

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

| | 1999 | | 1998 | |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| FIXED ASSETS | | | | |
| Tangible assets | | 674,936 | | 719,092 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | |
| Stocks | 41,420 | | 37,523 | |
| Debtors | 2,794 | | 3,368 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 8,915 | | 30,087 | |
| | <u>53,129</u> | | <u>70,978</u> | |
| CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year | <u>22,079</u> | | <u>14,756</u> | |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 31,050 | | 56,222 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | | <u><u>705,986</u></u> | | <u><u>775,314</u></u> |
| RESERVES | | | | |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Library | | 184,062 | | 179,040 |
| Genetic research | | 8,960 | | 1,095 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General fund | | 512,964 | | 595,179 |
| GUARANTOR'S FUNDS | | <u><u>705,986</u></u> | | <u><u>775,314</u></u> |

Approved by the Court of Trustees as Directors 31st January 2000

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN JACOB, C.B.

Kenneth Jacob

Probyn's Horse, Skinner's Horse, Hodson's Horse - names to conjure with. Yet how many people have heard of Jacob's Horse? It would be fair to say that on a personal level Jacob's achievements probably surpassed those of the above named. Not only was he a soldier, but also an able administrator, politician, inventor, author and the only Englishman after whom a town was named in India.

When Brigadier General John Jacob died of brain fever on 5th Dec 1858 at the relatively young age of 45, surrounded as he was by native and European officers of the station, and former robber chiefs who happened to be in Jacobabad, many of whom had been his former adversaries, we are told there was not a dry eye in the room.

The press in England, whom he had often used to propagate his views on the state of the Indian army, was effusive in its eulogies, which are summed up by the obituary in the *The Spectator*:



Jacob's Horse

England has lost another of her bravest and noblest sons. John Jacob, a chevalier sans per et sans reproche, the brilliant swordsman, the originator of a military system, the skillful inventor, the only Englishman who has founded and given his name to a town in India, for ten years the lonely and vigilant sentinel on the frontier of our Indian Empire, is no more. In the very flower and vigour of his manhood he has been struck down by brain fever; a frame of iron, an unconquerable soul, which had endured for years immense labour under the burning sun of the Sind desert, and harder still, had waged perpetual battle with the 'Ephesian wild beasts' of official blindness, routine and stupidity, suddenly gave way under the pressure on the brain. Thus, John Jacob has died, a martyr to his devotion to duty. The death is an irreparable loss to the Empire.

John Jacob was born on 11th January 1812 in Woolavington in the county of Somerset, where his father, the Reverend Stephen Long Jacob, was the incumbent. His mother Susanna was the daughter of the Reverend James Bond of Ashford, in Kent. One of eleven children, he was the fifth son. His grandfather, Edward Jacob F.S.A., had been a surgeon in Faversham, Kent, whose practise flourished, enabling him to acquire three estates in the county. He had been mayor of Faversham on four occasions, following in his father Edward's footsteps in this respect, he having been mayor of Canterbury in 1727. Edward of Faversham was also the author of several books, notably his *History of Faversham*. John was also bookish, building up a large library in his house in Jacobabad and was the author of a large number of pamphlets mainly, but not exclusively, relating to matters military.

Of John's five brothers, one joined the navy, but died young. Another, Herbert, ended his career as a Major General in the Indian Army. The next, George Andrew D.D., the author's great-great-grandfather, had a distinguished teaching career, culminating in the headmastership of Christ's Hospital. Another still, Philip Whittington, was an oriental scholar, as well as being mayor of Guildford on four occasions. The other brother, William Stephen, resigned his Captaincy in the Indian Army to become head astronomer at the Madras Observatory. A cousin, Major General Sir George Le Grand Jacob K.C.S.I., C.B., distinguished himself in many Indian campaigns before moving into the political department of the Bombay presidency. Also a keen student of Indian literature, he was author of a number of publications. Other descendants of Edward Jacob included

Field Marshal Sir Claud Jacob G.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., and Major General Sir Ian Jacob G.B.E., C.B., D.L..

John Jacob was schooled by his father until he obtained his cadetship for Addiscombe. Due to a prank played at Addiscombe during his last term, he was not allowed to apply for the Engineers and as second best was commissioned in the Artillery on his 16th birthday. He sailed for India in January 1828 as a Second Lieutenant in the Bombay Artillery, never to set foot in England again.

