

The Magnificent Cox Families of Sedgley (Part 1)

Who were the various Cox families OF SEDGLEY?

-THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH;

-THOSE WHO LIVED, WORKED AND TRADED IN THE
VILLAGE?

Starting Point – All Saints' Choir photos

- All Saints' website carries a set of choir photos from the first part of the 20th century
- A number of people named **Cox** appear in **All Saints' Choir** photos.
- They have been identified by **Kennedy Slater**, who sang in the Choir and has been an active member of All Saints' since the 1940s.

All Saints' Choir 1919



Choir 6: Possibly 1919

Vicar Swindell, wearing biretta. On the middle row, position not specified, are: Jack Richards, Howard Hartill (Butcher at corner of Mill Bank, son Fred had the horse Penn Wood Forge Mill). Kennedy Slater adds (18/10/15) : Arthur Cox is sixth from the left on the back row; and the organist is believed to be W.Richards.

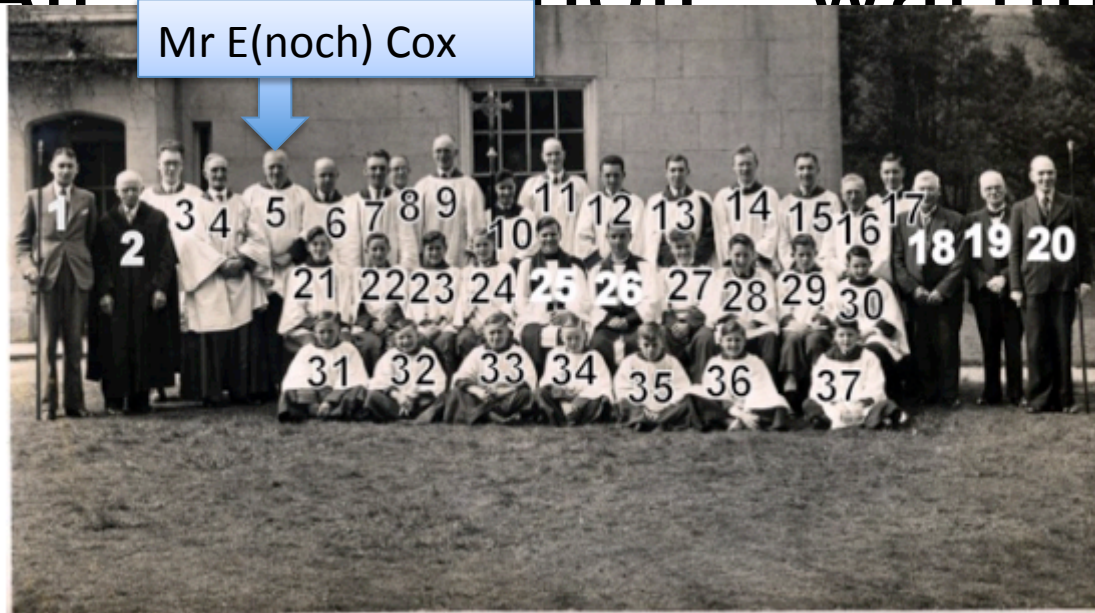
All Saints' Choir 1930s



Choir 3 1930s, in the time when Harold Marley was vicar.

Taken in Vicar's garden. Back row: 1.Warden-?, 2.Seth Pugh, 3.Jack Richards, 4.Mr. Sherratt, 5. Mr Abel, 6 Aiden Lloyd, 7. Mr Norton, 8. Tom Wright, 9 Ken Bullock, 10 ? Civvies, ?, John Willy Hartland, ? Server, Bill Shinton (father of Bob Shinton Chorister), Arthur Cox, Henry Bullock, Ernie Barratt, Enoch Cox, Edgar Perks, Mr Kemp (last on right, standing, warden with staff). Middle row: Vicar Harold Marley (1930-39). Kneeling, third from left, Bob Shinton.

All Saints' Choir - wartime



All Saints Choir in wartime, probable date 1945s

Probable date 1945. Martin: I've tried to integrate Kennedy's information on the photo with Brenda Baker's...

Standing, back row: 1, A church warden; 2 Seth Pugh the Sexton/Verger, who lived in the little cottage at top of where the Gospel End Street cemetery; 3 Tom Wright who used to live down Ettymore Lane; 4 Jack Richards; 5 Mr E Cox; 6 Ernest Barratt (went in BBC choir, he had a wonderful voice); 7 Alex Lawrence Sherratt (Brenda's father) ; 8 Mr JW Hartland (undertaker); 9 Henry Bullock, who was a tenor. He used to be the choirmaster - he taught violin and was very tall; 10 Roddy Bagley (crucifer); 11 Mr L Billingham the organist who played children's anniversary music (in front of big window standing), 12 C Pennell; 13 Hayden (A?) Lloyd, 14 W Rushton 15 Mr R Shinton, deputy choirmaster, 16 ? Norton 17 Jim Wassell; 18 Ben Fullwood the Tower Master - he had a house with crenellations; 19 ? 20 L Williams.

