

Chapter 24 Langcliffe Charities

Details from Reports made to the Charity Commissioners

Parish of Giggleswick 20 August 1894

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see also www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk 'The changing fortunes of charities in the ancient parish of Giggleswick', M.J. Slater. NCHTJ, 2010, p.3

and 'Rev. J. Robinson and Alphonsine Jarry Charities', M.J.Slater. NCHTJ, 2014, p.3

Poor's Allotment and Poor Close

The Poor's Allotment now consists of 15 acres of rough inclosed land on Giggleswick Scarr, which are let to Robert Metcalfe on a yearly tenancy at a rent of £6 10s.

The Poor Close is let to Thomas P. Inman on a three years' agreement, which had been concluded shortly before the date of the Inquiry, at a rent of £13 a year. Before the recent letting the land was usually let for £16 a year on a yearly tenancy. The letting is done by public tender, preliminary notice being given by printed posters.

This Charity is also administered in conjunction with others in the several townships. Particulars of the distribution in each township are given below.

Township of Langcliffe

Unknown Donor's Dole

The land subject to the charge of 5s a year mentioned in the Report of 1825 is now the property of Mr Hector Christie. The charge is paid regularly, and it was said that a formal reservation of it had been made in the conveyance to Mr Christie.

Administration of Doles

The above sum is distributed with the share (two-fifths of one-fourth) of this township in Foster's Charity and the Poor's Allotment, and is divided among six or seven poor persons of the township not in receipt of poor-law relief, the recipients being selected at a meeting of the overseers, and the payments varying from 2s to 15s in amount.

Township of Stainforth

Administration of Doles

The share of this township in the above-mentioned Charities of Foster and the Poor's Allotment is distributed by the churchwardens of Giggleswick in small sums of money among poor persons resident in the township, and not in receipt of poor-law relief.

Foster's Charity

The rent charge of £5 is still paid out of the estate mentioned in the Report of 1827. It is now received from Mr W. Wilkinson, who is believed to be the owner of the estate, but upon this point none of those who were present at the Inquiry could speak with confidence.

The deed of the 6th September 1698, mentioned in the Report of 1825, appears to be lost, nor is any copy known to be in existence.

The £5 is divided in the same proportions as at the date of the Report of 1825. The churchwardens of the ancient parish act as trustees of the Charity. There are four of

these churchwardens, one for each of the townships (Rathmell and Langcliffe counting as one). They are elected by a body known as the Select Vestry, which consists of 24 members, vacancies among whom are filled up by cooptation. Of the 24, six nominally represent each township, but as the only qualification for membership is that of being a householder residing in the ancient parish, there is no real security that each township shall be represented.

The money is distributed in each township with other dole Charities, and particulars of the distribution are given below under the head of the respective townships.

The Rev. John Robinson's Charity

The Rev. John Robinson, of Sidmouth, Devon, by his will dated the 1st November 1882, and proved at Exeter on the 26th February 1886, made the following bequest:-

"I further give and bequeath to my friends John Birkbeck junr. William George Perfect and Charles Henry Charlesworth and my nephew John Gorges (sic) Robinson the sum of £5000 which I expressly direct shall be paid out of such part only of my personal estate as I can by law devote to such purposes free of legacy duty to be by them held upon trust that they or the survivors or survivor of them or other the trustees or trustee for the time being to be appointed as herein-after mentioned do invest the same at Interest in such manner as they may deem most advantageous and apply the income therefrom (and the whole or part of the Capital if thought desirable by the majority in number of my said Trustees for the time being) from time to time in their absolute and uncontrolled discretion in or towards the Endowment of Alms-houses, or otherwise for the benefit of the aged and infirm poor in the old parish of Giggleswick. And I empower my last-named Trustees or the Trustee for the time being of the said last-named sum of £5000 by Deed to appoint additional or substituted Trustees thereof from time to time at their discretion."

The above sum of £5000 was on the 25th July 1887 invested in the purchase of a sum of £4,907 19s 5d 3 percent Consols in the names of the four trustees mentioned in the will. The death of MR John Birkbeck, junior, has been proved at the Bank of England. The other three trustees were living at the date of the Inquiry. The fund is now represented by the same amount of New Consols, producing an annual income of £134 19s 4d.

The income is applied in quarterly grants, varying from £1 to £3 in amount, to old and infirm poor persons resident in the ancient parish of Giggleswick. The recipients are selected by the trustees, who have made a rule that no person shall be qualified who is under 60 years of age or in receipt of parish relief. The trustees meet quarterly to consider and revise the list.

The account book is carefully kept by Mr Thomas Dixon, who acts as secretary to the trustees.

Township of Giggleswick

Administration of Dole Charities

The sums received by this township from the Charities of Foster and the Poor's Allotment, mentioned above, are distributed by the churchwardens at Christmas among poor persons not in receipt of poor-law relief, in small sums varying from 2s 6d to 5s in amount. The distribution is said to be impartial and independent of denominational considerations.