The first seven years were spent with his regiment, whereafter he was detached on a small command and then employed as a subordinate to the collector of Gujerat. In 1838 he was ordered to Sind with the Bombay column, to join the army of the Indus at the outbreak of the first Afghan War.

He first saw active service in the summer of 1839 as a subaltern of artillery in the force led by Sir John Keane, which was sent to invade Upper Sind. As the only artillery officer left in Upper Sind, he was commanded to put together a scratch battery made up of European officers and men, consisting basically of malcontents and misfits from a number of regiments. He chose forty men in all. They marched for Shikarpoor, having sent the artillery forward by water. The heat was appalling, the average temperature in the hospital tent at Shikarpoor being 130°F. Seven men and one European officer died of sunstroke during the first 10 miles of the march, and by the end of the march a total of seventeen men had died. Those remaining were in a near mutinous state and Jacob showed for the first time his qualities of leadership, inspiring them to continue against all odds. Ironically, it was finally decided that the weather made campaigning impossible.

Operations against the plundering tribes of the Kutchee, led by Beia Khan Doomkee, were resumed in October under Major Billamore and with some success. Jacob wrote an account of the campaign. With two 24 pound howitzers and one 6 pound gun at his disposal, he was ordered to make up and command a battery, which proved invaluable in the campaign. Fighting on territory hitherto largely untraversed by Europeans, Jacob charted much of it. He demonstrated his engineering skills at the pass of Nuffosk, hewing a path along the rocky cliffs along which the guns could be dragged, a feat deemed impossible at the time.

After the campaign the force was broken up and Jacob returned to routine duties in Hyderabad. It was here that he met Major- later Sir- James Outram. A lifelong friendship developed that would influence both mens' careers. Describing him as a *scientific and enterprising officer*, Outram ordered him to carry out a survey of a route from Hyderabad to Naggur Parkur, which was done with meticulous detail.

Jacob's first association with the Sind Horse took place during Billamore's mountain campaign. With only infantry at his disposal, Billamore found it difficult to cope with the mounted tribesmen. It was decided that the Sind Horse should be brought onto the scene to assist him.

In 1841 these mustered 600 sabres and were commanded by Lieutenant Curtis. He being invalided, the command was given to Lieutenant Hervey, who subsequently resigned it. Outram invited Jacob to take command during Curtis' furlough. Curtis never returned and Jacob remained in command. In January 1842 he was additionally placed in political charge of the whole of the Cutchee frontier.

He immediately set about customising the Sind Horse in order to incorporate his own views of how such a regiment of irregular cavalry should be structured and operate. The most important change was undoubtedly that relating to rules of engagement. Up to then, British forces in the area had confined themselves to their cantonments, leaving the robber tribes free to pillage and plunder the countryside. From now on his men were ordered to camp out in the open and keep a high profile, continuously patrolling the countryside. If the enemy were in striking distance, the Sind Horse struck, with lightning speed and no matter what odds they faced. This new type of warfare was unknown to the tribesmen and by 1842 the area had been cleared of all marauding robber bands. He had also organised an efficient system of spies and was rarely caught off guard. The Belooch mercenaries gave him the sobriquet *brother of Satan*.

By now, promoted to the rank of Brevet-Captain, he saw his first major action at the battle of Meanee. One of India's more important battles, it deserves some mention. The British force, sent to conquer Sind, consisted of 2,600 men and were commanded by Sir Charles Napier. Having mustered at Meanee, Napier's right was protected by the river Indus, the left flank being desert, where enemy horse were mustering in great number. Jacob was ordered to guard this left flank.