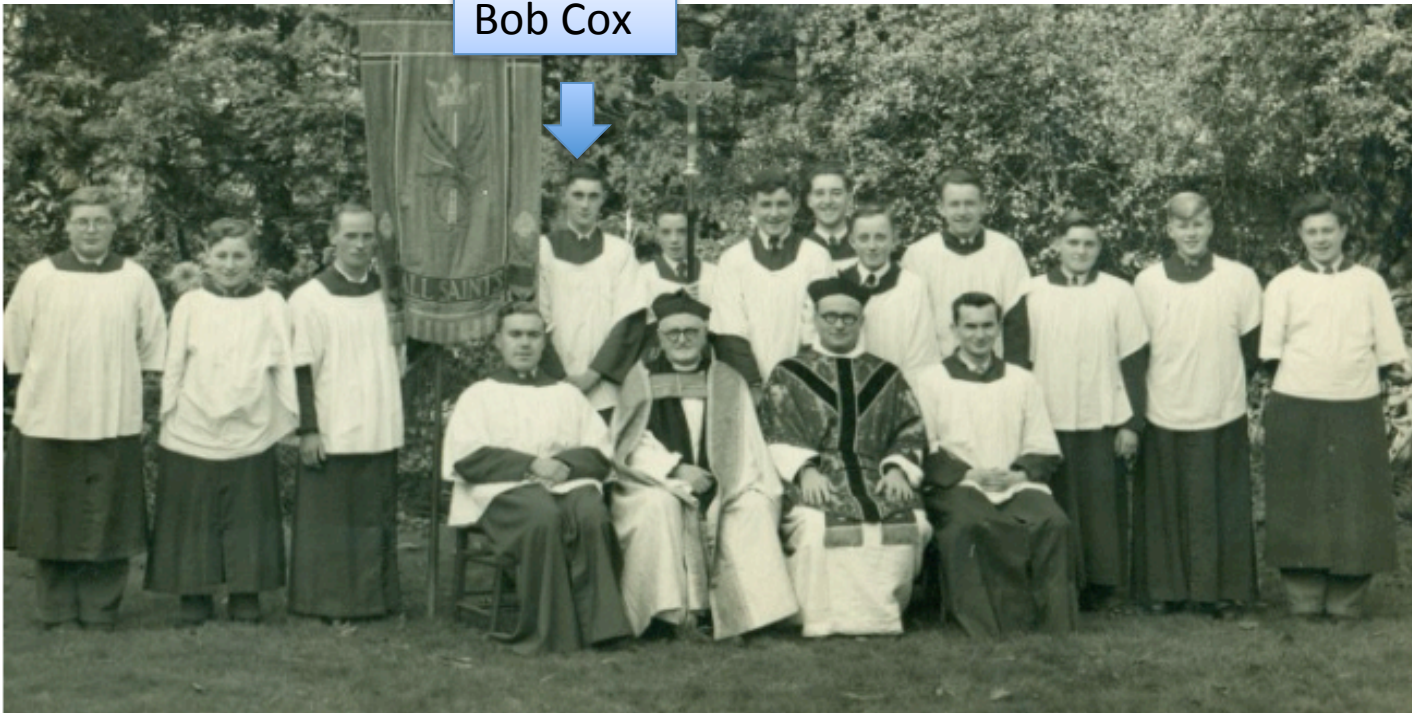
Middle row Boys: 21 Maurice Cotton, cousin of Alan Cotton (23) ; 22 Jeremy Gayle (whose house had ironwork windows whose mum was a teacher at Queen Victoria School); 23 Alan Cotton, cousin of Maurice Cotton (21) ; 24 P Allen; John Adams, Pat Allen (leading choirboy, lovely voice); 25 Revd Trevor Kilborn, 26 Rev Bateman or Barnes (curate who took over in the interregnum between Revds Kilborn and Sargeant); 27 Nigel Bodenham (Mum involved with church); 28 M Robinson; 29 Leonard Marsh (a fine organist); 30 Tony Sherratt (Brenda's brother, had 2 sons who were in Lichfield Cathedral choir).

Seated: 31 W Harper 32 D Foster 33 Bernard Fones; 34 T Downing; 35 Alan Harris; 36 Paul Marsh, brother to Leonard Marsh, he and Breda's brother Tony Sherratt were great friends. 37 Tony Braddock.

Kennedy says: "When I joined the choir in 1947 Leslie Billingham was Organist & Choirmaster, Bob Shinton was his deputy.

13 Hayden Lloyd is seen wearing the organist's surplice (no sleeves) all the time I sang in the choir with him I never once heard him play the organ. All the men are still singing except 17 Jim Wassell, also still singing from the second row 30 Tony Sherratt and all the front row except for Bernard Fones."

1950s – Choir and Servers



All Saints' Choir 1950s - 1

This is actually a photo of the servers. In the time of Rev.W.Sergeant any choirboy being confirmed was added to the servers' rota. This is why we find half of the people on this picture were members of the choir.

L to R standing: Graham Porter, Rob Lavender, Geoff Rushton, Bob Cox, Alan Hughes (Crucifer), Mike Chesterman, Roy Watkins, (?), Ken Slater, John Hancox, John Hancock, Mac Wilson.

Front, seated: Nigel Bodenham Rev.W.Sergeant, Rev. B.Skelding(Curate), Rex Burrows.

All Saints' Choir 1953



All Saints' Church Choir 1953

Back row left to right: J Evans; H Avery; C Pennel; T Wright; G Porter; W Cox; M Wilson; K Slater; J Hancock; A Hughes; J Sneyd; H Bullock; A Malpass; W Rushton; H LLOYD; Mr Perks. Middle Row: T Hartland; R Lavender; D Price; L Billingham (organist); Revd William Sergeant (Vicar); Rev B Skelding (curate); R Shinton (choirmaster); ? Jones; ? Timmins; ? Smith; G Snead. Front row: A Billingham; ? Friend; ? Malpass; ? Benton.

All Saints' Choir 1958-60



Choir 7: Approx 1958-60

Kennedy Slater not on it: doing national service.

