

*Bill for the Education of Thomas Nix
for the half-year ending Midsummer 1832*

	£	s	d
Board & Instruction	21	0	0
Tailor		3	6
Shoe mending		2	6
Shoe cleaning		4	0
Cash	1	2	0
Cotton & mending		3	0
Library		2	6
Haircutting		1	6
Washing	1	1	0
Dancing	2	12	6
Copy book		1	2
Quills		2	0
Paper		1	0
Pencil		6	
Copies		2	0
Slate		6	
<i>Books</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Wine</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Medicine</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Cough ditto</i>		<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Chapel</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Meat lunch</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Shoe strings</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Tea</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Separate bed</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Postages</i>		<i>7</i>	
	<i>134</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>1</i>

The items down to 'slate' were printed and appeared on all school bills. The other items were hand written. Note that Thomas Nix had a 'separate bed'. In a letter sent to his parents he requested his bat and ball, and money to buy wickets.

Carver's school was situated on the High Street, at Greenbanks, and his land stretched as far as the Newmarket Road. The school accommodated 90 boys, who paid extra for occupation of a single bed.

A great deal of information is known about Carver's school due to one of his pupils, Samuel Morley, who became famous in later life. From his biography, written in 1881, Samuel wrote that his family made a fortune in the hosiery business. He became a politician and was active in both the temperance movement and philanthropic works. The family wealth was used to build many Congregational Chapels in England. Morley also fought for equal rights and opportunities, for Nonconformists.

Samuel, and his brother, William came to Carver's school at the age of seven in 1816. John, an older brother, was already a pupil there. Attendance at the village chapel was compulsory, and in his biography Samuel mentions that *...it was an excellent school in every respect; the best of its kind in the country.* Carver prided himself upon being able to turn out gentlemen as well as scholars, and *...spared no pains to train the boys in good and useful habits,* Carver's son William, a successful classics tutor, assisted him.

Trigg's Charity

While the Ayloff School was in abeyance the need for a school was strongly felt and in 1818, John Trigg, the lessee of The Bury, left in his will the sum of £2,777 18s 10d in trust, to found a non-denominational school in Melbourn. It was to be free, and open to all children living within a 6 mile radius of the village. The school was opened in 1823, and for many years was held in two converted barns in Little Lane, supported by the charity and school pence (each child paid 1d per week to attend). In 1835 the average attendance was 165. The trustees (all dissenters) included Baker, Howard, Fordham and King.



Above, Carver's home and school, and below, barns at one time used as school rooms, High Street