Accounts of the size of the enemy force varied, but Jacob gave the lowest estimate, namely 20,000 Belooch under their chief Shere Mahomed. Their front stretched over 1,200 yards lining a dry river bed, a raised bank further protecting them. Their cannon were in two batteries in front of the bank and thus protecting their flank. What with soldiers needed to guard the British camp, only 1,800 men remained to commit to battle. These Napier assigned to a frontal attack, forming them up in a line 1,000 yards from the enemy

The 10 guns available to the artillery were posted on the right with the Bengal Cavalry. Covering the left was the Sind Horse. The battle had lasted for three hours when the Bengal Cavalry and Sind Horse were ordered to force the enemy's right, which they did with great courage. They galloped at and through the guns, cutting down the enemy gunners. The Bengal Cavalry broke the hostile infantry and the Sind Horse took the enemy's camp. *Lieutenant Fitzgerald pursued them for 3 miles, killing it is said, three of the enemy in single combat.* Apparently of huge proportions, he could *cleave men to the teeth with a downward blow, against which shield and turban offered no protection.*

Captain Jacob, it was reported, *though slight of build, meeting a horseman at full gallop passed his sword through him with such force, through the shield and body, that the hilt struck strongly against the former.*

The British force, in sight of Hyderabad, took the town, having obtained its surrender from the native chiefs. But enemy numbers were swelling once again, a force of 10,000 and more reinforcing them, and Napier's force had been further reduced. 500 men were needed to garrison the fort. Shere Mahomed was within 10 miles of Hyderabad with a force estimated at between 20,000 and 40,000 men. The very cantonments of Karatchee were threatened by the most powerful chieftains of Southern Sind.

The battle of Hyderabad saw 5,000 men under arms, British reinforcements having arrived up the Indus, including 500 recruits, who were sent to garrison the fortress, releasing the veterans for battle. Heavy howitzers and skilled officers and gunners had also arrived, lack of artillery being Napier's weakest point. The Sind Horse lead the advance, the actual battle taking place at the village of Dubba. It was a bloody affair with much hand to hand fighting. A passage in Napier's despatch is indicative of how

it was: *It gives me great satisfaction to say that some prisoners were taken.* The Sind Horse had once again distinguished itself. Later, Jacob was appointed A.D.C. to the Governor General in recognition of his services.

The Ameer had fled and his followers were scattered. And yet Shere Mahomed had enough followers with him to threaten the security of the area. Jacob pursued him and, whilst not managing to capture him, finally and conclusively crushed his forces in a number of encounters and skirmishes, crowning the previous victories and ensuring long-term peace in the area. Jacob was recommended for the rank of Brevet Major and was awarded the C.B. after his promotion to the regimental rank of Captain.

He immediately set about stabilising matters in Sind once again. He applied to double the size of the Sind Horse by recruiting a second regiment, on the understanding that he would command both. Whilst this went against all precedents, it was finally sanctioned. He understood the importance of one chain of command. Again, almost unheard of at the time, he had only four European officers for both regiments. It is at this time that we have the first reference to Jacob's Horse. Napier announced in a letter of 28th November 1846 that *if you like, to give unity, I will order them to be called Jacob's Sind Horse, which, in fact, is correct, for they are not to be united except under you.*

In the event, both regiments were absorbed into the Indian Army in 1860 and ultimately became the 35th Scinde Horse and 35th Jacob's Horse. They saw active service in Northern and Central India, Persia and Afghanistan and, during the Great War, in France and Palestine. They were amalgamated in 1921 and became known as the 14th Prince of Wales' Own Cavalry.



The Prince of Wales in India

In January 1847, Jacob was placed in political charge of the frontier, and established his headquarters at Khangur, where he established a flourishing town which officially became known as Jacobabad. Sind was again in arms, robber bands ravaging the countryside. As before he used his system of defensive attack, which had worked so well in the past. It did again and within a short space of time peace was restored on the frontier.

Jacob's Horse's reputation as a fierce fighting unit grew and spread. The worst punishment a trooper could face was being dismissed from the ranks, something that rarely happened. Discipline was exemplary. It is stated at a later period that as much as £800 was offered for a place in the ranks. Sons and nephews of troopers were given preference.

As far as recruiting was concerned, Jacob always held the Muslim or Hindustani in high regard, regarding them as altogether superior beings in every way to other races. He was quite derisory of the Afghans. He gives as an example the battle of Goojerat where 4,000 picked horsemen of Dost Mohammed were beaten by 243 Hindustanees of the Irregular Horse, having had their leaders killed and their standards captured. He was a man of strong opinions, was not afraid of voicing them and hence had strong prejudices. Again and again one reads of unfairly matched struggles. 130 of Jacob's Horse killing 600 Boogtee robbers, with the rest of the band taken prisoner. One must allow for a little gilding of the lily, but basically his novel approach to warfare in Sind paid dividends.