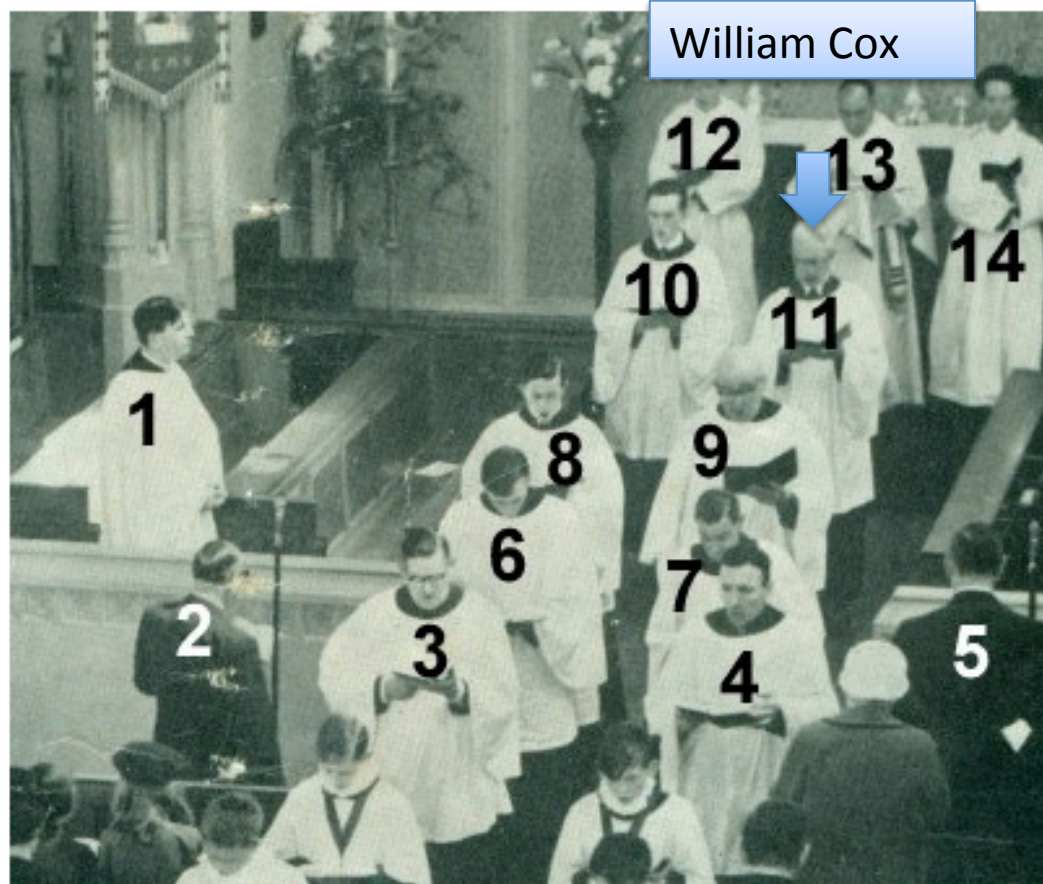
Back row: Mr Avery (warden), Bill Rushton, Percy Ratcliff (Jane Hartshorne's father), Dan Stevenson, Henry Bullock, Stewart Rudd (died at 28), Horace Downing, ? Palgrove, Aiden Lloyd, Charlie Pannel, last standing chorister, right, back row Tom Wright, Bert Gommery, Warden Edgar Perks. Boys on second row standing: 4th from left Harrison, 5 in front of crucifer Chris Lloyd Jack Lloyd's son hairdresser in the High Street. 3rd row, seated: Barry Jones, 2nd from left, Benton, Shinton, Stanley Lloyd (Vicar), Rowland Oliver (Curate), Cyril Evans, John Huband. Kneeling front row boys: 4th from left, David Screen, other not known.

All Saints' Choir 1963



William Cox

All Saints' Choir and names 1963



Choir 1963 (numbered close up shot)

1 Michael Norton ; 13 Andrew Collins (officiating at the altar); 2 Edgar Perks; 3 Horace Downing; 4 Bob Shinton; 6 John Huband; 7 Aiden Lloyd; 8 Barry Jones; 9 Percy Ratcliffe; 10 Stewart Rudd; 11 Bill Cox; 12 Roy Hancox (server); 14 Roy Watkins (server).

All Saints' Choir 1968



All Saints' Choir photo #9, around 1968

Former choir member Kevin Smith has kindly provided the following names:

Left to right back row: MR PUGH (CHURCH WARDEN), MR RUSHTON, MR RATTLIFF, BARRY JONES, DAVID SCREEN, IAN STEVENSON, HORACE DOWNING, ALEX LLOYD, RICHARD MORREZ, JACK LLOYD, KENNEDY SLATER, LESLIE GUY, EDGAR PERKS (CHURCH WARDEN).

Left to right middle row: DAVID INNSALL, ANDREW PUGH, BOBBY COX, TERRY HUNT, CYRIL EVANS (ORGANIST), MR CHISHOLM (CURATE), MR LLOYD (VICAR), BOB SHINTON (CHOIR MASTER), PETER MORREZ, ?, KEVIN SMITH, ALAN SHINTON, DAVE MORREZ.

Left to right front row: DAVID RUDGE, STEPHEN GARNER, MATHEW STEVENSON, JOHN MILLAR, DAVID ROBERTS, STUART FOSTER.

Choir member Ken Slater says:

"In 1947 when I first joined the choir there were **four Coxes** among the men. **Jack** who left to move to South Africa, **William** (father of **Margaret Woodhall**, one of our flower ladies) and brothers **Arthur and Stephen**. Stephen retired shortly after I joined. Both are on one of our choir photos c. 1945. Arthur gave me a shilling after I sang my first BIG solo!"

The 18th Century

Nailer Stephen Cox – ‘The Sedgley Fireball Incident’



Early references – the Fireball

An early reference is made to a **pedgley nailer** **Stephen Cox** whose family was involved in a bizarre **fireball incident** in 1797. In his article for **Sedgley Local History Society's website**, the late Trevor Genge speculated that Stephen was an ancestor of Stephen Cox the Safemaker of Dudley Road Sedgley. "On **Monday April 23rd 1797**, in the afternoon during a violent thunderstorm, which seems to have been general throughout Staffordshire and Worcestershire, a **ball of fire** came down the chimney of **Stephen Cox, a nailor of Sedgley**, at the time he and his wife were sitting, and their child was sleeping on a chair, by the fireside. On hearing an uncommonly loud clap of thunder and an extraordinary noise in the chimney, the mother providentially and in an instant snatched up the child, whereby its life was saved, as the pillow upon which it was lain was much scorched and many of the bricks from the top of the chimney had fallen upon and about it. The electric fluid, in different directions, passed through two houses adjoining, in one of which, attracted by a nail, it penetrated the door of a back kitchen and forced out a piece of the door (which now appears as if it had been cut out with a knife) and partially melted, in its passage, the wards of the lock and the key which was in it. Part of the lead of the windows of all the three houses, both at the back and in front, was likewise melted, and a piece of the window frame of one of them split off."

Burial: Stephen and Martha Cox - Nailers

I.S.8. Sacred/To the Memory of/STEPHEN COX/Who departed this/
Life May 24th 1838/Aged 74 years.

