

BOLSTERSTONE EDUCATIONAL CHARITY.

N. Peato.

Bolsterstone . .

Free School. . .



John Bradbury, Photo.

ONE HALF-PENNY.

Penistone :

JAS. H. WOOD, PRINTER AND STATIONER, MARKET PLACE.

Bolsterstone Free School.



THE following facts in connection with the origin and history of this useful parochial charity will be of interest to many of our readers, and especially to those ratepayers who live within the old and usual school boundary, which embraces the area lying between the River Porter or Little Don on the north and the Ewden Beck on the south, up to Langley Brook on the west and down to the Don river on the east.

This district, known in ancient times as Waldershelf and in later years as the Chapelry of Bolsterstone, comprises the hamlet known as The Green and the little village of Bolsterstone, together with Hawthorn Brook, Horner House, and nearly the whole of the populous villages of Stocksbridge and Deepcar—a district which at the census of 1891 contained a population of nearly 5,000.

This little-known charity has been of great benefit in the past and though its present usefulness is greatly restricted and impaired by a temporary deviation from the clearly-expressed intentions of the founders it is certain that this parochial endowment is capable of much greater utility in the future.

Ralph Ellis, of Spink Hall, by his will bearing date January 3rd, 1621, made the following bequest:—

“My will and mind is, that if my child or children shall die before they come to lawful age to make any will or wills, that such death-part as I have given unto him or her or them shall be given and disposed in manner and form the following, viz.: The one moiety thereof towards the maintenance of a schoolmaster for teaching scholars at Bolsterstone chapel in the county of York, and for the fault of such schoolmaster, then the profits thereof for such time as there shall be no schoolmaster then to be given to the poor of Waldershelf in the said county of York, the same to be distributed by the owner of Spink Hall for the time being.”

John Wilson, of Broomhead, the well-known antiquary, writing in 1741, says:—

“The school at Bolsterstone was built by the town when Mr. Henry Hodgkinson was schoolmaster in 1687, and he engraved the inscription over the door—‘*Aurora Masis Amica.*’ One of the Ellis’s of Spink Hall gave £200 to teach the children, £50 of which was lost in the Civil Wars.”

In another place he remarks:—

“They taught in the chapel till Mr. Hodgkinson, finding it so as not to be endured in winter, being there was no fireplace, the children troubling the towns-houses to warm themselves said that without the town would build a school or find a convenient size room he would teach no longer, so they built a school above said.”

“In consideration of the Ellis’s being the first and greatest benefactors to the school, the owners of Spink Hall whoever they be have the power of choosing or turning out the master.”

“Bolsterstone School was £10 a year, the interest of £200 by the Ellis’s for teaching the children free between Hermit R. and Langley Brook and so to Barnside Moor, but £50 of money being lost by the executors reduced it to £7 10s. 0d. a year, which Mr. Hodgkinson taught it for. But Mark Stanley, present master, having had some difficulty with the inhabitants this present year (1741) alleged it not sufficient and said he would not teach any more unless they would add 10s., which with £2 clerking would make it £10 a year, which is gathered yearly.”

The inhabitants of the chapelry founded the school as apart from the endowment, as no portion of Ellis’s bequest could be used for that purpose, the interest having to be paid to the schoolmaster or, failing him, to the poor. The first school was doubtless built upon the Commendation as the Charity Commissioners’ Report of 1828 remarks:—

“The site of the school premises has not been included in the trustees’ deeds, and consequently it cannot be discovered in whom the legal estate is now vested.”

There is no distinct trace of the remainder of Ellis’s legacy further than in the Charity Commissioners’ Report of 1828 mention is made of £150 (part of Ellis’s donation) being in the hands of James Rimmington of Broomhead Hall, esquire, and secured by his promissory note dated 1824, payable with interest at 4½%. This was paid off eventually with the money on September 13th, 1842, the trustees bought the field known as School Croft and Edgefield from Robert Steel and his wife and John Morton and four others, the rents to be paid to the schoolmaster of the said school for the education of children according to the will of John Hodgkinson, which rules the charity.