As was normal for irregulars, men were responsible for their own horses and baggage, each trooper carrying provisions for three days. Slung under the horse's belly was a leather *rnussack* containing 2 gallons of water.

His administrative and political abilities came to the fore. He was described by some as a despot. Perhaps there is some truth in this. But his rule in Sind was based on deep-rooted beliefs, many exemplified in his pamphlets. He understood that to govern peaceably the people under his control, they needed to experience economic wellbeing. The vast majority of the tribesmen had lived by robbery and yet, within a few years of Jacob's administration, they had become tillers of soil. In order for this to happen, Jacob brought much of the desert under cultivation. This was done not only by establishing firm rule of law but also and, perhaps as importantly, by improving the infrastructure of the country. He cleared canals and built

many new ones. He constructed water tanks not only to irrigate many thousands of hectares of land, but also so that an army could be provisioned at all times. He had roads and bridges built, 600 miles of them, improving communications in Sind, the benefits of which are still apparent today.

Responsible for taxation, Jacob taxed fairly and ensured market principles were at work. He believed strongly it was a moral rather than a physical force which would control the tribes under him. His views of what the British in India were doing, particularly in respect of taxation, made him few friends in Bombay. *The people had been overtaxed, had no surplus, no room for growth, no spare cash wherewith to indulge any wish, even for the cheapest luxury.* The most important commodity in the area was water, yet he had no hard and fast tax on it. The rent payable was regulated on the returns of the irrigated acreage.

The authorities in Bombay were not on the whole sympathetic to his ideas. The finance required to action these plans was not always forthcoming, his requests often falling on deaf ears. However, with the appointment of Sir Bartle Frere as Commissioner in Upper Sind in 1851, he found a close ally, a man much after his own heart. Their co-operation achieved much.

In the summer of 1848 Jacob received orders to detach 500 sabres for service with the Mooltan Field Force. He offered 1,000 sabres, rather than the 500 requested, and offered to command in person. However, viewed as too important to be missing from the frontier, his offer was declined, albeit in flattering terms. In any case, the rumour of his impending departure had been unsettling all along the border. For the first time in seven years his men would be without him at their head. Lieutenant Merewether was put in command of the detachment.

Jacob's Horse performed well. Merewether writes in a letter to Jacob, *were ordered by Sir Joseph Thackwell in person to charge the enemy's right flank, who was then attempting to turn our left with some 4,000 horse and some guns. We did this with our 240 men and I can assure you our conduct was the admiration of all.* Outram wrote to Jacob in glowing terms on the conduct of the Sind horse.

It is interesting to note Jacob's opinion of Hodson's Horse. It had been suggested that a force from Punjab should work with Jacob's Horse

to suppress the troublesome Murrees. Jacob writes *if we were to be associated with Messrs Hodson and Co. of the Punjab, nothing but folly and disgrace would follow. All these people, military and civil, are minus qualities of large amount. Their proceedings now close to use are in defiance of all common sense and are calculated to do us much injury, even on our border.* He then gives his own ideas of the proper mode of proceeding and maps out a hill campaign in conjunction with the levies of the Khan of Khelat. He was a man not afraid to voice his views and, in 1858, his opinions were published by L. Pelly.

The battle with the Government to obtain funds for his corps was never ceasing. On at least one occasion he offered to resign were funds not forthcoming. It is said that, in a fit of depression, he once discussed with his Lieutenant Henry, later Sir Henry Green, whether they should throw up their commands and emigrate to Australia!

His views on marriage were equally unequivocal. He did not want his officers to marry, life in India being too harsh. Interestingly he gives his views on the perfect marriage, but states it rarely happens, because *chiefly the man, but possibly both parties, do not know themselves well enough beforehand.* Ideas perhaps well ahead of his time?

