even errors of interpretation, for which I take full responsibility, and it would be most helpful to have these brought to my attention. My thanks are also due to Mrs K Davies of Guilden Sutton who so ably converted my assembly of handwritten notes into a first typed copy.

H.A.
7 The Stables
Guilden Sutton

For many years it was believed that Guilden Sutton was not in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and that settlement in the area did not begin until 1209 when there was a record of a grant of land to Adam de Dutton. There was an entry in the Domesday Book of a Sudtone in the Wilavestone (Wirral) Hundred, but Beumont, in his 1863 translation of Ilie Domesday Book for Cheshire and Lancashire, considered that this entry referred to Great Sutton and he was supported in this belief by Omerod in his History of the County Palatine and City of Chester of 1882. It is now generally accepted, however, that a mistake had been made.

The actual entry is:-

"The same bishop (Bishop of Chester) held and holds Sudtone. There is 1 hide that pays geld. There is land for 3 ploughs. In the demesne there is one; and 5 villeins and 2 bordars with 1 plough. There are 6 acres of meadow. It was worth 40 shillings TRE (at the time of King Edward the Confessor's death); now 20 shillings"

Tait, in his Domesday Survey of Cheshire of 1916, pointed out that Guilden Sutton was in the Hundred of Wilavestone at the time of the Domesday Survey and records of 1066 and 1086 showed it was then a manor of the Bishop of Chester. Close investigation had failed to reveal any such ecclesiastical connection with Great Sutton. Dodgson, in his 1972 book on Place Names of Cheshire, also points out that the Anglo-Saxon name of Sudtone (Sutton) means 'southern homestead' and this could well refer to Guilden Sutton being at the southern extremity of the Wilavestone Hundred. It can be concluded, therefore, with reasonable certainty that in 1066 Guilden Sutton existed as a mediaeval manor of some 160 acres. (For the meaning of the mediaeval terms used above see Appendix 1)

It would be as well to remind ourselves of the nature of a mediaeval manor before the church became more firmly established. The countryside was relatively uninhabited with just the occasional manor settlement here and there. Being so isolated, the manor had to be self-sufficient, not only in organising its farming on a communal basis (the strip system) but in having its own meetings (called courts) under the Lord or his steward for settling disputes, dealing with offenders, organising defence and meeting any other requirements of the small community. This then was the kind of settlement that existed in Guilden Sutton for some unknown period before 1066, until the ecclesiastical parish became established at a later date. No information can be traced of where this old settlement was situated in the existing parish, although since the Bishop was lord of the manor one might expect to find it close to the church site.

The popular version of the origin of the name Guilden Sutton is also in some doubt. The Rev Clarke, in his short historical account of 1964, quotes the popular meaning as 'the southern homestead in the hollow where the marsh marigolds grow', but Dodgson, in his 1972 book considers that the first part of the name arises from the Anglo-Saxon 'gylden' meaning splendid or wealthy: and could well refer to the rich nature of the land. It is interesting to note that in various official records of the period 1200 to 1700 the name Guilden Sutton is spelt in fifteen different ways; e.g. Guldesocton, Gyldenesutton, Sutton-Gelders and Gilen Sutton. Inhabitants also took their names from the area and there is mention of a Robert de Gueldensutton and an Alcock de Gildensutton.

It is rather surprising that there are no traces of earlier occupation in Guilden Sutton, especially as the Roman road running east from Chester passed so close through Littleton. There have been only four finds of earlier periods; a bronze coin of Licinius I (AD 307-324) was found behind the Bird in Hand, a mediaeval lead spindlewhorl was found just east of Hill Farm, four 17th Century swords were found in the cellar of a demolished house in Church Lane, and a cannonball was unearthed when the Oaklands site was being levelled.

The Duttons came over from Normandy with William I and became established as one of the most powerful families in Cheshire. They were also the ancestors of the Warburtons who later come into our story of Guilden Hull on. After the Domesday Book entry, the next references to significant land settlement in Guilden Sutton are to be found round about 1200, when Adam de Dutton obtained grants of land from Philip de Orreby and Robert do Bruen. In 1209 he obtained a grant of the mesne-manor (lord of the manor status) from John Lacy, Constable of Chester. He continued to acquire more land for settlement and by 1216 he is recorded as holding 10 bovates (about 200 acres). By 1350 the Whitmore and Mainwaring families had also become significant freeholders of land in Guilden Sutton. The pattern is already being set whereby Guilden Sutton had a lord of the manor who had superior status as well as duties, but nevertheless the land was divided among a number of significant freeholders and was not entirely in the hands of the lord of the manor as was the case in many manors. It is interesting to note that Geoffrey, son of Adam de Dutton, subsequently granted the mesne-manor to the Abbey and Convent of St Werburgh of Chester. There is, indeed, some doubt whether Geoffrey inherited the mesne-manor or was the original recipient of it from John Lacy, but the outcome is the same.

Guilden Sutton was originally in the ecclesiastical parish of St Oswald's in Chester and, in accordance with the practice of establishing a church in each manor, St John the Baptist Church was built and endowed as a rectory in Guilden Sutton about 1105 when Bishop Roberts of Lymsey was lord of the manor. The church living would comprise a house (the rectory), glebe land which could be farmed, and the tithes of one-tenth of all produce of land, stock and labour in the manor. The rector would be a man of some ability and learning and, although in later times when the lord of the manor was a layman and would have a big say in his appointment, he would retain a certain independence with the support of the church which was again gradually becoming more powerful. As the size of the manor increased, the running of the manor would become a much more complex business and residents would of necessity have to assume duties as unpaid officials. As the isolation of manors lessened the powers of the lord of the manor waned, and where there was a Church with facilities for meetings and a capacity for administration it was natural that the emergence of the ancient parish would be centred on the local church. This, of course, happened in Guilden Sutton as elsewhere, but it was a lengthy process lasting centuries and at this point in our story we are seeing only the birth of it.

The rectory of St John's had its ups and downs. In 1318 it was annexed to the College of Canons of St John's Church of Chester and was served by one of ten perpetual vicars or by a priest paid a small salary out of the tithes income. After the dissolution of the College of Canons in the Reformation Period (1530-60) the rectory fell into lay hands. Henry Harding first bought the rectory in Guilden Sutton, which meant that he became the legal rector and enjoyed the proceeds of the church living and in turn was responsible for the upkeep of the chancel and the payment of a small salary to the priest-in-charge he appointed. About 1600 he sold the rectory to Peter Warburton (a descendant of the Duttons), sergeant at law, and then his daughter brought the rectory in marriage to Sir Thomas Stanley of Alderley.

The rectory descended with other estates of the family to Sir John Thomas Stanley, who sold the property and tithes in 1810 to the Rev Rowland Egerton Warburton but retained the nomination of the curate. Qrmerod, writing in 1882, records that Lord Stanley of Alderley was then the patron of St John the Baptist Church in Guilden Sutton. This patronage has remained in the Stanley and then the Egerton Warburton families until the present time (see Appendix 2).

The mense-manor with a considerable estate was sold about 1550 by Sir Richard Cotton, Comptroller of the Household of the young King Edward VI, to the Booth family of Dunham Massey and it then passed through marriage to the Tyndales in 1669. In 1772 the manorial estate was purchased by James Croxton, who appears in a list of notable Cheshire gentry in 1745 and served a term of office as sheriff. In 1815 when the Rev Rowland Egerton Warburton of Norley (seventh son of John Egerton of Oulton) married Croxton's heiress he came into possession of the manorial estate. Since he had purchased the rectory property and tithes in 1810 he was now a large landowner and the most powerful figure in Guilden Sutton. When he died in 1854 his estate and tithes were sold to William Hope of Liverpool who then became lord of the manor. At the same time part of the proceeds from the sale of tithes was invested for the benefit of the church living which was made a vicarage. When this investment was transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1882 it had become a sun of £700. It may also be mentioned here that the Guilden Sutton living had a £600 endowment from the Queen Anne's Bounty; a grant made by her to the Church of England as recompense for tithes revenues appropriated by the Crown in 1534.

In 1855 William Hope acquired a further 53 acres of land and two tenements in Gulden Sutton from Richard Barker, who had inherited these from Richard Amery under the terms of his will of 1829. The manorial estate descended in the Hope family to Thomas A Hope and when he died his Trustees eventually sold off piecemeal the major holdings. The title of lord of the manor passed to Lord Stanley of Alderley in 1892 and in due course appeared to drop out of the records (see Appendix 2).

We now turn to the growth and development of Guilden Sutton. Some particulars of the number of dwellings and the size of the population are given in Appendix 3. It was still quite a small place by 1880 with about 42 houses (including farms) and 187 inhabitants, but even so there would be quite a lot of local administration to carry out and by this time it would be centred firmly in the facilities the church could offer. The inhabitants would be meeting under the vicar's direction for the social and administrative purposes of their religious life and it was a natural progression for the vestry meetings to be used for local government affairs. In Guilden Sutton, town meetings emerged to deal specifically with the more secular matters, but even so the close links with the church remained. One of the churchwardens was elected as parish clerk and acted as clerk for the town meetings also. In the period 1815 to 1897 John Hughes (1815-1834) and then his son Peter Hughes (1834-1897) filled this role. The minutes of the town meetings show that a number of unpaid officials had to be elected annually to carry out certain duties such as relief for the poor and control of vagrants (the overseer) and the supervision of unpaid labour on the repair of roadways (the surveyor). In fact Guilden Sutton had a paid assistant surveyor who received the handsome sun of £5 a year. Another unpaid official was the constable,

LATER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISH

(From 1894)

an office more ancient than that of churchwarden and entailing very wide and onerous duties regarding law and order. He was nominated by a vestry meeting and confirmed in his appointment by Justices of the Peace for the wider area, but it was such an unwelcome appointment that the person so appointed often paid someone else to do the job. To enable churches to meet the increasing cost of administration it was possible for church rates to be levied on property, whether owned or leased, and based on the amount of land held. There are records of such church rates being levied in Guilden Sutton during the period 18(58-72).

This section is closed at the date 1894 because the ancient parish system of general administration became so inefficient in the face of increasing duties that a new system was introduced by the Local Government Act of 1894. Before leaving this period, however, it is interesting to see how other things were developing in the parish. Roads were generally in a very poor condition, and parts of Guilden Sutton Lane were so narrow and overgrown to be almost impassable at times, but communications were much speeded up by the opening of the Cheshire Railway Line in 1874 with a station at Mickle Trafford. The station was closed again in 1953 but it had served its purpose in helping with the development of Guilden Sutton.

Guilden Sutton activities were centred on farming, but as the number of inhabitants grew certain specialised activities developed to meet local needs. The Bird in Hand Inn has a long history but only a few records giving any information about it still exist. Scattered records about shopkeepers, tailors, blacksmiths, painters and others have been found and these have been brought together in Appendix 3. Names with an indication of the date first mentioned in records are given as a matter of particular interest to older residents. From old parish registers it has been possible to compile a list of the names of families living in Guilden Sutton in the 16th and 17th centuries and this, too, is given in Appendix 3. Scattered information about the main landowners in the parish has also been found and presented in the same Appendix. The total area of the parish has remained around 970 acres. From the Tithes Schedule of 1844 a list of the field names at that time has been compiled and is given in Appendix 4 with an interpretation of some of the meanings.

