

Charities of the Parish of Measham

Extract from the "Report of the Commissioners for Enquiries concerning Charities"

Transcribed by John Hunt, Measham Mills, Nov 7th 1871.

Monks Charity

"Thomas Monk, by his Will, bearing date 22nd August 1713, devised all his messuages, cottages, closes, and lands situate in the liberties of Austrey, in the county of Warwick, and Blaby and Countesthorpe, in the county of Leicester, and all his other lands to his nephew, Wollaston Willington, for life with remainder to his first and other sons in tail male, with the remainder to Sir Robert Burdett, Bart., Robert Burdett, Charles Jennens, William Inge, and William Lilley, esquires and their heirs, upon trust, that they should, out of the rents and profits of the said premises from time to time repair the monument by him lately erected in the parish church of Austrey in memory of his deceased son, Herbert Monk, and on further trust, that they should pay yearly the sum of £10 for putting out as apprentice to some honest trade or profession, one boy of some poor person inhabiting within the town of Whitwick, in the county of Leicester, and not receiving collection, and the sum of £10 to be applied for putting out as apprentice in like manner, and so qualified, a boy of the town of Austrey, and the sum of £5 to be laid out in an entertainment at Austrey, for the said Trustees and their friends, some day in Easter week yearly, forever, at which time and place he desired his trustees should meet to give an account of their trust, which account he desired should be entered in a book to be kept in the parish church of Austrey. And the residue of the rents and profits remaining in the hands of the said trustees on such account he directed should at their said yearly meeting be paid to such persons and for such uses as he should by deed appoint, and for want of such appointments to be applied yearly at their said meeting for such charitable uses within the said parishes of Austrey and Whitwick, and of Measham in the county of Derby, and Shenton in the county of Leicester, as the said trustees or the major part of them should appoint. And it was provided, that when any of the said trustees should die, the survivors should at their next meeting in Easter week appoint a new trustee in his place, and in case the said trustee so dying should leave a son of the age of 21 years, that such son should be a trustee in the place of his deceased father and that a conveyance should be made accordingly."

Charities of Hall and Others

"The earliest deeds relating to these charities produced to us were Indentures of Lease and Release, bearing date 22nd and 23rd December 1775, being a conveyance on the appointment of new trustees, in which it is recited as follows, viz.; that "by Deed-poll, bearing date 21st April 1660 Susannah Hall and Deborah Hall granted and assigned to James Abney, George Hullock, and the Rev. John Houghton, £200 in trust that they should purchase there with so much land as the same would extend to, and that they should pay the rents thereof to the

said Susannah and Deborah, and the survivor, during their lives and after their decease to the indigent and poor people of Measham, and for teaching and schooling of some poor children of the said town.

That at the time of executing the said deed £100 was paid into the hands of the said James Abney, and that he had assigned the same to William Wollaston and others upon the trust mentioned in the said deed-poll.

That by indenture of seoffinent bearing date 18th December 1682, John Wakelin, in consideration of £100 granted and enfeoffed to William Wollaston and the Rev. Henry Bonsall, and five others, a close in Donisthorpe called Walton Way Close, and three poles of meadow, interchangeably in Donisthorpe, Common Meadow, called Mease Meadow, and the outdrift of the said meadow every fourth year, and two beast-gates in the same meadow, in trust for the use of the poor of the parish of Measham for ever; and that it was thereby provided that when the trustees should be reduced to two the survivors should convey the said premises to others of the freeholders or sufficient of the said parish of Measham.

And it is further recited, that the said James Abney, for the great zeal and good will which he had for the poor people inhabiting the said town of Measham, and for the ease of the said inhabitants, and relief of the said poor, had placed in the hands of Thomas Abney and two others, including all the trustees named in the above recited indenture or feoffinent, except William Wollaston, the sum of £100 to be disposed of by them for such uses as it is stated were expressed in an indenture under his hand and seal, bearing date 22nd December 1684, viz.: the produce thereof to be paid yearly on the 24th June and 21st December to the poor people of Measham, until such time as the said Thomas Abney and others, or their successors, should find a convenient purchase of the clear yearly value of £5.; and that they should then purchase such land, to the intent that with the rents thereof they should relieve such poor inhabitants of the said town as should be agreed upon by the chief part of the inhabitants, the same to be paid to the said poor on the days above mentioned; and it was provided, that whenever five of the trustees should be dead, or depart out of the town of Measham it should be lawful for the chief inhabitants of the said town, whereof the minister for the time being, and the said Thomas Abney and his heirs should be two, to elect five other substantial inhabitants of the said town to be trustees, and that the survivors should convey the premises to the use of themselves and such new trustees.