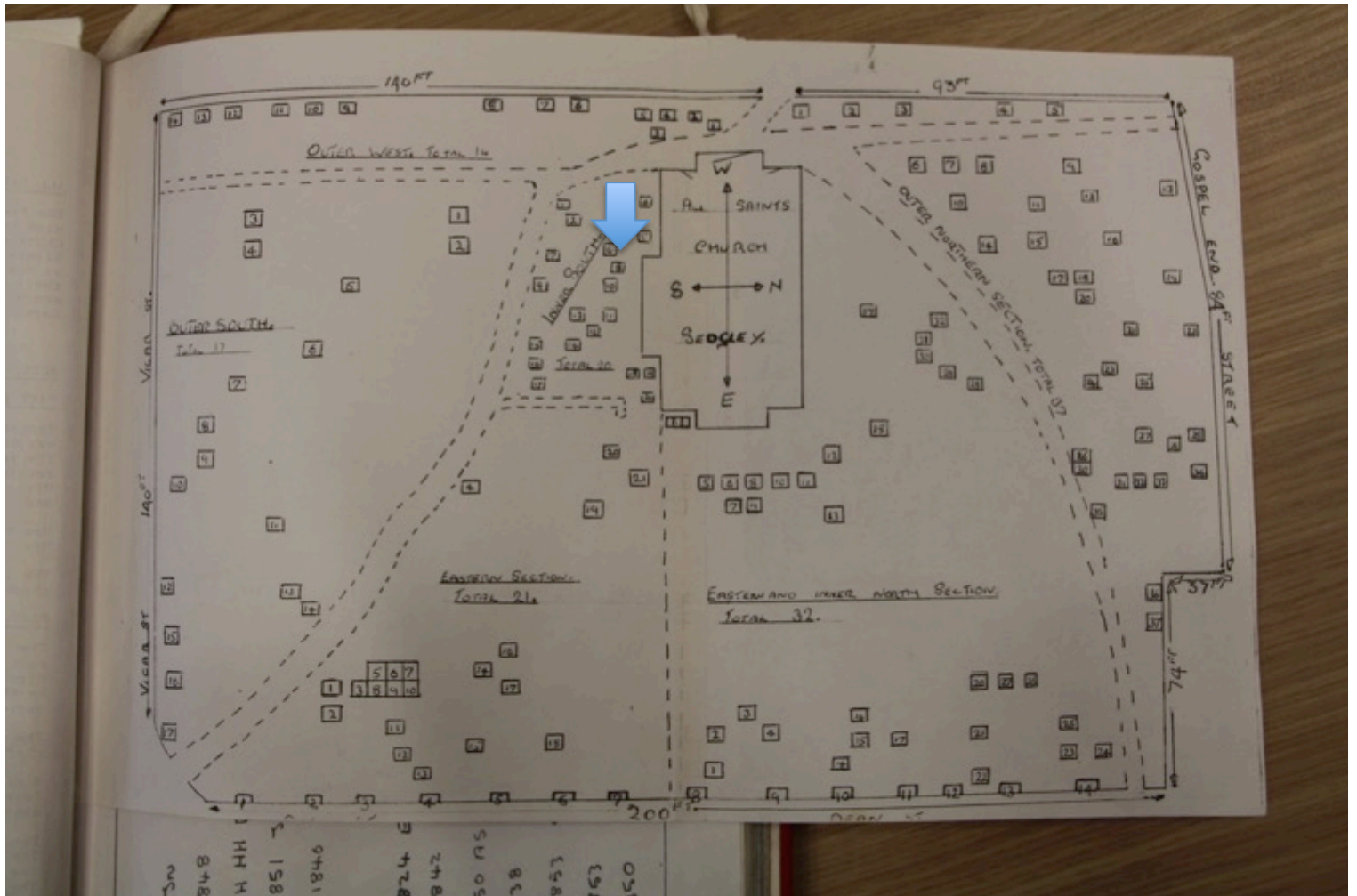
Also MARTHA/Relict of the above/Who departed this/Life
November 14th 1843/Aged 74 years/By grace they knew/
Their sins forgiven/Redeemed from earth/To reign in
heaven.

To the Memory of/CATHARINE/Wife of/GEORGE CHURCH/Who
died October 2nd 1843/Aged 37 years./Precious in the
sight/Of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Relict = Widow

In 1797 Stephen would be 33 and
Martha 28

Burial location – Stephen and Martha Cox



Grave: Stephen and Martha Cox



The 19th Century

1844 Sedgley Parish: Poor Relief Register and Map

- The Register lists every resident of Sedgley alphabetically, with a **reference number** assigned to the property where they lived.
- All properties appear on a map compiled by William Fowler in 1844