The Local Government Act of 1894 did two things; first it created two civil institutions called the parish meeting and the parish council, and second it transferred the civil functions of the older church-based parish authorities to these new institutions. From 1894 this meant that there were two councils existing in Guilden Sutton. The parochial church council continued to direct church activities but a new parish council took over the direction of all civil matters on behalf of all the parish inhabitants. Some friction might have been expected over this sudden change from church-orientated control to lay control, but in fact able residents willingly gave of their time and energy to make the new system work as well as possible. All parishes have met difficulties and frustrations but these have been largely due to problems of integration with higher levels of local government administration as the system has changed from time to time. The clerk to the parish council took over many of the duties of the former parish clerk and there is an interesting parallel in so far as this new office in Guilden Sutton has been held since 1894 to the present time by only two men of the same family; John Thomas (1894-1947) and his nephew Eric Thomas (since 1947). Local unpaid officials gradually disappeared from parish work as functions became the responsibility of higher local government units and required full-time staff for efficient performance e.g. overseers were abolished in 1927.

Since 1894 we have had distinct civil and ecclesiastical parishes and their boundaries have not always been the same. Often the differences have been very small, e.g. in 1939 the populations of the civil and ecclesiastical parishes were 382 and 404 respectively. A sketch showing the boundaries of the civil parish in 1908 is given in Appendix 5. The only significant changes since then have been in the northern boundary along Guilden Sutton Lane. The main change occurred in 1951 when a slice of Hoole Urban District was transferred to Guilden Sutton involving a gain of 209 inhabitants. At the present time the boundary in the north-west corner takes in a few houses in Pipers Ash which lie to the north of the railway line.

By 1931 the population had risen to 404 and main drainage inadequacies led to further development being resisted. Despite this, new housing on a moderate scale did take place until in 1961 the population had increased by a further 105 (discounting the transfer of population in 1951 previously mentioned). In 1969 a new sewage disposal works came into existence in Mickle Trafford and opened up the prospect of a major development in Guilden Sutton. The Planning Authority carried out a large consultative exercise with all interested parties to ascertain the optimum housing requirements and the best way of building to retain an overall village character. A planning report was issued in 1968 which proposed that houses be built of bricks and tiles in rustic colours and that they be sited in small intimate groups. There was to be provision for elderly people, a few shops and a new school. The plan received official approval and Oaklands was the result. The population has now increased to about 2000.

In addition to sewage difficulties Guilden Sutton was rather late in obtaining essential services such as piped water and gas. Electricity was generally available from about 1925 but a gas main was only laid in

this direction about 1968 and the supply was not available in the central village area until a few years later. Piped water was available as far as Heathbank railway bridge in 1932 but did not extend to the main part of the village until 1945.

We know from the beginning of our story that in 1086 Guilden Sutton was part of the larger administrative unit of Wilavestone Hundred. In the 1831 Census Report it is listed in the Broxton Hundred, and in a map of Local Government Districts of 1866 it is shown as being in the lower division of that hundred. The Public Health Act of 1872 created rural districts and the parish was included in the Tarvin Rural District, being transferred to the Chester Rural District in 1936. In the local government reorganisation of 1974 the parish of Guilden Sutton became part of the City of Chester.

In this section we shall be looking in turn at different parts of the parish and tracing how they have developed. As far as records and local information allow we shall trace the history of the main buildings and the people who lived in them. The Tithes plan of 1844 with the accompanying brief descriptions of the properties are the real starting points and then later ordnance survey maps also help to trace subsequent development.

1 VILLAGE CENTRE

This area includes Porters Hill (the east end of what is now School lane) Mickle Trafford Lane (which later became Station Lane), Annie Hughes's Hill (the beginning of Wicker Lane) and Church Lane. In 1844 this was virtually the whole of the inhabited part of the parish, the only exception being Belle Vue Farm with its two outlying farm cottages. An indication of what it looked like is given by the sketch of the 1844 Tithes plan which shows the buildings (see Appendix 6) and the 1908 sketch plan which shows the trees and orchards existing then (see Appendix 7). There has always been a surface drainage problem in the village and the older inhabitants well remember the wide brick-lined ditch that carried water northwards along Church Lane and into Station Lane. The water then went underground near Townfield Lane and found its way to the Gowy. A similar ditch ran down the north side of Porters Hill and augmented the flow from Church lane. No doubt in 1844 a more primitive ditch arrangement existed at the side of the old cobbled lanes. For simplicity's sake the present names of Guilden Sutton Lane, School Lane, Wicker Lane and Church Lane are used throughout this account but it is interesting to note that in the 1861 Census returns these are called Chester Road (the first two), Stamford Road and Sutton Road respectively. Let us now consider some particular parts of the village. The site numbers quoted are those appearing in Appendix 6.

THE HALL AND STABLES

In 1844 (see Appendix 6) the large site lying between The Hooks Lane and Mickle Trafford Lane on the north side of Porters Hill was owned by the Rev Rowland Egerton Warburton and there were two farms on it; one (site !) near The Hooks Lane occupied by Joseph Brock who farmed 113 acres on the north side of the township, and the other (site 2) on the Mickle Trafford Lane corner occupied by John Evans who had fields elsewhere, including the Belle Vue Lane area, amounting to some 36 acres. Joseph Brock's farm was much the larger and by 1860 he had taken over the whole site and his farm was then called The Hall Farm. The house we now know as The Hall was built in 1862 and by 1875 the old buildings of 1844 had all gone and The Hall had its large shippens and outbuildings much as they are today. Many of the trees on the corner had disappeared by 1897 hut the surrounding area was still quite well wooded in 1908. Since then there appears to have been a progressive loss and few trees are now left in the whole of this area. From 1870 to 1884 Thomas Wheelhouse was the farmer, and then from 1884 to 1922 the Nevett family occupied this extensive dairy farm. Records are incomplete but there is mention of Tom Nevett, Esther Nevett and then Samuel Nevett.

The Hall Farm was part of the manorial estate and eventually passed into the hands of Thomas A Hope. After he died his Trustees sold much of the estate piecemeal and in 1922 Deric S Willis, previously with his father at The Byatts Farm, purchased and moved into The Hall Farm. By

1928 he had extended his holding to 180 acres and was one of the principal landowners in the parish. In 1946 Deric Willis sold the farm to Eric Appleton, who ran it as Hall Farm (Estates) Ltd, and retired to Fairlawns in Station Lane. His son, Arthur Willis, took over the nearby Meadow Lea Farm. It was during the early 1950s that there was a serious fire in The Hall shippens and extensive rebuilding was necessary. The dairy farm was sold in 1958 to a Birkenhead Store-owner named John M Sturla. He gradually sold most of the land until by 1971 only The Hall, its large outbuildings and the so-called Backside field remained. The family had more interest in horses than farming and it was then that the previous shippens and large outbuildings became known generally as the stables. This residue of the farm was sold in 1973 to S G Carter who, without using the property, sold it again in 1975 to a Civil Engineering Company who retained the character of the old buildings while converting them into eleven separate houses known collectively as The Hall and Stables. The remainder of the Hall site was used for the construction of a new house which retained the Backside field.

Further up the hill beyond The Hooks Lane a wooden bungalow called Treetops was built in 1925. This was recently replaced by a modern structure.

THE LODGE

The original house, smaller than it is now, is shown on site 3 of the 1844 tithes plan. Even then it was quite independent of the much larger sites 4 and 4a which became known later as The Old Hall. Site 3 on the south side of Porters Hill was called Heathfield in 1844 and was owned and occupied by John Williams. A dated beam in the house indicates it was built in 1807 and subsequently it was extended at the back and at the west side. Behind the house still stands the original large outbuilding which comprised a coach house, stables, places for a few farm animals, and various store rooms. Early maps show that the land to the west of the house was heavily wooded. The 1871 Census returns tell us that Captain Austin Herbert of the Militia was in occupation then, and subsequent records list Samuel Spencer there in 1874. The west side extension was built in 1875, and it may have been at this time that William Sloane took over because he is listed as being there in 1878 when the name had been changed to The Poplars. In 1888 diaries William Dutton became the owner and made the present drive entrance. At that time the drive continued along between the rear of the house and the large outbuilding, past a kitchen garden, and then through a gate into another drive shared with the adjoining property and running into Porters Hill again. It is evident from old records that Charles Dutton played a full part in village life and was much respected. He died in 1901 at the relatively early age of 44 and was buried in St John's churchyard. Andrew Bird moved into the house and it was he who gave it its present name of The Lodge, but in 1908 it was again sold to Major Gervaise Hewlett who was only in it for a further four years.

Hugh Gaskell Taylor took over the property in 1912 and spent the next 38 years there. He also owned the adjoining field higher up Porters Hill. This period is well remembered by a number of the older residents who speak warmly of the Taylors and the gracious living that went on at The Lodge. Hugh Taylor died in 1950 at the age of 78 and was also buried in the village churchyard nearby. He was followed at The Lodge by Hugh Carswell who stayed there until 1978. That part of the site which used to be the old kitchen garden was then sold off separately as another building site.

THE OLD HALL

The older residents have always looked on this as the main residence in the parish and regarded the occupants, the Smith family, as the local squires, although they never had the status of lord of the manor. Luckily deeds of this site still exist which allow us to trace its history since 1704 and there is no doubting its antiquity as a farm and dwelling house, but it is interesting to note at the outset that in records the farmhouse was never referred to as a manor house and indeed the name The Old Hall was only given to it after 1892. In that sense the name is rather misleading, since The Hall had by that time been in existence just over thirty years.

In 1704 the site comprised a dwelling house, a tenement and land and was owned and occupied by Samuel Woodcock, a yeoman farmer (a gentleman farmer of moderate status). In old parish records there is mention of the death of a Nathaniel Woodcocke in 1599 and of a Raphe and Margaret Woodcocke christening their son Thomas in 1648. There was the death of John Woodcocke in 1658, and after 1670 the family name continued as Woodcock (without the 'e'). When Samuel Woodcock died in 1757 and his son John inherited the farm, it is recorded that in addition to immediate members of the Woodcock family a William Smith of Milton Brook, Barrow, was an executor of the will. This William Smith died in 1758, and after John Woodcock died in 1764 we find that the son William Smith ultimately took possession of the Guilden Sutton farmstead which also had at least 18 acres of land at that time. A 1777 map suggests that the farmhouse at that time was not on the site of the house shown on the 1844 plan. William Smith died in 1807 and was succeeded by his son Robert Smith.

It was Robert Smith who was listed as the owner and occupier of site 4 in the 1844 Tithes Schedule, and on the plan the house shown at the south end next to the dividing line with site 4a is the one which later became known as Bank House. In addition to the house, site 4 consisted of a yard, stackyard and outbuildings. Robert Smith also owned site 4a described as garden and orchard. Altogether he owned 64 acres in the parish, and in 1850 he was listed as being one of the main landowners. When he died in 1857 one of the executors of his will was Thomas Alexander, another main landowner at this time. The son, another Robert Smith, inherited and continued to be a main landowner until he died at bank House in 1892 at the age of 81. He had acquired a further 12 acres of land in 1876 from Colonel Greaves in the Oaklands area and in 1885 had bought the rear orchard from the Dodd family. He had married Catherine Selina Cathcart, third daughter of the Prebendary of York, and records show that he played a leading role in parish affairs and was also a benefactor in the village. He owned site 5 on the 1844 tithes plan and from this donated the piece of land on which the Methodist Church was built in 1873.