His pamphleteering got him into a lot of trouble with the authorities, both in Bombay and in London. His forthright views, were not even wholly accepted by his family in England. His brother George Andrew wrote from Christ's Hospital to his son, my great-grandfather, George Adolphus in India on 3rd January 1859. He had just read that day's copy of *The Times* which announced the death of John Jacob. He says *We don't know whether to believe this or not. How sad, if it be so! He is gone to give account to him who judgeth righteously - with all his wild and strange notions!* Yet John Jacob's influence, even posthumously, was of great benefit to my family. My great-grandfather's introduction to Major Merewether no doubt facilitated his career in the Indian Army, which he ended as a Colonel in charge of army schools in India. He was also a Sanskrit scholar, obtaining an Hon. PhD. from Cambridge University for his work in his field.

What little spare time Jacob had, he used to great effect. He constructed his *magnum opus*, a clock, with phases of the moon on the dial, which he had cut with his own hands. The pendulum was a round shot, sent by Henry Green from Looltan, the first shot fired by the Afghans

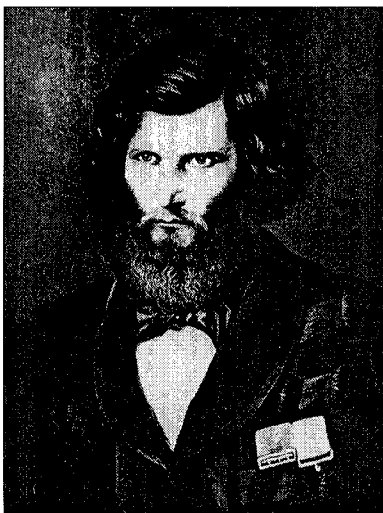
against our forces. He was described by Frere in an article, contributed to the Calcutta review, as *a mathematician of the highest order, unsurpassed as an artilleryman, engineer, sportsman and soldier.*

He had spent 25 years improving rifled firearms, carrying on experiments unrivalled even by public bodies. A range of 200 yards sufficed in cantonments, but at Jacobabad he had to go into the desert to set up butts at a range of 2,000 yards. He went for a four grooved rifle and had numerous experimental guns manufactured in London by the leading gunsmiths and completely at his expense.

He also invented an exploding bullet which fired combustibles up to six miles, but burst efficiently up to 1,400 yards. He believed it would revolutionise the art of war. *Two good riflemen so armed could annihilate the best battery of field artillery in 10 minutes*, he wrote. *I am of the opinion that a four grooved iron gun of a bore four inches in diameter, weighing not less than 24 hundredweight could be made to throw shot to a distance of 10 miles and more, with force and accuracy.* As his experiments progressed, he increased the possible range to 14 miles. His was a voice in the wilderness. He was ridiculed for suggesting rifling artillery. It is not known where he found the money for all his experiments. Perhaps he had a backer, Frere perhaps, or Outram?

His *Letters to a lady on the progress of being* aroused a storm of protest. He was accused of corrupting youth. He put forward doctrines of evolution which anticipated Darwin. All that could not be demonstrated logically or mathematically, he believed, must be dismissed as absurd and untenable. The grand truth of nature.

He was a very fair man in what might now be called a quirky way. I remember an anecdote told me by Mr Suniro, the deputy High Commissioner for Pakistan, when I had been invited to dine with him.



John Jacob

This had been passed on to his father by an old resident of Jacobabad. A trooper of Jacob's Horse, for a kindness shown to his mount (and I cannot recall what this was), was ordered by John Jacob to mount his horse and ride as fast as he could in a given amount of time in a circle. The land he encircled would be given him.

He never married, perhaps out of shyness towards the opposite sex. He had a stutter, was slight of build but as the engraving of him depicts, showed great presence.

In April 1855 he was gazetted Lieutenant Colonel. In 1856, Frere's poor health made him take leave in England. Jacob was pronounced Acting Commissioner in Sind.

Relations with Persia were worsening and a campaign was decided upon. Sir James Outram was given the command of the army in Persia and Jacob and his Horse were ordered to join him. He was raised to the rank of Brigadier General, although Outram had requested the rank of Major General. Unfortunately, the Governor General in India did not have the authority to raise an officer from Lieutenant Colonel to Major General. Jacob had great misgivings about this expedition. War having been declared by Lord Dalhousie, a force of 6,000 was assembled, a third being Europeans.

Jacob was put in charge of the cavalry and departed for Persia. A few days after disembarking at Bushire, he heard he had been appointed A.D.C. to Queen Victoria. Jacob was delayed in his arrival, but Outram had already routed the Persians, inflicting heavy losses. Their forces were not annihilated however, due to lack of cavalry. When Jacob eventually arrived, General Stalker, who had been placed in command of 3,000 men at Bushire, died suddenly and Jacob replaced him the day he landed.