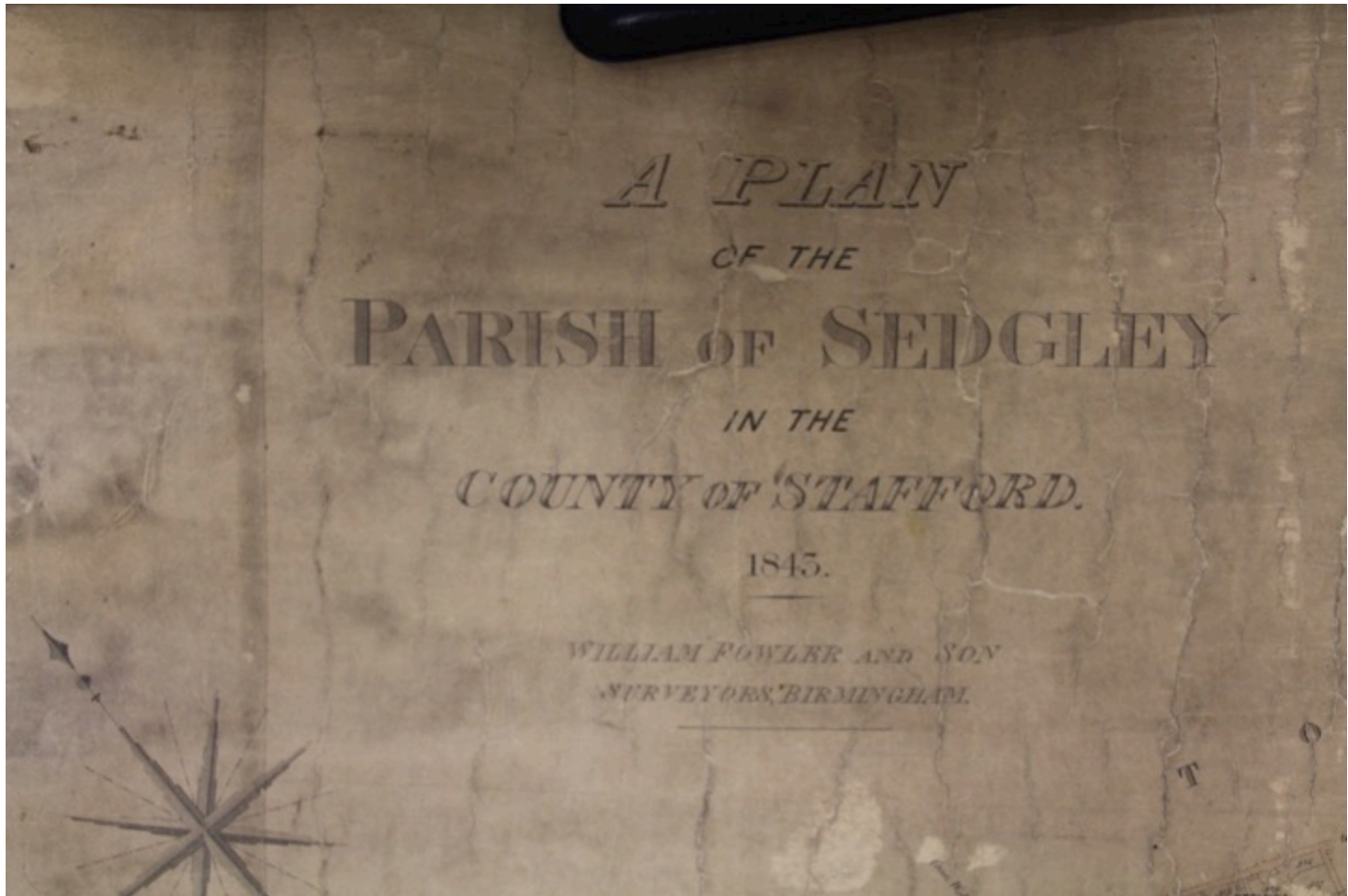
Coxes in the 1844 Poor Law Assessment (1)

<i>N^o 1450 Cox Anthony</i>	<i>John Skellett</i>	<i>House &c</i>	<i>3 10 .</i>	<i>2 16 .</i>	<i>.</i>
<i>N^o 1407 Cox Benjamin</i>	<i>John Evans</i>	<i>House and garden</i>	<i>3 10 .</i>	<i>2 16 .</i>	<i>.</i>
<i>N^o 1304 Cox Edward</i>	<i>Richard Thompson</i>	<i>House & garden</i>	<i>3 10 .</i>	<i>2 16 .</i>	<i>.</i>
<i>N^o 1485 Cox Edward</i>	<i>Thomas Sheldon</i>	<i>House and shop</i>	<i>3 . .</i>	<i>2 8 .</i>	<i>.</i>
			<i>3 5</i>	<i>4 6</i>	

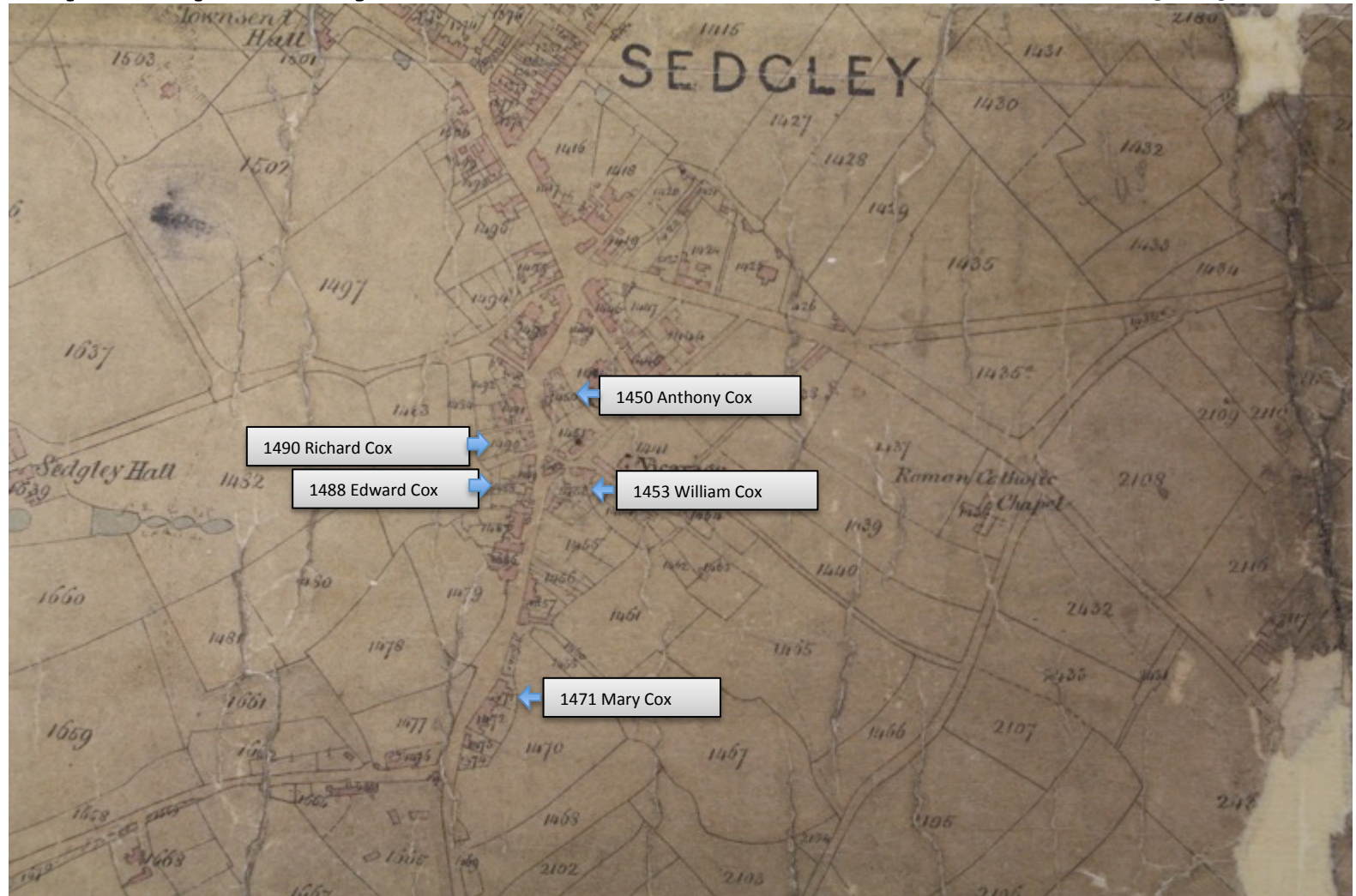
Coxes in the 1844 Poor Law Assessment (2)