By 1874 Bank House had been enlarged to its ultimate size and in 1885 most of the land of the 1844 site 18 had been incorporated in the grounds so that direct access from Bank House to St John's Church was now available. The house and grounds no longer exist but from Appendix 7 it is possible to see that the main drive to the house ran from Porters Hill and was very close to the minor drive which was nearer the Lodge and served as a common exit for both houses. The whole of Bank House site was above the level of Porters Hill and Church Lane and was enclosed by a brick wall some five feet high. Snail sections of the drive entrances can still be seen on Porters Hill. A little way down Church Lane there was also a small gated entrance with a post-box in the wall at one side. Mrs Smith died in 1887 and was interred in the family tomb in Barrow churchyard, and there is also a wall tablet to her memory in St, John's Church in Guilden Sutton. When Robert Smith died in 1892 he, too, was

buried in the family tomb at Barrow. His four sisters and brother, William, had all died previously.

The son, Robert Cathcart Smith, succeeded his father and was subsequently listed as one of the main landowners and indeed in 1923 he was the principal landowner in the parish. By 1896 the name the Old Hall had superseded that of Bank House and the residence had that Elizabethan styling which was always associated later with its new name. There is no doubt that The Old Hall was a fine-looking building. It had two storeys and was faced to appear as a timber-framed Elizabethan house complete with a small squat tower rising from above the main entrance. There was also an ornamental archway built across the drive so that carriages arriving at the main entrance of the house passed under it. The Cathcart Smiths lived in a style befitting the house with a full complement of servants and gardeners. Many social functions were held at The Old Hall, both of a village and county character. Both Mr and Mrs Smith had a close connection with the Methodist Church nearby. They helped with the building of the schoolroom extension in 1897 and this has an external foundation stone bearing Mrs Cathcart Smith's name. An interior stone dated 1912 bears Robert Cathcart Smith's name and in the Church itself there is a silver communion set in his memory. They had a bitter blow when their son died of wounds in France in 1916 aged 21 but they also had another son and four daughters. Two of the daughters were known recently to be still alive and living in the London area. Robert Cathcart Smith was a very well-known figure in the parish until he died in 1933 at the age of 92. In accordance with his wishes he was buried in the family vault at Barrow and his body was conveyed there on a flat farm-cart pulled by white horses. He had two brothers, Archibald and Lloyd Cathcart Smith, who were also dead by this time.

Mrs Mary Smith stayed at The Old Hall until 1936 when she sold the property to the Sadler family; the house was divided and Herbert Sadler lived in the half still called The Old Hall while Roy Sadler lived in the other half called The Old Hall West. They sold to Colonel Macklin in 1940 who restored it to a single residence and lived there until 1946. He was a popular figure in the village during his stay. The site was then bought by an Irishman called Roddy and by all accounts the property and grounds had fallen into a very dilapidated state when he sold to property developers in 1958. The Old Hall was completely demolished in 1960 and the building of the Old Hall Park bungalows was started. Those near Church Lane were completed in 1963 and the remainder later in 1971.

METHODIST CHURCH AREA

In 1844 the land bordering the east side of Mickle Trafford Lane and lying between Townfield Lane and Annie Hughes's Hill, site 5, was owned by Robert Smith and was described as Brick Bank Cottage and garden. In the main it appears to have been an orchard site hut the name is interesting evidence of the earlier existence of a brickworks nearby which is first seen on the Ordnance survey map of 1874. The Methodist Church (usually referred to as the Chapel) was designed by Mr Rankin and was built in 1873 and the schoolroom at the rear was added in 1897. An extension to the schoolroom was made in 1910. The 1874 map, surveyed a few years earlier before the chapel was built, shows a building at the rear of what became the chapel site. This building remained after the chapel was built, and a record of 1874 exists which describes Robert Williams, a bricklayer, as residing at Chapel House. That this was the original Brick Bank Cottage is revealed by an 1881 list of Robert Smith's

property which inadvertently still refers to it by that name. George Wioldard and others are described as the tenants, so it is obvious that Chapel House had by then been divided into two parts to form what were known as Chapel Cottages, each of which had a garden running along to Wicker Lane, in 1910 it is known that a man called Weaver lived in one of them.

One of the Chapel Cottages was occupied by Mrs Margaret Groom for some 40 years. It is recorded that she was running a small sweet and general shop there in 1923. Her husband had died in 1919 and she herself died in 1941 aged 70. Members of the Colley family also resided here for some time. The Chapel Cottages were demolished about 1965 to make way for a car park behind the chapel.

HILL FARM AREA

This area includes the farm itself, shown as site 6, and the land to the north of the farm and lying behind site 5.

Hill Farm House is one of the oldest existing buildings in the parish and is believed to have been built about 1716. It has been well looked after and much of the interior is still delightfully preserved in the original style. The long outbuilding formerly comprising the shippens, dairy rooms and barn still exists but it became neglected when farming there ceased in 1960 and the farmhouse became a residence only.

In 1844 the farm was occupied by James Okell and altogether he had about 50 acres in the area. He is mentioned as still being there in records from 1850 to 1890, but in 1892 his daughter Mary Okell is listed as the farmer. She is followed by another daughter Jane Okell in 1902 and by his son George Okell in 1906. After 1930 the name drops out of the records and in 1934 and 1939 James Ellis Dandy, from Park Farm, appears as the farmer at Hill Farm. About 1945 John Hewitt took over the farm and when he died his son Gordon Hewitt continued there for only a short time until 1960. William Dutton of The Byatts then purchased the farm subsequently selling the farmhouse but retaining the old barn and all the land. He later built a bungalow, Tilefields, near to the old barn and into which he moved when he retired from farming. Still more recently the old barn was sold and is in the process of being converted into a dwelling.

The land lying behind site 5 is not mentioned in the 1844 tithes record but it probably also belonged to Robert Smith because in the 1870 records of church rates he is charged for his brick and tile yard and in 1874 and 1878 he is described as a brick and tile maker, and we have already inferred that a brickworks existed on tills site in 1811. We know that three other brickworks existed in the parish but they seem to be of rather later dates. The brickyard entrance was just beside Hill Farm House and the brickfield extended northwards towards Townfield Lane. Robert Williams is recorded as a bricklayer in 1850, and John Lamb as a brick-maker in 1860, and it is possible they were connected with this particular brick and tile works. Shortly after 1890 it had ceased to exist.

By 1872 two rows of cottages were already in existence close to the entrance of the brickworks. A row of three extended down Annie Hughes's Lane and the other row of two pointed towards the brickfield. These were brick-built and were known as Tile Bank Cottages, and remained there until 1972 when they were demolished to make way for the modern houses now existing on the north side of this part of Wicker Lane. There is evidence from the 1861 Census returns that two families lived in Annie Hughes's lane in addition to the Okell family at Hill Farm. One was that

of Edward Crimes, a farm worker, whose wife Harriet died in 1877 aged 43, The other family was that of George Nield, the village blacksmith, who was then aged 53 and had two sons Ernest and Thomas. From other records it is apparent that he operated his smithy from before 1850 until after 1878. The 1870 records of church rates show that Robert Smith paid for the ownership of a house and smithy as well as for a brick and tile yard. All the evidence, therefore, points to the village smithy for at least 30 years in the 19th century being sited near to Hill Farm and the brick and tile works. An older resident who spent his childhood in the two-house row of Tile Bank Cottages recalls clearly how these were older renovated cottages from the former smithy site. Old cobbled paving has also been found in this area about five feet below the present soil level.

THE VICARAGE AREA

There were no houses along the stretch of Wicker Lane from Hill Farm to Cinder Lane until 1888. The large structure shown beside the pond on the 1844 plan must have been a barn or outbuilding of some kind.

It proved very difficult getting any evidence of the whereabouts of a parsonage in the village, prior to the existing vicarage being built on Wicker Lane in 1888, despite references to this effect. The Rev Clarke in his account quotes from a report of 1804 stating that "there was no parsonage house fit for a parson to live in; there was an old house, nearly in ruins, belonging to the church but which housed two poor families". He mentions that the parish did not have a resident priest after 1831 until the appointment of the Rev David Turner in 1886. Old Cheshire directories for 1850 and 1860 make reference to the parsonage being a small thatched cottage near the church, and possibly this was the same place which had been in such a wretched condition in 1804, but its likely location remained a mystery until a two-line entry found in a much-worn copy of an 1878 Cheshire directory made everything clear. This explained that the old thatched parsonage had been renovated and enlarged and was now in use as the village school. So for many years the old parsonage had stood in Church Lane immediately in front of the church. Indeed it is the small building shown in that position in Appendix 6. Since William Hughes is recorded as being a schoolmaster in the 1861 Census returns it is probable that some kind of school was in being before the conversion of the parsonage.

We know from old church records, however, that Thomas A Hope, lord of the manor, gave a slice of his land (part of Church Farm occupied by Peter Hughes) for the building of a new vicarage and the house was constructed in 1888 with its entrance on Wicker Lane. At some later date the vicarage gained a further plot of land on Wicker Lane from Church Farm to give the grounds their present shape.

Two wooden bungalows were next built on the east side of Wicker Lane and apparently date back to 1918, and one of them has recently been reconstructed in brick. Modern bungalows were subsequently built on either side of the vicarage and the development of this side of Wicker lane was completed when the Byatts Park houses were built in 1976.

THE FREEZER CENTRE

Situated on the corner site between Church Lane and Wicker Lane and near the heart of the old village, it is not surprising this site has quite a history behind it. In 1844 on site 7 there was a farmstead here situated in a large orchard. It was owned and occupied by Thomas Hughes who, in 1851 had 23 acres of land but added extensive holdings

in the parish and by 1860 was listed as one of the main landowners. He died very soon afterwards and the 1861 Census return shows that the eldest son Amos was managing the farm with his brothers James, Thomas, Joseph and John residing with him. By 1871 Amos was operating the farm on his own and in 1881 was listed as the tenant of 36 acres of land belonging to Robert Smith where Oaklands is now situated. His brother Thomas had a farm of his own in the Church Lane area, the exact site not being known, but he died in 1888 at the age of 45. Amos died in 1901 aged 63. It was then that the farm was occupied by Ralph Weaver who in 1871 had been living in one of the Hill Cottages. He died in 1913 aged 69 and his wife Margaret in 1923. The farm continued to be occupied by the Weaver family until 1938.

It is apparent from maps of different dates that by 1888 the farmstead had been considerably enlarged and the site was then known as Ash Bank. The farmhouse was larger and outbuildings adjoined it to the south bringing the farmstead close to the new vicarage boundary. There is no doubt that the house is the existing one named Cherry Bank and that the older part of the Freezer Centre was built around the farm outbuildings. Older residents tell of the farmhouse being used temporarily to house the vicar and this may have been the short period 1886-1888 when the Rev David Turner was waiting for his new vicarage to be built.