John Hodgkinson, of London, son of Henry Hodgkinson, former schoolmaster at the Bolsterstone Free School, bequeathed the noble sum of £1366 13s. 4d.; and his will, dated January 15th, 1780, so far as it relates to the Free School, reads as follows:—

“Whereas Ralph Ellis, of the City of York, Esq., deceased, by his will bearing date the third day of January, 1621, directed that one moiety of his deathpart should be given and disposed of toward the maintenance of a schoolmaster for teaching scholars at Bolsterstone Chapel, in the county of York; and for default of the schoolmaster there, to be given to the poor of Waldershelf in the said county; the same to be distributed by the owner of Spinkhall for the time being, in consequence of which a free school

“was built, and the interest of the said legacy has ever since been applied towards the maintenance of the said schoolmaster; but some part of the said legacy being lost, and the school in a ruinous condition, I, therefore, in order to encourage the inhabitants thereunto belonging to rebuild the said school with a house and chambers over all, for the use of the schoolmaster for the time being, direct my executors to pay £100 when such building shall be slated in; to be by the said Richard Ellis paid and applied towards defraying the expense of such building, which sum (I doubt not) with the unanimous assistance of the inhabitants in every matter and thing in their power to do, will complete the said building. And I give to the said Richard Ellis two guineas, to be spent at rearing of the said building, by the inhabitants and workmen concerned therein. And in order that all the children of the said inhabitants of the Chapelry (or the old and usual school boundary) may be for ever educated and instructed, in reading, writing and accounts, and other useful learning, and good manners, at the said Bolsterstone Free School, I give unto the said Richard Ellis, Benjamin Travers, and Doctor James Hervey, of Tooting, in Surrey, their executors, administrators, and assigns, the sum of £1366 13s. 4d. three per cent. consolidated Bank annuities upon this trust, that the said trustees and the survivors of them, and such trustees as shall be appointed in manner hereinafter directed, do, and shall for ever hereafter, pay and apply the interest and dividends thereof half-yearly, as the same shall come to their hands, unto the schoolmaster of the said school, for the time being, as an increase and addition to his present maintenance for his trouble and care, in the education and tuition of the children; he, the said schoolmaster, paying thereout and distributing at the said school twenty shillings every Christmas eve to the poor for ever, at the direction of my trustees. And such schoolmaster shall for ever teach and instruct all the children of the said inhabitants of the said Chapelry (or school boundary) that shall be born and resident there, who shall come to the school, without fee, reward, or gratuity whatsoever. And I do hereby empower and direct my said trustees to nominate and unite with them three of the most substantial inhabitants of the said Chapelry as trustees for managing the said school, and carrying into execution the directions hereinafter given respecting the same, and vesting the said trust estate in them for the purpose aforesaid. And I direct that the said inhabitants of the said Chapelry, or the major part of them, paying scot and lot, shall from time to time convene in a proper place and choose by ballot three new trustees when the old acting trustees shall be reduced to two in number by deaths or otherwise, and that such assignments or transfers shall be thereupon made as shall effectually vest the trust property in such new trustees jointly with the old ones, and so *toties quoties*, as occasion may require, and that my trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, shall have power for ever hereafter to name, elect, and choose a fit person to be a schoolmaster of the said school, and from time to time remove and displace him, or them, in case of misbehaviour, immorality, or neglect, and appoint new schoolmasters in his or their stead, as often as occasion may be or require.”

John Grayson, of Spink Hall, who died on the 17th August, bequeathed by his will, dated 13th July, 1869, the sum of £200 to be unto the trustees for the time being of the Endowed School at Bolsterstone, the same to be invested and the interest thereof to be paid to the schoolmaster for the time being of the said school for the free education of 6 boys and 4 girls from the age of 10 to 13 years, in reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, and good manners, such children to be native residents of Bolsterstone, and to be nominated by the trustees of the said school.

£50 of this donation was lost by an unfortunate investment.

The foregoing donations constitute the whole of the Endowment as shewn by the following Schedule dated April 19th, 1901, viz:—

Description of Property.	Extent or Amount	Tenant, Person liable, or Persons in whose name invested	Gross Yearly Income
<i>Free School, &c. (Endowment of Ralph Ellis):</i>			
1. School house and buildings, with site, at Bolsterstone			£ s.
2. Four closes of land adjoining the school, with a stable thereon	A. R. P.	Mrs. Bratt	6 10
	3 2 0	John T. Helliwell	5 0
<i>Endowment of John Hodgkinson:</i>	£ s. d.		
New Consols	1366 13 4	Official Trustees of Charitable Funds	37 11
<i>Endowment of John Grayson:</i>			
Cash on deposit with Sheffield & Hallamshire Bank	152 16 11	Priam Jno. Hudson Robert Boeking Joe Marsden	3 18
		Total gross yearly Income	£53 0

The school was conducted as an elementary school until about when the Education Department struck it off the list of certified efficient schools on account of the want of a certificated teacher, and separate offices for boys and girls. Up to this time the endowment had been insufficient to provide for the demands of the Education Department, but the school was very popular and had 140 children on the books, while the National School at Bolsterstone was languishing for want of children.

On December 12th, 1885, the trustees of the two schools came to a provisional agreement for the joint use of the schools, and the following are copies of documents relating to such joint use.