p ^o 1476	Cox Elizabeth	Isaac Thompson	House shop & garden	3	28	2	+
p ^o 1385	Cox Hannah	Abraham Burden	House and garden	3 10	2 16	2 11	+
p ^o 1385	Cox Henry	Abraham Burden	House and garden	3	28	2	+
p ^o 1301	Cox John	John Kempson	House and garden	3	28	2	+
p ^o 1402	Cox John	Samuel Evans	House & garden	3	28	2	+
p ^o 1471	Cox Mary	Joseph Whitehouse	House	1	10	8	+
p ^o 1401	Cox Richard	Samuel Evans	House and garden	3 10	2 16	2 11	+
p ^o 1470	Cox Richard	Elizabeth Haden	House Brewhouse & garden	6	1 16	1	+
p ^o 1453	Cox William	Rev ^d C. H. Mainwight	House Shop & garden	3	28	2	+
p ^o 1493	Cox William	June Mott Rep ^d	House 8 ^o	3	28	2	+

1843 William Fowler Parish Map - with property reference numbers



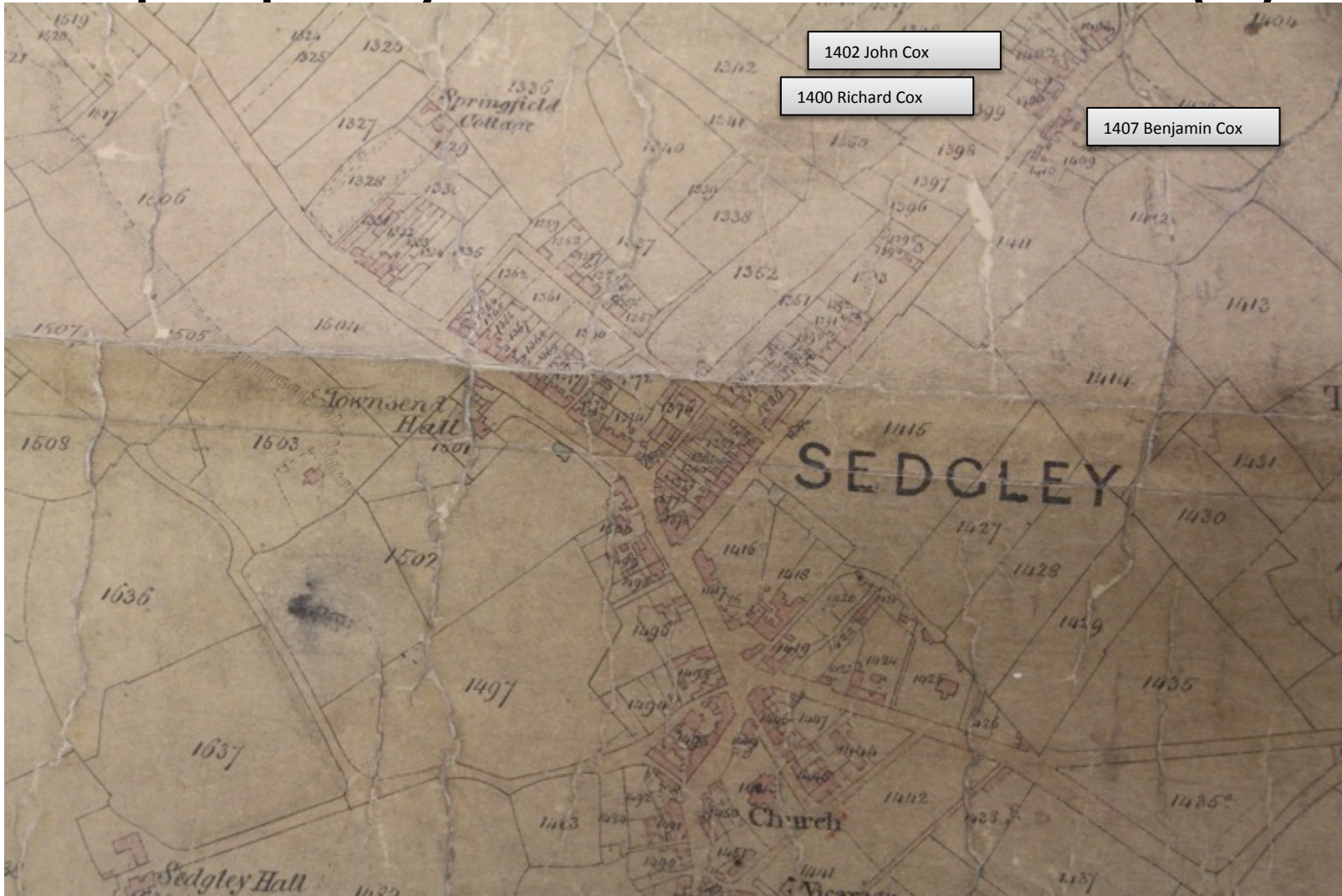
1843 William Fowler Parish Map - with property reference numbers (1)



Coxes living at top of Bush Bank



1843 William Fowler Parish Map - with property reference numbers (2)



1843 William Fowler Parish Map - with property reference numbers (3)



1476 Elizabeth Cox

All Saints' Burials

Phase 1: All Saints' Churchyard – 1600s to 1808

Phase 2: Vicar Street graveyard – 1808 to 1896

Phase 3: Gospel End Street Graveyard – 1896 to 1960

18th/early 19th century
burials

Oldest Cox burials - All Saints' churchyard

Affliction sore long time I bore/Physicians were in
vain/Till God did please to give me ease/And free me
from my pain.