In 1938 David Hughes bought the property. He already had a butcher's business in Chester and at first continued to use the land for cattle farming. Starting from 1939 he built up the first registered tuberculin tested Guernsey herd in this country. It was in 1954 that he developed a meat factory on the site and went into the meat contracting business in a major way, the cold storage facilities being a necessary adjunct to this. The Freezer Centre was then developed on a commercial scale and first appears in its present form in 1961.

CHURCH FARM AREA

It is difficult to see from the 1844 tithes plan how the present Church Farm developed from the buildings then shown, but it seems likely that site 9 was the nucleus of the glebe land which was part of the church living and would naturally be known as Church Farm. The description of the site fitted in with its use as a farm and it was owned by the Rev Rowland Egerton Warburton, who was then the lay holder of the church living. The occupier at this time was William Roberts and he farmed about 110 acres in the parish. In 1844 Egerton Warburton also held the manorial estates and site 8 belonged to him. From its description this was a small-holding and was occupied by Robert Bentley who farmed about 30 acres. We know that by 1886 this site had been incorporated into Church Farm which was then owned by Thomas A Hope. Site 10 was also some kind of small-holding but was owned by the Mainwaring Trustees and occupied by William Wilson who in 1850 was known as a farmer using fields near the Gowy to the extent of some 40 acres.

Roberts continued to be at Church Farm until about 1855 when he was succeeded by Peter Hughes, already mentioned for his work as churchwarden and parish clerk. The Census return for 1861 shows that Peter Hughes was then 46, his wife Anne was 44, and they had five sons between the ages of 22 and 3, Arthur and Joseph being the youngest. Peter Hughes is listed as owning Church Farm in 1890. From about 1893 George Nevett, brother of Samuel Nevett at The Hall Farm, held Church Farm and then in 1898 George Jennings took it over. The 1888 architect's drawing for the new vicarage shows the main part of Church Farm as a large continuous structure, and it was just before George Jennings took over that a gale destroyed the portion linking the long barn with the farmhouse. The arrangement of the buildings as shown on the 1908 plan (Appendix 7)

is much how they exist at the present time. George Jennings died in 1913 at the age of 87 and was succeeded by his daughter and son-in-law, the Browns, and after her husband died in 1964 Mrs E N Brown continued to live at the farmhouse. She has lived at Church Farm for over 80 years and is a much-loved local figure. In 1976 much of the land belonging to Church Farm went in the building of Vicarage Close and one of the new houses on Wicker Lane.

On the 1844 plan is shown site 11, described as two dwellings and gardens. At that time they were owned by William Johnson and occupied by Edward Rowlands and Richard Little. They seem to be the two existing brick houses now called Primrose Hill and Frogmore. Alfred Eddowes, another old inhabitant of the village, lives in Primrose Hill and has been there about 75 years. For part of this time his neighbour in Frogmore was Albert Hughes, son of Joseph Hughes who operated a farmstead in this area before retiring to Hill Crest. Albert Hughes ran a small-holding on land around his house and when he died in 1934 at the age of 49 his wife continued to live there.

On the north side of Cinder Lane where it reaches the high ground is the wooden bungalow called Hill Crest and which dates back to 1919. It was built by Joseph Hughes, son of Peter Hughes of Church Farm, on the edge of his farmstead off Church Lane for his own retirement, latterly it has been occupied by Tom Parker and then his son Tony Parker, relatives of the Parkers of Hill View Farm. The house now stands rather isolated among the new houses of Byatts Park.

THE CHURCH AREA

We have already seen how St John the Baptist Church was built about 1105 when the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry was lord of the manor of Guilden Sutton. It suffered severe storm damage in 1802 and it is recorded that the church was re-built on the pre-Reformation site by Sir John Stanley. This wording itself seems to imply that the church had been sited elsewhere in the interim period, and many older residents seem to think that prior to this rebuilding after 1802 the church had been situated on the east side of Church Lane, but a diligent search has failed to find any supporting evidence for this. In fact a map in Burdett's book of 1777 shows the church quite clearly in its present position. This rumour, therefore, must go into the same category as the persistent belief that during the Civil Wars of the 17th century the Cathedral plate was buried in the churchyard for safety and never recovered. More restoration work was required on the fabric of the church in 1890, but the church as we see it today is essentially the structure of the post-1802 re-building.

The site, of course, must be by far the oldest identifiable one in the parish. It is shown on the 1844 plan of Appendix 6 as occupying a corner of site 17 which was a field called Hill Yards belonging to Church Farm. By 1897 the church was in its own grounds with additional land for burial us as shown in Appendix 7. On the 1844 plan there is a small building shown in front of the church and this was the old thatched parsonage which about 1870 became the church national school (see The Vicarage Area). It was entered direct from Church Lane and as a school was probably just a single room. The 1874 ordnance survey map and the 1888 architect's drawing for the new vicarage both clearly show the school with adjacent buildings on Church Lane. Eventually a new school was built on Guilden Sutton Lane in 1891 on a site presented by Thomas A Hope. The old school was then demolished and its site was filled in and a new retaining brick wall built to give the front of the churchyard the unified appearance it has today.

It also allowed the Lane to be widened at this point. Cathedral records of this work include a side-view sketch of the school shaving its old timber framed exterior. The one thing to add to the comprehensive description of the church given by the Rev Clarke is the addition of a new west window in 1981. This depicts the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist portrayed in a local Gowy meadow setting and was a gift from the Kneale family of The Wood in School Lane on leaving the parish.

At the south end of the Hill Yards field, a temporary church hall (then called the church room) was built in 1916 close to Church lane. The site was purchased by the church in 1920. Temporary has come to mean quite a long time, and after very recent renovation the hall is still in regular use. Two semi-detached houses were built in the space between the church and church hall about 1950, and more recently a detached house was built behind them with an access drive alongside the church.

THE CAR PARK AREA

The land lying between The Old Hall gardens and the church has seen a number of changes since 1844. At that time it comprised sites 18 and 19 on the tithes plan. Both sites were owned by Mary Dodd and each consisted of a house with substantial wooded gardens. Mary Dodd lived on site 18 and her house was set back from Church lane with an access path through the garden of site 19. The house on the latter site was rented out to four tenants, one of whom in 1844 was Samuel Ackerlev. He died in 1849 and his wife Sarah in 1877. Mary Dodd's house was a three-storey timber-framed building with an infill of wattle and daub and inside there was extensive oak panelling. It was believed to be over 300 years old at that time. It had a thatched roof in 1844 although much later photographs show it with a tiled roof. It is likely that the tenement house was similar. By 1872 three brick built cottages had been erected between the old school and the tenement house, and there was a yard and outbuildings in the garden in front of Mary Dodd's house. In 1885 the large rear garden of site 18 had been incorporated in The Old Hall grounds. Mary Dodd had died in 1849 at the age of 75 and her son George Dodd, listed as a farmer, was now occupying what was obviously a small-holding. In the Census returns he describes himself as a farmer in 1861 and as a market gardener in 1871, and at this latter date he is listed as being married with a son, Richard, aged 26. In 1883 George and Richard Dodd jointly sold the site to Samuel Roberts who in turn sold it to a Mrs Swineley in 1891.

By 1888 the tenement house had gone, but it must have been shortly afterwards that a further three larger houses were added to the previous three and it was these six houses that are remembered as Church Cottages. There was a row of out-houses behind and a well in the north-west corner. By now, of course, these out-houses and the Dodd's old house were close against The Old Hall boundary. By 1891 Mrs Swineley also owned the Church Cottages site.

The next thing we know is that in 1928 the small-holding was occupied by James Colley. He had tracts of land in the parish for pasture and vegetable growing and his hay-stack in the yard on Church Lane was quite a local landmark. The Colley family continued to live in the old house and there are records of the deaths there of Margaret Colley in 1936, John Colley in 1946 and Mrs Beckett.

The small-holding was eventually sold to William Dutton of The Byatts in 1954. He retained the tracts of land belonging to the small-holding but the empty house was so badly damaged from neglect and vandalism that it was demolished and the whole site cleared and given to the parish council to be used as a village amenity. Nothing was done with it, however, until

Church Cottages were demolished in 1960 and that site was-purchased by Peter and Patricia Hughes. They had both sites surfaced as a car park, retaining the south end for business use.

Mention might be made here of the existence of sections of underground tunnelling in this area. When The Old Hall site was being cleared in 1960 a snail section of brick tunnel was exposed which appeared to be heading towards the church. On the higher ground behind the old Church Cottages a vertical shaft existed which was used for the disposal of rubbish by the residents. This seemed to have inexhaustible capacity and it was popularly believed to lead to a tunnel formerly connecting The Old Hall and the church.

FOOT OF THE HILL

This is the small area just south of the church hall where the footpath from Oak lands comes into Church lane. It is an old original part of the village, although the houses have been extended and modernised to keep pace with modern living standards. A group of three dwellings is shown on sites 15 and 16. The middle house, end on to Church Lane, was originally a small-holding with a field extending up the hillside and dates back to about 1780. In 1844 it was owned by farmer Robert Bentley and occupied by Isaac Thomson. It was listed as being occupied by James Thomason in 1870. There was a pig-sty on the corner of Church Lane and a shippon on the other end of the house. In the 1920s a boot and shoe repairer living there added a shop to the house and also extended it at the back while retaining just a small garden going up the hill. Morris Facer took over the house and shop in 1928 and extended the house lengthways over the site of the old shippon. The shop was then run as a general store. Morris Facer died in 1951 but his widow Mrs Lydia Facer still carries on as the well-known village storekeeper.

Just north of the store and facing on to Church Lane is another building of the same age which for as long as anyone remembers has been two adjoining cottages. They have been occupied by a number of local families, including that of Ernest Nield, son of George Nield who was the village blacksmith during the period 1850-1880. Ernest Nield died in 1970 at the age of 90. For many years up to 1924 these cottages were tied cottages belonging to a Mickle Trafford farmer. Since then they have been privately owned and modernised and are now called Foot of the Hill and Croft Cottage. The land behind these three houses has changed possession several times during their two-hundred year history, but now largely belongs to Foot of the Hill. On the south side of the footpath to Oaklands is the third old building, now called the Bungalow. In 1844 it was owned by Rowland Egerton Warburton and occupied by Levi Jenkins who was still there in 1871. Later The Bungalow was occupied by Ted Jenkins and then Jim Blythe from Holly House. It was the latter who built the adjoining house, The Cottage, about 1930 and moved into it.

THE BIRD IN HAND

This is shown as site 12 and the site itself has remained unchanged since 1844. The inn must have experienced many changes, however, since it is believed to date back to 1500. Unfortunately no records before 1950 have survived. In 1844 it was owned and occupied by Henry Fryer and we also know that before him John Hughes, the churchwarden and parish clerk, was publican there. A list of many of the licensees since 1815 is given in Appendix 3. There is talk of the inn being an old Elizabethan-type building with a thatched roof towards the end of the 19th century, but shortly afterwards it was burned down and had to be completely rebuilt.

Perhaps it is only a strange coincidence that during the period 1896 to 1906 the village shopkeeper is also recorded as being a beer retailer. Use present building is the result of several renovations, there being a major one in 1960.

HILL COTTAGES

This is site 13 on the 1844 tithes plan and lies on the high land immediately south of the Bird in Hand. It was described as house and garden, buildings and yard and was obviously a farmstead at that time. It was owned by Richard Amery's Trustees and occupied by William Roberts, and since he was also the occupier of Church Farm this must have been an off-shoot of the main farm.