And it is further recited, that Richard Johnson, by Indentures of Lease and Releases bearing date 21st and 22nd May 1688, in consideration of £75 part of the sum of £100 given by the said James Abney, conveyed to the said Thomas Abney and others a close called Pockey Stone, lying in a way called Walton Way, and two leys and a rood of land in a close called the Vale of Belvoir, and four poles of meadow, in a meadow called Meas Meadow and three beast gates, two of them in a pasture called Branburrow, and the other in a pasture called the Peet Leys; all which premises were situate in Donisthorpe.

And it is lastly recited that by Indentures of Lease and Release, bearing date 23rd and 24th July 1726, George Chilwell the survivor of all the trustees named in the premises purchased of John Wakelin and of Richard Johnson as above mentioned to the use of Chatham Wollaston and 15 others, upon the trusts mentioned in the indenture of 22nd December 1684.

There seems to be a considerable degree of confusion in the history of these charities as taken from the recitals in the indentures of 1755. The sum of £100, laid out in the purchase of lands in 1682 may be considered clearly as part of the gift of Susannah and Deborah Hall, but it does not appear that the residue of the £200 stated to have been given by them was ever paid, unless it was the sum of £100 which was afterwards assigned by James Abney to trustees in 1684; and yet from the expression of the great zeal and good will which the said James Abney had for the poor people inhabiting the town of Measham, he seems to have treated this sum of £100 as his own gift; it is possible however that a rent charge of £6 given by Dean Hullock, as hereafter mentioned under a separate head, might have been in satisfaction of the other £100 given by Susannah and Deborah Hall, which may have come to his hands through George Hullock, mentioned in the deed of 1660.

In 1792 a distinct set of trustees was appointed for the different portions of the Donisthorpe estate purchased respectively in 1682 and 1688.

The one upon the trusts mentioned in the deed-poll executed by Susannah and Deborah Hall in 1660.

The other, upon the same trusts and with the same directions as to the appointment of new trustees as declared in the indenture of 1684.

In 1826 some timber was cut and sold, and the produce thereof, after the payment of the expenses amounting to £35 was placed in the Ashby and Measham Bank; and in 1821, and each of the following years, a small balance which remained un-disposed of, amounting in the whole to £17 was placed in the same bank. For these two sums the bankers gave their accountable receipt in the usual form, and interest is paid thereon at the rate of five percent, amounting to £2.12s per annum.

Hullocks Charity

Henry Hullock, Dean of Rochester, by his will bearing the date 19th November 1704, gave to the poor of the parish of Measham, £6 a year issuing out of his lands in the parish of Ringwold, then in the occupation of William Gillow, of whom, with others he had lately purchased the estate, the same to be paid into the hands of some trusty and substantial person at London, appointed by the minister, churchwardens and collectors for the poor, with the advice of the principal inhabitants, to the poor, in such proportion to their necessities as they in their consciences should think meet, equal and reasonable.

Charities of William Hill and Others

In a book containing the accounts of the charities for the poor of this parish , there is an entry bearing date December 23rd 1805, stating that the trustees of Mr Wilkes estate and effects paid on that day £50 (save of £1 for a release to the executor of William Hill) as the bequest of the late William Hill, of Leicester, to the poor of Measham, with interest amounting to £22, 15s; and also £20 for principal money lodged in his hands with 20s for one year's interest thereon making together £92 15s

Of this sum £90 was, in 1805 placed in the Ashby and Measham Bank and in 1806 £10 was added there to form the general fund of the charities, and a promissory note, bearing date December 21st, 1807, was given to the trustees by the bankers as a security for the same, with interest at five percent.

In 181 the sum of £45 was placed in the same bank upon the security of a promissory note dated, 19th May, 1818, bearing interest at five percent, in which note it is expressed that the sum of £45 was the amount (after deducting the duty) of a legacy given by the Will of Sarah Hill, the interest thereof to be distributed annually to the poor of Measham.

The interest on the sums above mentioned, amounting to £7, 5s per annum, is carried to the general charity account.

Donor Unknown

The sum of £60 is supposed to have been left for a school several years ago by a Mrs Salisbury, and to have been paid to Joseph Wilkes, or Mrs Hill, but we have not been able to obtain any information to assist us in tracing this bequest.

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The property purchased in 1682 and 1688 has been sold and money invested by the Charity Commissioners, the Interest received amounting to £51 and some few shillings. The total amount of income from the Charities exclusive of Monk's is about £67 per annum.

The income from Monk's Charity varies, sums being paid yearly to the National School and the Poor.

John Hunt

Measham Mills

Nov 7th 1871