Also four of his children who died in their infancy.

O.N.26. In Memory of/ANN the Daughter of EDWARD and MARY COX/
Who departed this life February 6th 1799 Aged 18 years./
Cease my kindred brave to mourn,/For all must die that
now are born,/Nor deem it hard ye thoughtless say,/Short
is your longest earthly stay,/Our little hour of life me
by/And then depart were born to die.

Sacred/To the beloved/Memory of JOSEPH/Son of EDWARD and
MARY COX/Who departed this life February 2nd,/1831 in
the 57th year of his age./Here lies the only comfort of
my life,/He was the best of Husbands to a Wife,/But in
death turned my pleasures into pain,/Yet ... I hope we
soon shall meet again,/Upon that peaceful happy shore/

Reference ON26 – large Edward and Mary Cox family grave:
interments 1799 onwards

Oldest Cox burials - All Saints' churchyard

O.N.26 part 2
Large Edward
and Mary Cox
family grave

Where pains and death can't separate,/... us more.
Sacred to the Memory of/EDWARD COX/Who departed this
life March 30th 1821 Aged 78 years,/Like Wife of Mary
Wife of the above, Who departed this life,/February
the 7th 1821 Aged 73 years,/ How ... just their
actions pure/God layed them here to rest secure,/From
...Y anything purif'd,/Till Christ shall say to them
arise.
Also MARY HEYWOOD Daughter/of the above,/Who died
April 10th 1845,/Aged 75 years.
Also SILAS CADDICK died July 1st 1837/Aged 27 years.
Sacred/In the Memory/Of EDWARD COX/Who died September
6th 1849/Aged 80 years.
Also MARTHA Wife of the above/Who died February 6th
1844/Aged 65 years.
Also THOMAS COX/Born January 12th 1826/Died January
12th 1909.
Sacred to the Memory of/THOMAS COX/Who died October
22nd 1862/Aged 74 years.
Also MARY COX/Daughter of the above/Who died September
6th 1869/Aged 52 years.
Sacred/To the Memory of/ANN ...

Plan of All Saints' Churchyard



Edward and Mary Cox and family



Oldest Cox burials - in All Saints' churchyard

(Joseph Darbey, Sedgley - Stonemason).
E.14. Sacred/To the Memory of/EDWARD COX/Who died November 14th
1811/Aged 87 years.

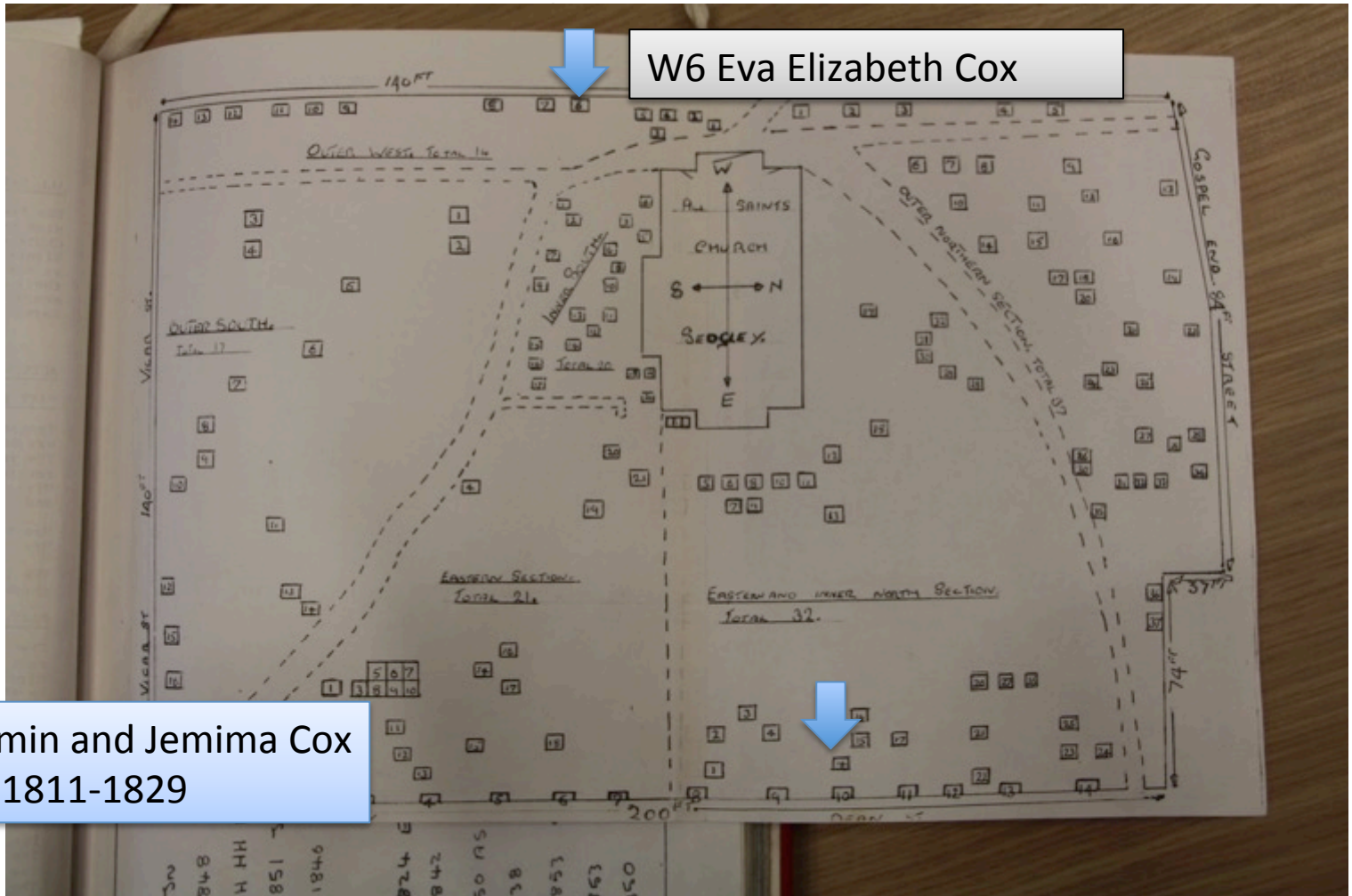
Also/JEMIMA Wife of BENJAMIN COX/Who died April 7th 1826/
Aged 54 years.