In 1874 the buildings on this site appear to have a similar configuration to those of 1844, although the main one now appears to consist of a number of separate sections. The belief that these are Hill Cottages is strengthened by the same appearance in 1908 (see Appendix 7). The 1908 plan also shows a snail additional block further to the east which may be the site of the two tied cottages built later for Byatts House Farm. Further evidence from the 1871 Census returns shows that Ralph Weaver lived here at that time, so this dates back Hill Cottages to at least 1871. Many Guilden Sutton families lived at some time in these Hill Cottages before they were demolished in 1966. It was not until 1979 that the area was covered by houses of Byatts Park.

THE MOUNT FARM

In 1844 at the south end of Church Lane a snail brick-built farmstead existed on site 14. The site extended to where the lane became a bride path leading to Tarvin Road. It was owned by Richard Amery's Trustees and occupied by Robert Williams who, in 1850 and 1860 records and the 1861 Census returns, was described as a farmer and a part-time bricklayer. He was still there as a widower in 1871, then aged 66, and presumably it is the same man who in 1874 died in Chapel House (see Methodist Church Area). The farmhouse was quite a small square-shaped building of brick standing in a clearing at the side of the lane, and it is interesting to note that before 1873, when the Methodist Church was built, local Methodists met there and it was known as the preaching house.

In 1907 the farmstead was occupied by Henry Jenkins, a younger relative of Levi Jenkins who lived at The Bungalow, and by 1928 he had about 50 acres of land. The farmstead remained a small place, however, and there are memories of it selling milk and potatoes and of Henry Jenkins taking a cart around the village selling his vegetables. He died at the Mount Farm in 1943 aged 83, and it was then that Ernest Groan and his wife took over the place. They stayed only a relatively short time before they retired. Private houses gradually took over the site; The Hollows was built at the south end about 1946, then the farmhouse was demolished about 1965 and two more houses built, and a further house was added more recently.

2 WICKER LANE

This section deals with the Wicker lane area beyond Cinder Lane and Byatts Park. The 1844 tithes schedule makes no reference to any buildings in this area but does mention the fields of Wicker Croft and Wicker Meadow. In his 1972 book on place names Hodgson refers to the Chester Corporation records of 1665 that mention Wicker Meadow, and he claims that the word Wicker probably goes back to the name Witaker which is to be found in the Cottonian Manuscripts of about 1200.

Within living memory Wicker Lane was cobbled throughout its length from Church Lane to Tarvin Road and for most of the way there was a deep ditch on the west side for drainage purposes.

THE BYATTS

This name appears in the 1844 tithes schedule but only as a field (see Appendix 4). The farm is first seen on an 1875 map with the name Byattshouse Farm, but there is other evidence indicating that it was started in 1856 by John Mounfield from Norley which means it is now 125 years old. According to Dodgson the name Byatts is derived from an old English word 'biat' meaning to begat and indicating a notable acquisition. In this context it undoubtedly means very good, profitable land. John Mounfield with his family of five sons and one daughter was still at the farm in 1878, but until 1905 there is no certainty of who else might have farmed here. We know that a Priscilla Wright died at Byattshouse Farm in 1891 and this may indicate that Thomas Wright, known to be a farmer somewhere in Guilden Sutton, was here for a time. It is also possible that a man called Hassall was a farm bailiff here for a period, but the next firm evidence is that a son of the owner of Hoole House had the farm in 1905 and stayed for only a few years. From 1909 to 1922 it was farmed by John H Willis helped latterly by his son Deric S Willis. During this period the farm appears on maps as Byatts House Farm. John Willis retired to Greenfield where he died in 1931 aged 76.

William Dutton bought the farm in 1922 and had expanded it to over 150 acres by 1928, from which date he was listed as one of the main landowners of the parish. By now the farm appears on maps as simply The Byatts. William Dutton played a prominent part in local government and a tribute to him and his wife took the form of a stone seat erected at the foot of Porters Hill after his death in 1980. The farm continues in the ownership of the Dutton family.

HIGHFIELD

It would appear from maps of the period that a house called The Hoole was built about 1902 near to Byattshouse Farm. It was a few years later, about 1908, when Edwin Anderton took possession of the house and operated as a market gardener there. He was the second son of Thomas Anderton who had a cottage in this area in 1871. His first wife died in 1914, but he remarried, then died himself in 1920 aged 58. His widow, Mrs Edith Anderton, continued to live at The Hoole (shortly afterwards renamed Highfield) with her two daughters and son and died there in 1962 aged 79. She was pre-deceased at Highfield by her daughter Mabel who died in 1946. Having lived at Highfield for over 40 years Mrs Anderton and her family were well-known and respected in the parish. Her remaining son and daughter, William Thomas Anderton and Edith Marjory Anderton, died more recently in 1975 and 1980 respectively, but surviving members of both Anderton families still live in the area.

WICKER HOUSE

It was towards the end of 1898 when Arthur Hughes, described as a builder of Guilden Sutton, purchased a rectangular plot of land of about three-quarters of an acre bordering Wicker Lane from Robert Cathcart Smith. This was adjacent to the strip of land in Hoole Field that was subsequently sold for the building of The Gables. Arthur Hughes was the youngest son of Peter Hughes of Church Farm and seems to have developed his property repairing business in Hoole. We have already referred to his brother •Joseph who had been living in Dunham Hill and had returned to a small-holding off Church lane (see Church Farm Area). It is said that on his newly acquired land Arthur Hughes built the original Wicker House and

outbuildings with his own hands, even making the bricks himself from nearby clay and sand pits. He was married to Mary Alice Dodd and together they brought up their family of four sons and a daughter. Arthur Hughes died in 1906 at the relatively early age of 49.

Mary Alice Hughes extended the smallholding activities and in 1920 purchased a further strip of land further along Wicker Lane where The Woodlands was subsequently built and also Wicker Meadow on the other side of Wicker Lane. The eldest son, Thomas, was trained as a skilled carpenter and stayed on at Wicker House, eventually taking over the property repair business on the death of his father and later still the running of the smallholding with the help of his wife, formerly Ethel Gregory. Wilfred also helped with the smallholding until in 1925 another farmstead, The Woodlands, was built for him and his wife, formerly Ethel Turner. The third son Alfred drove a delivery van for Browns of Chester, and the remaining son, Arthur, became an engine driver living at Urmston. The daughter became a Mrs West.

Mary Alice Hughes far outlived her husband, dying at Wicker House in 1950 aged 88. When the son Thomas Hughes died in 1970 aged 80, Wicker House was bought by property developers who virtually rebuilt and extended it as a private residence. The Jude family lived there until recently. A small matter of interest is that Wicker House was used as a trigonometrical point for making Ordnance map surveys.

THE GABLES

The building of what was originally called Gable House started in 1903 and considerable difficulty arose before this large house was completed and occupied. It was in 1903 that Robert Cathcart Smith sold a strip of land in Hoole Field with a frontage on Wicker Lane to a master plumber. He failed financially and the land and unfinished house were bought by a Chester accountant who died within a year and the property fell into the hands of a Chester Bank. It was not until 1908 that the house was completed and occupied by Mr and Mrs John Gray. After only four years the property was sold in 1912 to John Vernon, a Chester builder, who further improved it with a view to his own occupation. Plans changed, however, and after rented occupation by Richard S Linnell the house was sold in 1920 to Robert Griffiths, a Chester corn merchant, who also bought a small neighbouring field from Mrs Edith Anderton of The Hoole. The Griffiths stayed for fifteen years at The Gables, as the house was renamed, and their time there is well remembered by older residents. The coach-house, harness room and stables were evidence of an elegant way of life.

The Gables then had another unfortunate period. It was sold to Edward Knowles who, within a year, resold it in 1935 to the Percy Capner family. The house stood empty for most of the war period, suffered some damage and deteriorated quite badly. In 1948, however, it was extensively renovated and extended and in 1951 sold by the Capners to the Oldhams. Alec Oldham was a police inspector and Mrs Oldham was interested in Alsatian dogs and ran a kennels business. A series of short stays followed; in 1954 Godfrey Houghton and his daughter Mrs Carr lived there, followed in 1958 by Captain R L Jordan. The latter sold in 1960 to Mrs Marjorie Saunders who lived at The Gables with her son. After her death in 1970, the son has continued to live there.

THE WOODLANDS

This was a small farmstead built in 1925 by Thomas Hughes on land belonging to Wicker House for his brother Wilfred. From here Wilfred Hughes and his wife operated a milk round and sold dairy products until 1958, since when the property has been used as a private residence. It may be noted that

it was Wilfred Hughes and his wife's sister, Jean Turner, who had the two semi-detached houses built a little further along Wicker Lane towards Tarvin Road. Miss Turner lived in Hill Crest and Mrs Lea in The Spinney.

HILL VIEW FARM

The story of this farm was difficult to unravel because, although this is ancient farmland, the farmhouse is of quite recent origin and in fact takes its name from one of the two semi-detached houses on the opposite side of Wicker Lane. It can be imagined how misleading early records proved to be. The land in this area belonged for many years to Stamford Heath Farm on Tarvin Road and outside the Guilden Sutton boundary. This farm, its land and the two semi-detached houses on Wicker Lane became part of the large Thomas A Hope estate which the Trustees were disposing of piecemeal in 1921. The two houses were sold to Owen Lloyd who lived in the one called Hill View and rented out the other, but the farm and its land remained unsold until it was bought in 1922 by Thomas B Parker, a master butcher from Rossett. Mr and Mrs Parker resided at Stamford Heath Farm with their family of three sons (Thomas, Arthur and Alan) and three daughters, the business being registered as T B Parker and Sons.

In 1938 T B Parker sold the farmhouse to Vicars Cross Golf Club which used it as the club house until 1965 when a new one was built. The farm buildings were then demolished except for one long outbuilding which still remains on the site. The Parkers continued to use the land in Wicker Lane for the grazing of sheep and cattle, but in 1940 it was decided that the land should be managed by Arthur Parker and his wife. They went to live in Woodside, one of the two semi-detached houses, and built shippens and other outbuildings on their own land opposite. They bought both Woodside and Hill View in 1945 and moved into Hill View themselves, selling Woodside to the Pritchards in 1946. Arthur Parker then bought out his brothers and moved into the newly built Hill View Farm house in 1947, selling the semi-detached house to Tom Lea, who renamed it Greywalls. The latter house was later successively occupied by Captain Stonestreet, Mrs Widdowes and then the Griffiths in 1968. During this time its name was changed again to Heather Cottage. Since her husband's death, Mrs Parker and her son have continued to run the farm.

3 GUILLEN SUTTON LANE

SCHOOL AREA

The new Church Primary School was built in 1891 on two roods of land in Far Brick Kiln Field presented by Thomas A Hope and with financial aid from Lord Stanley and prominent landowners. It was built to take 110 children but soon proved too small and an extension was added in 1904. To keep pace with the increasing population temporary classrooms have since been added.