First. At a meeting of the Trustees of the Bolsterstone Endowed School held July 17th, 1885. It is hereby resolved and agreed to unanimously for the better management and extension of the Trust in the future and for the interests of the inhabitants, that a scheme be arranged for the amalgamation of the Free School and the National School as one Free School without payment of fees. One master (certified) to have the management. The school to be placed under Government—with an assistant mistress for the infants at the Old School—the interests and rights of the inhabitants of the Chapelry of Bolsterstone under the will of the Founders, as well as the future arrangement for the Trust, to be secured by Deed. Children out of the district to pay as heretofore.

(Signed) SAMUEL FOX. JOE MARSDEN.
PRIAM JOHN HUDSON. ROBERT BOCKING.

Second. At a meeting held in the National School, Bolsterstone, on the 12th December, 1885, of the Managers of the National School and of the Trustees of the Endowed School, Bolsterstone. Present—Bolsterstone National School Managers (The Rev. W. R. Wilson, C. M. Wilson, Esq., and Mr. Joseph Hattersley), and of the Endowed School Trustees, Messrs. P. J. Hudson, Robert Bocking, and J. Marsden. It was mutually and unanimously agreed upon (in accordance with a previous suggestion) that for the more advantageous working of the two schools, the National and the Endowed Schools, and for the better administration and extension of the benefits of the latter school,—and as an experiment in the first place,—the Schools be worked together and amalgamated, both schools to be free to all children entitled to the benefits of the Endowed School, but those not so entitled to be admitted on payment of fees as usual. The upper or National School to be the mixed school for elder children, and the Endowed School for infants, under a mistress. The Vicar, the Rev. W. R. Wilson, on behalf of the school managers, and J. Marsden, for the Endowed School Trustees to be an acting committee in the carrying out of the arrangement and the management of the Schools.

(Signed) W. REGINALD WILSON,
CHAS. MACRO WILSON,
JOSEPH HATTERSLEY, } *Managers of the
National Schools.*

NAMES OF TRUSTEES ELECTED OR APPOINTED UNDER
THE WILL OF JOHN HODGKINSON.

Year	Name	Occupation	Residence	If Elected by Ballot or how.
1780	Richard Ellis ..		Midhope ..	} Appointed by John Hodgkinson
	Benjamin Travers ..			
	Dr. James Hervey ..		Tooting, Surrey	
	Thomas Bland ..	Incumbent	of Bolsterstone	} Appointed three first Trustees
John Grayson ..		Royd ..		
Richard Ward ..		Whitwell ..		
1818	Joseph Grayson ..		Townend ..	} Elected by Ratepayer
	John Morton ...		Townend ..	
	Thomas Ellison ..		Sunny Bank ...	
1830	William Irving ..	Incumbent	of Bolsterstone	} Ditto
	George Senior ..		Royd ...	
	John Grayson ..		Spink Hall ..	
1856	Amos Ridal ...	Builder	Stocksbridge ..	} Ditto
	Joseph Creswick ..			
	Thomas Bocking ..	Farmer	Watson House	
1867	Samuel Fox ...	Manufact.	Townend ..	} Ditto
	John Charlesworth ..	Farmer	Bolsterstone ..	
	Matthew Brearley ..	Builder	Deepcar ..	
1882	Priam John Hudson	Farmer	Bolsterstone ..	} Nominated by surviving Trustees
	Robert Bocking ..	Farmer	Bate Green ...	
	Joe Marsden ...	Accountant	Royd ...	
1901	Joshua George Jeffery	Secretary	Stocksbridge Works	} Ditto
	Joseph Kenworthy ..	Clerk	Deepcar ..	
	Henry Steel ...	Blacksmith	Bolsterstone ..	

SUMMARY.

- 1—The first endowment was made by Ralph Ellis, of Spink Hall, Bolsterstone, in 1621 about £200 0 0
- 2—The second endowment was made by John Hodgkinson, of London, in 1780 £1366 13 4
- 3—The third endowment was made by John Grayson, of Spink Hall, Bolsterstone, in 1869 £200 0 0
- 4—The administration from the first has never been in the hands of Churchmen or Nonconformists as such.
- 5—John Hodgkinson's Will governs the Charity, and under the administration of this Trust no one has the right to ask or question the religious opinions of either voters, trustees, schoolmaster, scholars, or the recipients of the 20s. distributed annually to the poor.
- 6—The Charity is "parochial," and not "ecclesiastical," and all the children born and resident within the chapelry of Bolsterstone are entitled to participate in its benefits without reference to organised religion in any form whatever.
- 7—The trustees, though appointed on the nomination of the surviving trustees on the last two occasions may still be elected by the rate-payers resident within the old school boundary as stipulated in the Will, but the Charity Commissioners decline to allow any funds of the Trust to be used for the purpose of a poll.