

GOSBERTON CHARITIES.

FROM the report issued by the Commissioners for enquiring concerning Charities, and dated June 30, 1837, we extract the following :—

Henry Cawood (date unknown) from income derived from certain lands in Quadring, directed that one blue cloth gown should be given annually to the poorest man in the village, the residue to be expended in white bread for the poor. He left also tenements for four poor widows, and the interest of £10 to the Incumbent for preaching a sermon on anniversary of his funeral.

John Shaw and *Thomas Read* in 1614 & 1616 respectively, gave together £5 8 0 to be expended on coals.

Sarah Nelsey—(1746-50) gave in all £55 the interest of which to be applied to (1) a blue serge gown for an aged widow, (2) an annual sermon, (3) 20 poor widows and (4) 30 of the poorest people attending the sermon aforesaid.

Sir Charles Montague (date unknown) left £20 with which have been purchased three acres of pasture land known as “ Harps,” the profits being distributed among the indigent poor.

Henry Gate (c. 1707) bequeathed his own cottage (subsequently) divided into eight tenements, either that the profits arising therefrom should be annually distributed among the needy and impotent, or else that some of the poor inhabitants should dwell therein. It is now occupied by eight widows and is known as the Widows' Row.

John Barton, of Surfleet, (date not specified) gave 3 acres 3 roods of pasture and meadow in Surfleet, the profits of the same to be disposed between the poor of Gosberkirk and Surfleet, being "no alehouse haunters, nor given to other notorious vices."

Anthony Death (date unknown), formerly of Heckington, left the sum of £33 6 8 for purchase of lands, the rent of which was to be utilized for an annual sermon on Ascension Day, a gown of black cloth "made fit for the back of one poor man of Gosberkirk, that was born in the said town," and the overplus, if any, to be bestowed in twopenny loaves amongst the poor.

John Calverly (no date) left the interest on £10 for the poor of the parish.

John Pell (no date) gave 1 acre 1 rood, the yearly profit on which to be disposed among the poor and impotent.

Roger Fowler (no date) bequeathed a sum, not specified, for purchase of lands, to be applied to the use of the poor.

Ann Martin (date unknown) formerly of Wigtoft, left the annual sum of 10 shillings, charged from a messuage and $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land in Gosberton.

John Horn (no date) left £20 to which the inhabitants added £5 with which land was purchased near Lowbridge.

Edward Cawood gave a rent-charge of 30 shillings of pasture ground called "John of Cheales," also 20 shillings and a further sum of 30 shillings for: (1) a

blue cloth gown to be given to the most poor and needy and "ancient inhabiting man" in Gosberton, annually, and (2) the remainder for expenditure in white bread for poor. Also ten shillings yearly for a sermon on his funeral day—should this fall on Sunday, on the day following—in case of neglect to be given to ten poor widows.

Henry Harvey left 10 shillings yearly for the poor, and 2 shillings for twopenny loaves for twelve poor widows.

William Lambert bequeathed 20 shillings to be paid annually to the poor.

John Wright left another 20 shillings for yearly expenditure on white bread for the poor.

John Runton left £10, which appears to have been lost sight of so long ago as 1778.

Richard Calthrop left 10 shillings to be applied from rents of land at Quadring Eaudyke, to the Vicar of Gosberton for preaching an annual commemoration sermon on his funeral day, the residue to be laid out in white bread and given to the most needful poor.

Thomas Webster left half an acre of land; but in 1786 it was said nothing had been received from the land—nor does anything appear to have been since.

In 1836 the above charities appear to have produced £75 18 8.

Robert Marjorans (1682) endowed the Free School in the Rysegate. In 1837 the land produced £28 per annum. Election of a master rests with the heirs of

Sir Henry Heron and the Vicar of Gosberton for the time being

Rev. John Calthrop (1767) directed by will that the proceeds of certain tolls should be distributed in the shape of religious books among honest families and the servants therein; that 5s. should be awarded to that servant who should have served longer than any other in any one family in the parish; that 10 shillings should be divided between two of the best labourers, having families, or between one such labourer and one industrious widow, having a family; that 3 shillings be paid to the sexton if he should sweep and keep clean the southern half of the cross aisle of the parish church, where testator was subsequently buried; and that the following books, should be purchased with the residue: "The Whole Duty of Man," Earl of Edmont's "Great Importance of a Religious Life," and several of treatises of Dr. Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man, or such as might be appointed by the S. P. C. K. In 1881 this Charity consisted of an endowment fund of £53 16 7 Consols.

Elizabeth Hopper (May 30, 1778) by will, after naming certain other legacies, appoints Stephen Garwell, Richard Casswell, and Francis Masten "executors in trust for the poor of Gosbertowne." Messrs. Richard Casswell and John Casswell, his son, whilst living annually distributed about £9 or £10, which was for some years known as "Hopper's Dole."

An entry in the parish book shewed the following

statement of moneys in trust of Richard Casswell, on Dec. 20, 1783.

	£	s	d
Balance of her accounts and in his own hands	28	3	9
In hands of George Chapman	140	0	0
Richard Casswell, jun.	40	0	0
Thomas Mayden	10	0	0
John Broughton	8	0	0
Samuel Dotching	20	0	0
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	£246	3	9

Legal difficulties afterwards arose and the money is now out on mortgage of an estate at Donington.

In accordance with the wishes expressed during her lifetime, of *Ann Trueman Bankes* (Nov. 10, 1835) wife of Robert George Bankes, paymaster of H. M. 16th Regiment of Infantry, her husband left £400, the interest on which to be applied to support of "24 of the oldest and most indigent and discreet females inhabiting or dwelling within the respective parishes of New Sleaford and Gosberton, aged widows and single women far advanced in life to be preferred (that is to say) 12 in each parish" The following were trustees: the Rev. Richard Yerburgh, D.D., William Forbes, Esq., and William Dods, jun., Esq.

——— *Watson*, left a sum, which in 1837 brought in £4 annually, exclusively for Baptists.

Crawford's Charity is mentioned in a MS. book left by the Rev. S. B. Sealy, the late Vicar, who states the Rev. John Topham had been accustomed to spend it in paying the premiums on the Children's Club and in Flannel, etc., for the poor.