Both sides of the opposite corner with Belle Vue Lane have older histories. A little east of the corner are two adjoining cottages, The Croft and Ivy Cottage. They are now much modernised but in the small front garden of The Croft there is still an old hand-pump for obtaining well water. Maps show that the cottages certainly date back to 1875, but there is some reason to believe they might date back a little further. Records tell us that Samuel Thomas lived in this vicinity in 1861 and 1870 and that William Thomas died at The Croft in 1929 at the age of 63. He was followed by Charles Gordon Horswill, a property repairer, who in 1939 went to live in a bungalow in Belle Vue Lane and died there in 1952 aged 56. In 1920 William Paddy was operating a smithy at Ivy Cottage, dying there in 1946 at the age of 77. We know that George Nield was the village blacksmith

in the period 1850-1880 and it is tempting to believe that Ivy Cottage was the site of the smithy for some 100 years, but all the evidence points to George Nield's smithy being elsewhere in the village (see Hill Farm Area).

Before these two cottages were modernised there was evidence of smallholdings at the rear and by 1899 each had large plots of land extending back towards where Middle Croft now provides an entry into Oaklands. Prior to 1897 maps showed the existence of a Rose Cottage lying behind The Croft and Ivy Cottage, but the only information about this house that can be traced is that in 1871 Edward Doughty, a locksmith from Wolverhampton, lived here with his wife Elizabeth and their two children together with an uncle and two adopted children. The uncle, William Hodgkinson, died later in 1871 aged 75. By 1874 the son Richard Doughty was listed as the occupier under the heading of gentry, and his mother died at Rose Cottage in 1876 aged 47. Richard himself died in 1913 aged 51 and his wife Margaret in 1924 aged 59, but where is not known.

Occupying the large field on the west corner of Guilden Sutton Lane and Belle Vue Lane there used to be a brickworks. The kilns, clay pit and brickfield are clearly marked on an 1876 map which would, of course, have been surveyed earlier. It is known that in 1861 John Swindley lived in this vicinity and was described as a farmer and tile maker, so he may well have been connected with this brickworks. The same applies to James Lamb who, in 1871, was described as a brick maker. The brickworks must have been closed soon afterwards because by 1876 there were two semi-detached houses facing where the new school was subsequently built. These are the existing Post Office Cottage and Post Cottage, the latter being for many years the local sub-post office. George Grindley was the sub-postmaster in 1910 and he died there in 1950, aged 80. Other members of the family living there were Mary Jane Grindley who died in 1936 and Doris Grindley who died in 1949. The adjoining house has been occupied for many years by the Thomason family.

On the corner itself was The Square which dates back to about the same time, 1876. This consisted of ten cottages and a row of outhouses forming a square. Four cottages faced Guilden Sutton Lane, then the entrance to the inside of the square and two cottages faced Belle Vue Lane, and the other four cottages faced south looking down the field at the side of Belle Vue Lane. There is a record of 1876 that Robert Smith owned six of these cottages. The surprising thing was that the inside of the square was a cobbled farmyard with shippens in the middle. The farmer there was Edwin Richardson and he lived in the first, cottage next to the sub-post office. For grazing his cattle he used the fields on the opposite side of Guilden Sutton Lane, accessible along Old Lane. When he died in 1918 aged 61 his wife Amelia Rachael Richardson continued the farm, and after her death in 1930 aged 72 the son Albert Richardson carried on until he moved to a smallholding at the other end of this section of Belle Vue Lane about 1936. Many village families lived at The Square at one time or another until the cottages got into a very dilapidated state and were demolished in 1964.

The Census returns show a farm worker and his family living in Old Lane in 1861, but there is no other record of a cottage existing in this off-shoot from Guilden Sutton Lane.

HOLLY HOUSE FARM

This was built in 1858 and John Blythe was the farmer there. Miss Mary Blythe also had an interest in the farm and died at Holly House in 1912 at the age of 86. The son William Blythe took over the farm at that time and remained until 1934 when he rented it out to Charles Frederick Blackburn who was a cattle dealer. It was during this time that the property became run-down and there was a fire which partially destroyed one end of the house and outbuildings. When the lease terminated Holly House was sold as a private residence to the Pond Family. It has been greatly modernised since it ceased to be a farm.

There were two pairs of cottages lying between Holly House and Heathbank bridge which were built in 1860 and belonged to the farm. The first pair were called Holly Cottage and Lilac Cottage, and the second Bridge Cottage and Garden Cottage. These cottages were occupied by members of the Anderton, Pulford and Blythe families for many years. These have recently been modernised as detached houses, retaining the old names of Holly Cottage and Garden Cottage.

A third small cottage lay near the bend in Guilden Sutton Lane, almost opposite to Holly Farm, and was also believed to date back to 1860. George Jones used to live there and afterwards Edward Anderton. When the latter died about 1955, the cottage was demolished and all that remains is a snail enclosure now filled with undergrowth and some small trees.

FIRWOOD HOUSE

This is close to Holly House and was built in 1924 for George Blythe, son of William Blythe. He was in the grocery trade and was also well known as a pigeon fancier. He was succeeded there by his daughter and her husband, but when the latter died Mrs Mort sold the house to the Copples.

PARK FARM

It was about 1920 that Sydney Dandy started Park Farm in Garners Lane, an off-shoot going over the railway bridge from Green Lane. It was his brother, James Ellis Dandy, who farmed at Hill Farm on Wicker Lane. Sydney Dandy had three sons who all became farmers; Sydney Ellis Dandy went to Littleton Hall Farm, Alan Ernest Dandy went to a farm in Yorkshire and Trevor Dandy eventually took over Park Farm from his father. Although still living in the farm house, Trevor Dandy was forced to retire from active farming in 1974. The fields belonging to the farm are now let for grazing.

HEATHFIELD

This is situated on the south side of Guilden Sutton Lane shortly before reaching Heathbank Railway Bridge on the way to Chester. The house was built in 1867 as a small farm by William and Sarah Thomas, whose names were etched on bricks at each side of the farmhouse doorway. Their land of six acres consisted of orchards and grassland in addition to the farm-house and outbuildings, and they also rented a further six acres for grazing. William Thorns died in 1912 aged 68 and there is a wall plaque to his memory in the Methodist Church in Station Lane, Mrs Thomas carried on until 1918 with the part-time help of her son who was manager at the adjoining Heathbank Brickworks.

Henry Evans then took over, and his son Edward followed him in about 1930. It was Edward Evans who changed the name to Heathfield Poultry Farm. The present owners took over in 1967 and are redeveloping the neglected orchards and working on the restoration of the farmhouse and outbuildings.

Willow Cottage nearby has been modernised but is believed to date back to about 1880 as a small tied cottage belonging to Heathfield. Local people remember it for its lovely display of climbing roses.

HEATHBANK SITE

This is the site next to Heathfield and close to the railway bridge. Maps clearly show that there used to be a brickworks here, and from the number of kilns shown it was quite a large one. It was probably started about 1903 and as Vernon and Son were local brick makers at this time, they could well have operated here. The brickworks was still operating in 1918 but eventually the site was filled in by using it as a council rubbish dump. Much later in 1967 a plastic components factory was started at the rear of the site. There was also a builder's yard there in 1970 but shortly after the Highways Depot was built at the front of the site in 1971, the builder's yard went.

HEATHBANK COTTAGES

These old cottages date back to about 1885 and are by far the oldest dwellings on the stretch of Guilden Sutton Lane beyond the railway bridge. There is a record that in 1890 they were owned by J W Garnett of Mickle Trafford. The hand-pump that supplied well water to the cottages still stands in the front garden of No. 1. Because of their position, however, they got piped water some years before it was extended beyond the railway bridge to the rest of Guilden Sutton. Most of the old cottages have been modernised and soon there will be no trace of the originals left.

The other houses further along Guilden Sutton Lane are relatively modern, having been built about 1947.

PIPERS ASH BRICKWORKS

This was the fourth brickworks to be found in the parish and it lay to the south of the railway line and just inside the parish boundary. The entrance was along a short lane lying to the east of Hare lane and a little north of the Methodist Chapel in Pipers Ash. The brickworks was already there and in operation by 1876 and was owned jointly by Robert and William Lamb. The brickworks did not appear on maps after 1911. Brickyard Cottage stood just at the entrance to the brickfield and it is recorded that in 1890 it was owned and occupied by George Mitford. From 1912 to 1946 the Thompsons lived there. The house was modernised by the Whitby family and is now called Brickfield.

THE WOOD

Here we return to School Lane to the only older site remaining to be dealt with in the whole stretch of Guilden Sutton Lane. The Wood is a black and white old-style bungalow situated in large grounds and with extensive outbuildings. It is believed to have been built in 1920, but the first records to be traced are those of 1934 and 1939 which list the property as being occupied by Norman Howard, a poultry farmer. Some time later the Hutchinson family were there, then from 1956 it was occupied by the Kneale family until they sold it on leaving the area in 1980. It is interesting to note that the new owner keeps a number of old-style horse-drawn carriages which are available for hire on special occasions.

School Lane is very much built-up now. The council houses were built in 1950, the Oaklands houses much later in 1970, and the modern houses on the other side of the Lane date from about 1960.

Before leaving Guilden Sutton Lane it is worth noting that the 1861 Census returns show another public house existing somewhere along this lane. The publican's name is indecipherable but we know that he also worked as a wheelwright.

4 BELLE VUE LANE

BELLE VUE COTTAGE

Former residents of the cottages in The Square remember the north-south section of Belle Vue Lane as Brick Lane, a name deriving from the former brickworks there. In the early 1900s there were fields along both sides of the Lane and Belle Vue Cottage was to be found at the far end. The house is believed to date back to about 1880 but nothing is known about the early occupants. The first firm evidence is that in the early 1900s it was occupied by a farmer called William Harrison. Because he used to keep sheep he was known locally as 'Shepherd' Harrison. The sheep used to graze in the fields over the railway bridge beside Holly House. When he died in 1920 Mrs Harrison continued to run the smallholding until about 1926. A later occupant was a man called Bennett who went in for some nursery gardening. In 1947 he used his land to build Crosswood house and nursery and set out to convert Belle Vue Cottage so that one of his gardeners could live in it. The modernisation required was so extensive, however, that on completion in 1952 he sold the house to the Underwoods under the new name of The Orchards. Members of the Underwood family still live there.

The north-south section of Belle Vue Lane is largely built-up now. Bungalows appeared in the Lane from the early 1930s and gradually spread on both sides. Crosswood Nursery was built in 1947 by Bennett on the land formerly belonging to Belle Vue Cottage, and was then acquired by J D Siddall, a Chester optician, in 1958. In 1967 the nursery garden was moved to Waverton and most of the vacated land was used for the building of modern houses. Modern bungalows were built on the site of the old Square about 1970. Opposite to these bungalows, modern houses were built on the land previously belonging to The Croft and Ivy Cottage, and then the remaining spaces in the Lane were filled by Oaklands houses in 1973 and, on the site where a small wooden building once stood next to Crosswood, a modern house in 1980.

THE BRAMBLES

In 1844 near the beginning of the east-west section of Belle Vue Lane there was a tied cottage with some smallholding facilities belonging to Belle Vue Farm. Nothing for sure is known about the early occupants but from the 1861 Census returns it is known that the Thomas family lived somewhere in Belle Vue Lane in a cottage owned by Charles Potts. Both father John and son Samuel were farm workers. Later it became an independent smallholding with a new brick-built farmhouse and outbuildings. Older residents remember the smallholding having slaughter-houses for pigs and the adjacent fields being used for grazing cattle. We know that in 1934 Charles S Horswill was there and it was then called The Brambles. He was followed by Albert Richardson from The Square in 1936, but after his death his son Alan only continued farming for a few years before emigrating to Canada. More recently the house and grounds have been taken over as a private residence and extensively renovated.