Outram began his bombardment of Muhamra and the Persians fled. In the meantime a peace favourable to Britain had been negotiated in Europe and Outram returned to India. Jacob was left in charge of conducting the evacuation at Bushire.

By this time the Indian Mutiny had started, an event Jacob had presaged some years before. Throughout the mutiny Jacob's Horse remained loyal to their commander and the British, although other regiments in Sind were on the verge of joining the mutineers.

Jacob was anxiously awaited in India, where he had been selected for the command of the Central Indian Army, second in importance only to that of the Eastern Indian Army. When at last he was able to leave Persia, where he had been detained at the insistence of the British minister there, he was under the impression that he would take up this command on his arrival. Lord Elphinstone, unable to wait, gave the command to Sir Hugh Rose instead. Had Jacob arrived a few hours earlier, he might have prolonged his days and died Lord Jacob of Jacobabad.

The regiment of Jacob's Horse under Malcolm Green did good service during the mutiny in the southern Mahratta country. Another body of irregular horse were raised on the spur of the moment and placed under the command of Lieutenant Macauley.

He was subsequently authorized to raise two infantry regiments. In many quarters there was much doubt about the potential efficacy of these, but there was no doubt in Jacob's mind about the quality of the men he would be recruiting. In a letter to Frere he states: *I do not propose to govern them by force or fear. I will have sober, God-fearing men in my troops, as old Cromwell said, and will govern them by appealing to their higher, not to their baser attitudes. The object to all our training shall be to develop mental power. The more we can raise our subordinates in the scale of rational beings, the more we can command them:* an interesting insight into the man.

News of Jacob's ill health spread fast. Pelly arrived at Jacobabad and Green rode in the day before Jacob died to be at his friend's bedside. Five doctors were in attendance. Green was not satisfied with the most senior of them and ordered a junior doctor under threat of court martial and arrest to tend the dying man. There was no pomp or ceremony at his funeral, in accordance with his wishes.

He is still remembered in Sind, where his grave is lovingly cared for to this day.

Sources

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General John Jacob by Alexander Innes Shand.
Hodson's, Skinner's and Jacob's Horse (MS) by W.G. Legrand Jacob.
A Jacob Bibliography by Kenneth Jacob.
Jacob MSS (in the possession of the author).
From Churchill's Secret Circle to the BBC (the biography of Lieut-General Sir Ian Jacob G.B.E., C.B., D.L.) by General Sir Charles Richardson C.G.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.
A Victorian Pedagogue and his Circle by Clive Jacob.

RECORD OF A SHROPSHIRE FAMILY Stephen de Prémorrel-Higsons

The following narrative pedigree continues the article printed in Family History vol. 20 no. 161, n.s. no. 137. October 1999, pp. 21-33.

Families of the name of Higsons have been settled in the Church Stretton and Shrewsbury area since the 14th century as shown by the Heralds' Visitation of Shropshire taken in the year 1623 by Robert Tresswell, Somerset Herald.

It is likely that Mary, daughter of Henry Higsons, who was baptized at St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, on the 20th May 1631, was a daughter of Henry Higsons of Pitchford. The pedigree shows that there was a connection with Shrewsbury as members of the family in the second and third generations were Burgesses of Shrewsbury.

The connected pedigree of the family, however, commences with:

HENRY HIGGONS, of the Parish of Pitchford, co. Salop. Churchwarden there 1644. Deceased by 19 November 1683. Married, Anne, who was buried 19 November 1683 at Pitchford. They had issue:

1. Michael Higsons, baptised 20 October 1633 at Pitchford.
2. Francis Higsons, buried 28 August 1636 at Pitchford.
3. William Higsons, baptised 30 April 1646 at Pitchford.
4. Edward Higsons, baptised 1 May 1649 at Pitchford.
5. Henry Higsons, of whom hereafter.
6. Rebecca, baptised 1 October 1637 at Pitchford.
7. Sarah, baptised 10 April 1639 at Pitchford.
8. Katherine, baptised 6 April 1643 at Pitchford.