Also ELIZABETH Daughter/Of the said BENJAMIN and JEMIMA
COX/Who died November 15th 18.7/Aged 25 years.

Also the said BENJAMIN COX/Who died December 11th 1829/
Aged 62 years.

Benjamin and Jemima Cox
E14 - 1811-1829

Burial location – Benjamin and Jemima Cox



Oldest Cox burials - in All Saints' churchyard

W6 Eva Elizabeth Cox

Also of ERNEST O'BRIEN/WHITEHOUSE their son/ died February 26th
1919/Aged 52 years.

W.6. Knock and it shall be opened unto you/To the Glory of God and/
in sacred memory of EVA ELIZABETH COX.

H1

Oldest Cox burials - in All Saints' churchyard

O.N.2. (Stonemason - J. Rollason, Gornal).
Sacred/To the Memory of .EBE.N COX Daughter of JAMES and
SARAH COX/Who died March 12th 1834/Aged 1 year and 6
months/.....No..NA with beauty,/Consig... from
earth to kindred skies,/Short was her life her death
sincere,/Reader relict all must come here.

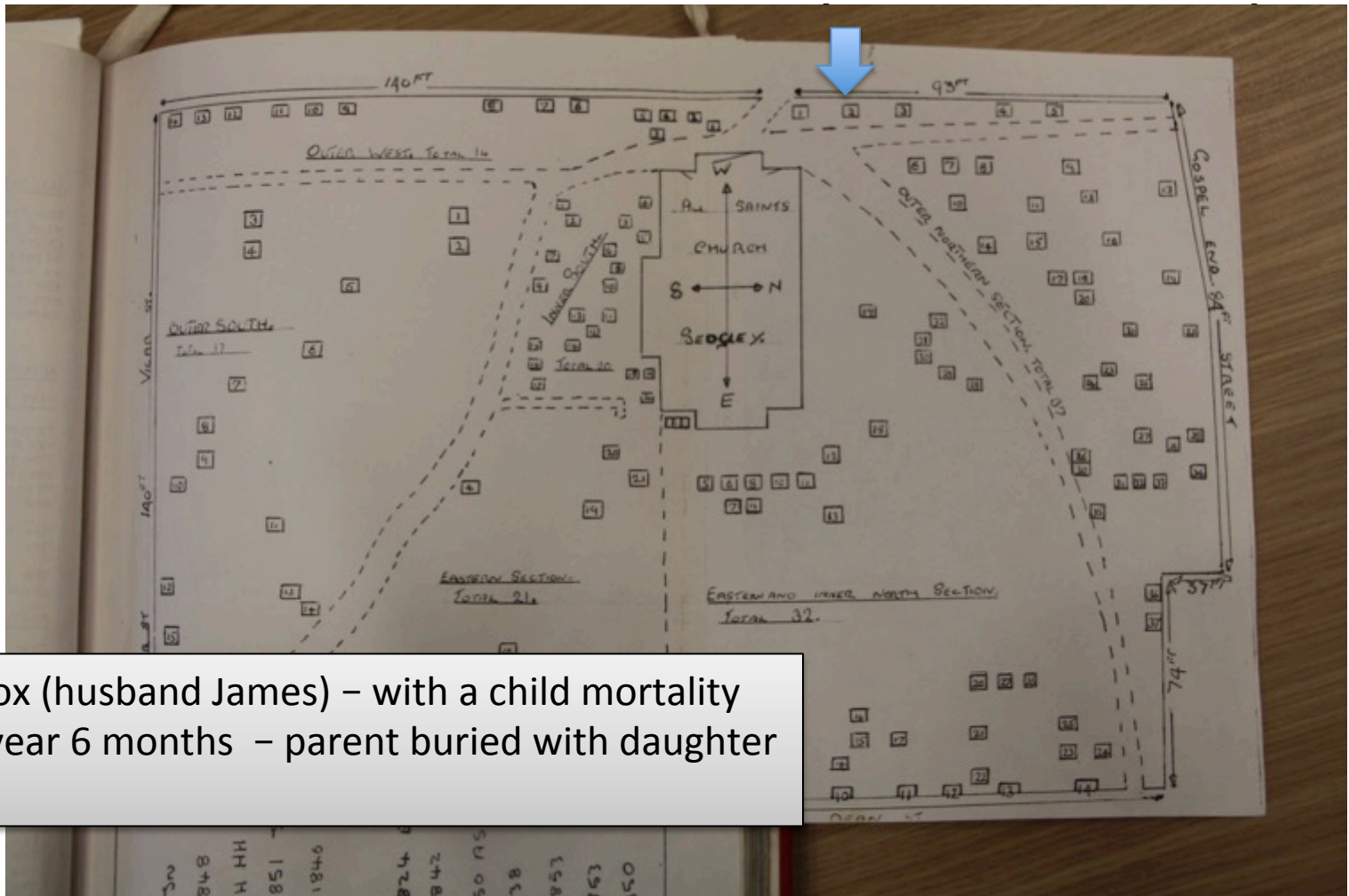
Also SARAH Wife of JAMES COX/Who died February 7th 1837
Aged 4. years,/A loving Wife and tender Mother,/Few can
boast of such another,/A neighbour good and faithful
friend,/Who laboured hard until her end.

(Stonemason - J. Rollason, Gornal).
Sacred/To the Memory of SARAH Daughter of BENJAMIN end

Sarah Cox (husband James) – a child mortality aged 1 year 6 months – parent buried with daughter

Burial location – Sarah Cox and daughter

A



Sarah Cox (husband James) – with a child mortality aged 1 year 6 months – parent buried with daughter