In this corner of Belle Vue Lane there is also a wooden bungalow called Bramble View, and two modern bungalows.

BELLE VUE FARM

This is one of the oldest sites in the parish and the farmhouse is believed to date back to about 1700, with the probability that parts of it date back still further. It appears on Bryant's map of Cheshire of 1831 and it figures in the 1844 tithes schedule. At that time it was owned by Charles Potts who, with 100 acres of land extending along both sides of Belle Vue lane, was the second largest landowner in the parish. John Parsonage was the occupying farmer there until about 1850 when John Swindley took over. In both the 1851 and 1861 Census returns John Swindley is shown as being at Belle Vue Farm, and in the 1860 Cheshire Directory he is described as being both a farmer and a tile-maker. It is interesting to note that the long outbuilding alongside the farmhouse was there then, but the space between it and the Lane was mainly covered by a great pond. Later records show that James Fleet was a farm bailiff in the Belle Vue area in 1871 and then both in 1874 and 1878 John Maher is listed as a farmer at Belle Vue. Then there is clear evidence that Benjamin Williams was at Belle Vue Farm from about 1882 until 1912, after which a farmer called Waring occupied it until 1921.

Older residents can recall that about 1910 the farm was predominantly a dairy one. No orchards then existed but some short-lived experimenting with the growing of raspberry canes took place about 1914. It was not until H C Groom took over the farm in 1921, however, that the nursery and market garden business really began to develop. In Cheshire directories for the period 1923 to 1934 H C Groom and Co are listed as market gardeners. The farm has stayed in the family, the present owner being D G Sandlin. There are now extensive apple orchards and strawberry fields together with the growing of other soft fruit and vegetables. A nursery and garden centre continues and a saddlery business is starting.

BELLE VUE FARM COTTAGE

A short distance to the west of Belle Vue Farm a snail lane, known locally as Violet Lane, leads south to a site which in 1844 was owned by the farm. The cottage is believed to be about 200 years old and originally had two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs with low ceilings. There was space around for gardens and the keeping of a few pigs and poultry. Many local families have lived there; Robert Caldecot is remembered as having a stable and using a horse and cart on carrying work, while it is recorded that Jabez Dutton died there in 1945 aged 78. The Wilding family are believed to have lived in the cottage subsequently. It was bought by a local builder in 1962 and after extensive renovation and extension transformed into the handsome residence now called Polruan.

There are three houses near to the corner with Hare Lane which date from about 1935.

5 HARE LANE

MANOR FARM

The farm originated from two adjoining cottages dating back to about 1860. They belonged to a large house owned by a man called Campbell, which used to be on the site of the present Vicars Cross rugby football ground near to Tarvin Road and outside the Guilden Sutton parish boundary.

About 1905 a man called Garner lived in one of these cottages and started a small farm. In 1924 a farmer in the area called Alfred Moore was looking for a new site and he bought the farm from Garner and also the second cottage. Further land was acquired later. The present farmhouse is built around the two old cottages, the owner of the farm being the third generation of Moores to farm here. In the fields near to the farmhouse there are five interesting marker stones, all dated 1869. Three are marked Chester Town Council, one Tarvin and one ECW.

There are a number of houses between Manor Farm and Belle Vue Lane and these were mainly built during the period 1924 to 1947.

TIME FOR REFLECTION

It has been possible to trace the main development in the buildings of Guilden Sutton since 1844, but information before that date is very fragmented. There was a farmhouse on The Old Hall site before 1704; Hill Farm House dates back to about 1716; the Bird in Hand is believed to go back to 1500; St John's Church is known to have been built about 1105; Belle Vue Farm House probably dates back to before 1700; and The Lodge was built in 1807. Excluding the church, there may have been previous buildings on these and other sites in the village, and there may have been other buildings on sites which were subsequently abandoned.

Some further evidence was found in Burdett's book of maps published in 1777 and based on his own surveys of a few years earlier. One of these maps shews the buildings then constituting Guilding Sutton, and there were only 13 altogether in the village centre. For some reason Belle Vue Farm House is not shown. The church, Hill Farm House and the Bird in Hand are identifiable and other buildings shown could well be the sites of Cherry Bank House, Church Farm House, Mary Dodd's cottage and her tenement, and two cottages at Foot of the Hill. The remaining four buildings not readily identifiable are at the lower end of School Lane, two on each side. On the north side, the two buildings may have been representations of the two farms existing on this corner site in 1844, but it is interesting to speculate if one of them was a forerunner to the existing Hall. No building is shown near the site of The Old Hall, and the farmhouse used by the 18th century Woodcocks and Smiths must, have been one of the two buildings shown on the south side of School Lane.

Speculation is also prompted by a piece of information given in Lysons' history of 1810. This states that James Croxton's grandfather bought a house in Guilden Sutton in 1725 which had previously been occupied by the Breretons and the Wrights and which by 1810 had become a farmhouse. Where might this house have been? Was it one of the three houses in School lane (the fourth being the Woodcock's farmhouse), or Hill Farm House or the Cherry Bank House site? It is further stated that in 1747 this same gentleman moved from this house to a mansion in Guilden Sutton which he purchased from the Machell family who had their seat in Westmorland. This mansion seems even more difficult to place, although a mansion then may not necessarily have been a very large house. Perhaps this may have been the forerunner to The Hail, if indeed there was one, or perhaps it was Mary Dodd's house in Church Lane.

When we remember that the whereabouts of the original manor house is not even known, we realise how little we know of the really old Guilden Sutton.

MEANING OF MEDIAEVAL TERMS

FEUDAL SYSTEM

Mediaeval system by which land was held of a superior (in England ultimately of the king) in return for services which included military service, homage, etc. The whole country was divided into smaller and smaller units under this system, the smallest being the manor held by the lord of the manor. The lord's demesne was land in the manor not held by any subordinate tenant but retained for his own use, whether immediately attached to the mansion or held along with it (parks, home farm, etc). Tenants in the manor could hold their land without payment of rent or work in kind; these were the free tenants who simply owed allegiance to the lord of the manor. There were other unfree tenants called villeins who were above the status of slaves but who in return for their holdings had to work regularly on the demesne land. Bordars were peasants occupying a cottage on a farm, and allowed to cultivate some land to provide subsistence, but who had to labour on the farm free or at a small fixed rate. These belonged to one of the lowest ranks in the feudal system.

LAND AREAS

Hide (or Carucate) originally meant the amount of land which could be ploughed in a year, using one plough, and support a family. This varied with soil quality, but was generally taken as 160 acres.

Bovate (or Oxgang) was one-eighth of a hide (or 20 acres)

Davmath was a Cheshire term for a day's mowing for one man, and was generally taken as 2 acres.

Acre used to mean land cleared for cultivation or grazing and was later standardised by Edward I as 4840 square yards.

LORDS OF THE MANOR OF GILDEN SUTTON

From before 1066	Bishop of Chester and then Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry
1209	Adam de Dutton
Later	Geoffrey de Dutton
Later	Abbey and Convent of St Werburgh of Chester
About 1550	Booth family of Dunham Massey
1669	Tyndale family
1773	James Croxton
1815	Rev Rowland Egerton Warburton
1854	William Hope
1870	Thomas A Hope
1892	Lord Stanley of Alderley
1903	Geoffrey Egerton Warburton

There is no mention of Lord of the Manor after 1914

PATRONS OF THE CHURCH (WITH GIFT OF LIVING) IN GILDEN SUTTON

	1200	In Church hands
About	1545	Henry Harding
	1600	Peter Warburton
About	1630	Sir Thomas Stanley of Alderley
	1807	Descended to Sir John Thomas Stanley who became Lord Stanley of Alderley (1st Baron)
	1850	Lord Stanley (Edward John, 2nd Baron)
	1869	Lord Stanley (Henry, 3rd Baron)
	1903	Geoffrey Egerton Warburton
	1960	Executors of Colonel G Egerton Warburton
	1970	Captain Peter Egerton Warburton

DETAILED INFORMATION CN PARISH OF GUILLEN SUTION

HOUSES

Date	1778	1804	1850	1860	1871
Number	20	17	29	39	43

2. POPULATION (Census returns)

Date	1801	1841	1871	1881	1921	1931	1961	1981
Number	158	180	234	187	368	404	718	2000 (Estimated)

3. ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN FARMING

(a) Bird in Hand Inn - Licensees

1815 John Hughes	1930 Jack Pugh
1844 Henry Fryer	1934 Arthur Haynes
1860 Thomas Fryer	1939 John Melia
1870 Lawrence Manley	Mrs Melia
1892 James Booth	1962 Charles Leyfield
1914 Miles Gerrard	1970 Bernard Thompson
1928 Leonard Hughes	1974 Mrs P McGowan

(b) Shopkeepers (Bakers, general provisions and sweets)

1851 John Oven	1906 J E Williams
1870 Samuel Crawford	William Guest
1892 Charles Littler	1910 Hsnry Windsor
James Dandy	1914 Alfred Dunning
1896 Charles A Cotgrave	1923 Mrs Margaret Groom
1902 John Morris	1934 Morris Facer
	1951 Mrs Lydia Facer

(c) Painter

1850 Edward Spencer

(d) Boot and Shoe Makers and Repairers

1699 Bridge
1850 Thomas Burnett
George Thomason
1860 William Hughes

(e) Wheelwrights

1871 William Abley
1874 William Hughes

(f) Blacksmiths

1850 George Nield
1871 Thomas Chapman
1920 William Paddy

(g) Brick and Tile Makers

1850 John Swindley
1860 John Lamb
1871 John Griffiths
James Lamb
1874 Robert Smith
1892 William Vernon and Son
Robert Iamb

(h) Bricklayers

1850 Robert Williams
1874 Thomas Howe

(l) Carpenters

1871 John Humphries
L Hardwick

(j) Mason

1871 Charles Young

(k) Tailors

1700 Jones
1851 John Little
1860 William Thomason
1871 John Rowland

(l) Leather Dresser

1692 Link

4 MAIN LANDOWNERS

1844 Rev R Egerton Warburton (500 acres)
Charles Potts (109 acres)
Robert Smith (64 acres)

1850 Rev R Egerton Warburton
Charles Potts
Robert Smith
Townsend Ince
Thomas Alexander
R G Perryn

1860 William Hope
Charles Potts
Robert Smith
Thomas Manley
Thomas Alexander
Townsend Ince
Thomas Hughes
Captain Greaves

1870 Arthur Hope

1878 Lord Stanley
Thomas A Hope
Robert Smith

1886 Thomas A Hope

1892 Lord Stanley
Thomas A Hope
Robert Smith

1896 Lord Stanley
Thomas A Hope
Robert Cathcart Smith

1906 G Egerton Warburton
Trustees of late T A Hope
Robert Cathcart Smith

1910 G Egerton Warburton
Trustees of late T A Hope
R G II Perryn
Robert Cathcart Smith

1914 G Egerton Warburton
Trustees of late T A Hope
R G H Perryn
Robert Cathcart Smith

1923 Robert Cathcart Smith

1928 Robert Cathcart Smith
William Dutton (over 150 acres)
Deric S Willis (over 150 acres)

1934 Mrs Mary Smith
William Dutton
Deric S Willis

1939 William Dutton
Deric S Willis

(a) 16th Century (b) 17th Century (a) 16th Century (b) 17th Century

Martyne (Marten)	Mainwaring (Manwering)	Shethicke Stockine	Sale Shelley Snell Sourton Storton Swarton
Meacocke (Meacock) (Maycock)	Mailory Mariegold Mercer Milton Owen (Owin)		Tellet Upshave Walley Waltone (Walton)
	Pamfrey Panet Perry Phallis Powell Plum (Plumb) Reed Rider Ridley Royle	Walch Whitnore Woodcocke (Woodcock)	Whitby Whitehead Williams Williamson Witter Wood Woodfaine (Woodfin) Wright
Pye			

OLD FAMILY NAMES

First appearing in parish registers in:-

(a) 16th Century	(b) 17th Century	(a) 16th Century	(b) 17th Century
Austine	Abinsam		Ditchfield
	Accarley (Ackerlay) (Ackerley)		(D.itchfelt)
	Ainsworth		Done
	Almon		Dutton
Basnet	Bayley		Farill
Beggar	Bedward		Finchett
Bradle	Beethell		Gerard
y	Bolton		(Gerrard)
	Booth		Grimshaw
	Bowyer		Haskie
	Braderton		Helye
	(Bradderton)		Hill
	Bridge		Hough
	Brotherton		Hughes
	Burges		Ireland
			Jackson
Cotgrave	Catherall		Kelley
(Cotgreave)	Chamberlain (Chamberlayne) (Chamberlane) (Chamberlen)		Kncwles
			Lee
		Lane	Link
			Lovekin
Darwall	Davy		Lowe
	Deane		(Low)
	Ditcher		(Loe)
			(Loce)

NOTE: Different spellings of probably the same name are shown in brackets

LIST OF FIELDS IN 1844 TITHES SCHEDULE

Acres Croft	Landfarloons
Amerys Heath	Little Croft
	Little Dawfield
Backside	Little Daymath
Barn Field	Little Griftings
Big Dawfield	Little Hickmore Heyes
Big Daymath	Little Meadow
Big Rickmore Heyes	Little Mill Field
Big Horse Croft	Little Soakersedge
Big Meadow	Little Town Field
Big Mill Field	Long Loons
Rig Soakersedge	Long Wicker
Big Town Field	Lower Meadow
Blake loun	Lozenge Flatt
Bottom Rushy Field	
Brines Meadow	Marled Wicker
Broad Moor	Middle Croft
	Middle Field
Chamberlaine Croft	Mill Field
Clarks Croft	Mockfield
Coal Croft	
Croft	Near Brick Kiln Field
	Near Cow Hay
Dawfield	Near Meadow
Densons Field	New Field
Dickey Qjarter	
Didds Field	Orchard
	Orchard Croft
Far Brick Kiln Field	Oxen Lane Croft
Far Cow Hay	Oxen Meadow
Far Holm	
Far Rankfield	Pear Tree Croft
Far Wicker	Picker Field
Fox Cover	Plantation
Further Croft	Porters Hill
Further Meadow	
	Round Wicker
Gorsey Croft	Sand farloons
Gouty Meadow	Sandhole Field
Grafs Croft	Seven Butts
	Shellys Field
Hanbletons Croft	Short Breach
Hare lane Field	Stanleys Heath Field
Heath Field	Suttons Pot
Higher Meadow	Suttons Pot Meadow
Hill Yards	Sutton Wood
Holm End	
Holm Field	The Byatts
Holm Meadow	The Hooks
Holm Top	The Park
Hooks	The Picker
Hoole Field	The Stacks
Horse Croft	The Vetches
Houghs Wicker	Top Croft
House Field	Top Holm
Hoval Croft	Top Rushy Field
Hoval Field	Tower Field

Vicars Croft Field
Watering Pit Croft
Well Green Field
Wheatfield
White Field
White Head Croft
White Head Field
Wicker Croft
Wicker Meadow
Widens Field
Wilson's Meadow

MEANING OF CERTAIN FIELD NAMES

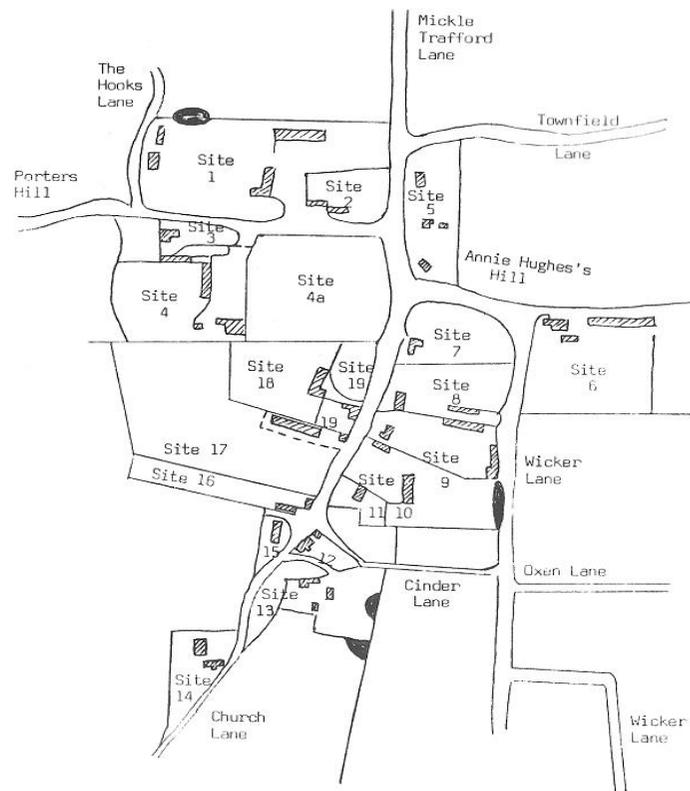
Acre	
Bank	
Breach	
Butt	
Croft	A piece of land cleared for cultivation or grazing
Field	A low bank serving as a boundary, or else a slope in an otherwise flat field
	Land newly cultivated
Flatt	A wide strip of land in the common arable land
Hay	Enclosed piece of land, usually arable
Hey	Before enclosures a field was a large stretch of open land subdivided into strips. Present-day fields are more properly called closures
Holm	A strip in an open field or a piece of level ground
Loon	A small enclosed field
	Probably derived from Old English 'Heybote', meaning the right to take wood from the commons to make or repair fences
Park	
Quarter	A water meadow
	A cultivated strip in an open field consisting of a ridge with a furrow on either side
	Land retained by the lord of the manor for his own use and upon which tenants gave free service
	An allotment

1844 SKETCH PLAN OF VILLAGE CENTRE
(based on 1844 Tithes Schedule Plan)



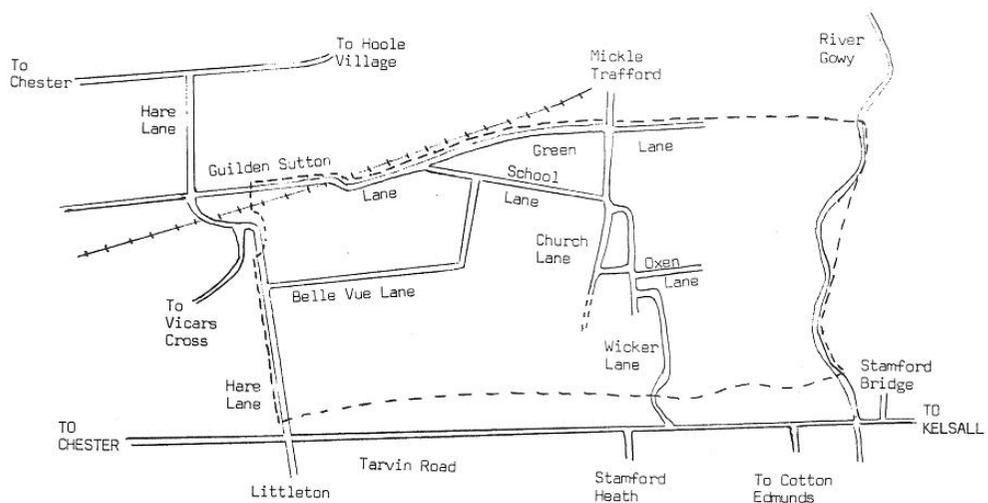
1844 SKETCH PLAN OF VILLAGE CENTRE
(based on 1844 Tithes Schedule Plan)

APPENDIX 6



- PONDS
- BUILDINGS

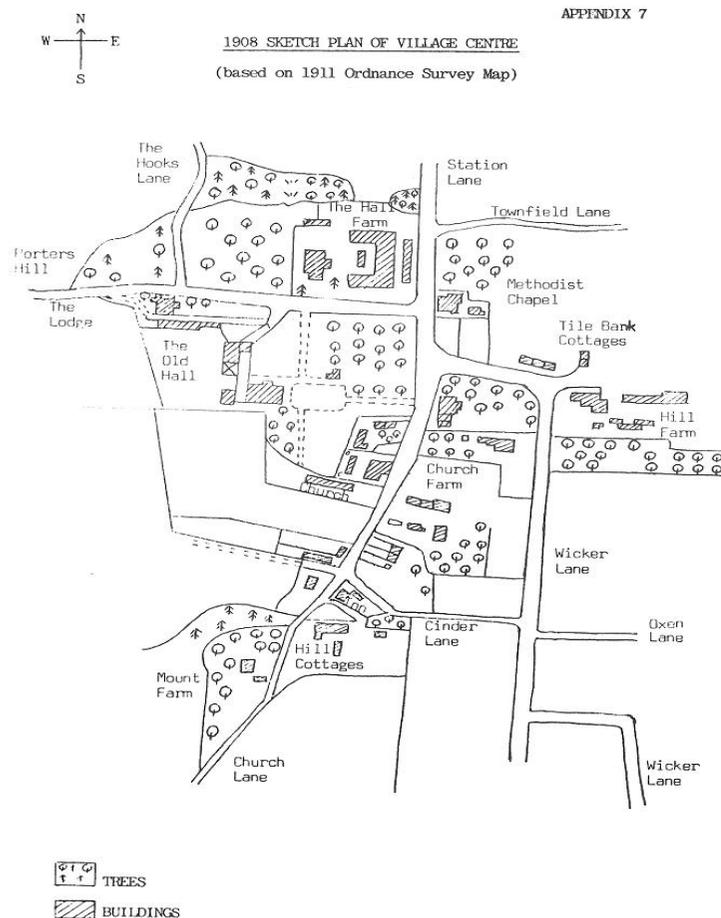
PARISH OF GULDEN SUTTON
1908 SKETCH MAP SHOWING LANES AND BOUNDARY



- RIVER GOWY
- PARISH BOUNDARY

1908 SKETCH PLAN OF VILLAGE CENTRE

(based on 1911 Ordnance Survey Map)



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Source abbreviations used above:

- CA City Archives
 CRL Chester Reference Library
 CRO Cheshire Records Office