

THE BARTON STACEY UNITED CHARITIES, INCLUDING THE 'CHARITY FIELD'

by Linda Moffatt © 2013

*If you can add to this information, please contact the Barton Stacey Parish Local History Group
history@bartonstacey.com*

Barton Stacey United Charities was formed by a constitution raised in 1946 to help the 'poor' and 'needy' parishioners living in the parish of Barton Stacey; to provide financial assistance for medical aids and surgical assistance and requirements and to help finance individual educational needs and grants to provide financial aid in cases of sickness and special distress¹.

However, the story of the monies it administers in the form of grants goes back 250 years.

It is not easy to appreciate, in our relatively affluent age, that in the late 18th century people felt the need to make gifts for the continuing benefit of the poor. Three such people who lived in the parish of Barton Stacey did this in the 1770s and 1780s. I make no apology for quoting in full from the following report published in 1826 by the charity commissioners, which followed from their visit to the parish in February of the previous year to discover how the said charitable gifts were being administered. The report describes in full the gifts which are still managed by Trustees in the parish to this day. 'Hinxman's gift', described here, is still known as the 'Charity Field'.

Reports of Commissioners Feb 1825, published 1826, Page 373²

HUNDRED OF BARTON STACEY PARISH OF BARTON STACEY

Hinxman's gift

Jacob Hinxman, by will, dated 6 August 1774, devised two acres of free land in Barton Stacey, then occupied by Robert North, to the poor of the parish for ever for bread.

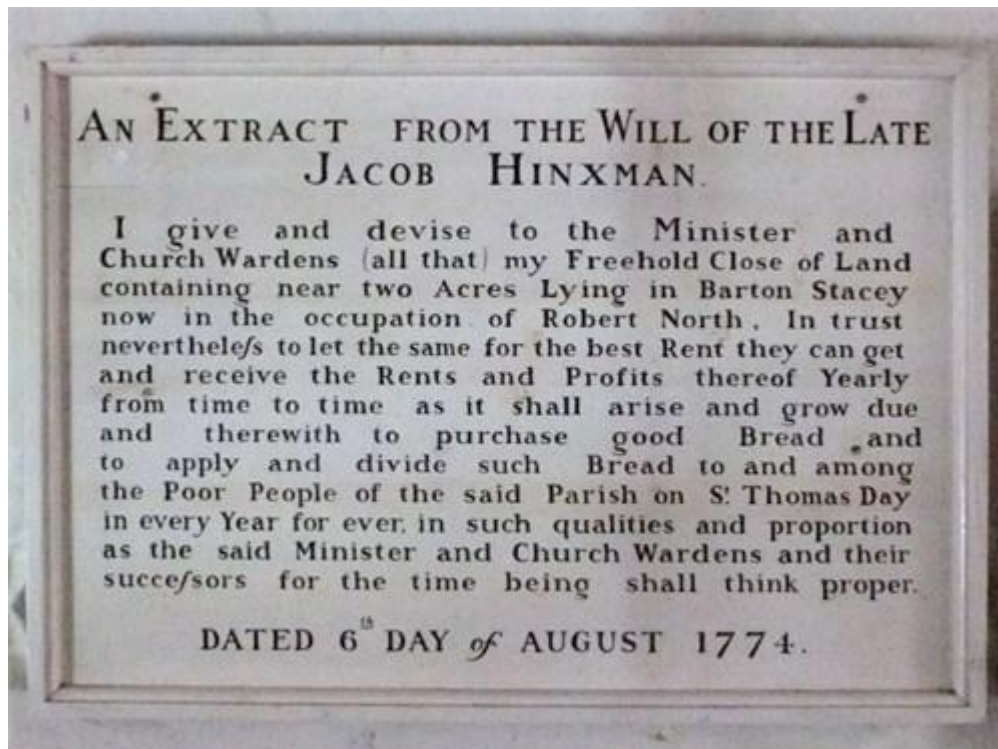
The land derived from this gift is a Croft containing about two acres which has been let from time to time by the churchwardens and overseers. It is now occupied by Hannah North, widow, at the rent of £2. 6s. per annum, which is stated to be a fair rent.

The amount is laid out annually in the purchase of loaves of different sizes, which are distributed amongst all parishioners at the same time as the next mentioned charities.

¹ <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk>.

² Transcribed from Google Books, March 2013.

Note: I have added here the board found in the bell loft of All Saints, Barton Stacey. Jacob Hinxman's full will can be found in the account of the Hinxman family in Barton Stacey elsewhere on this website. LM.



Gifts of Dorothy and Elizabeth Wright³

By deed poll, bearing date 10 August 1784, and enrolled in the court of Common Pleas, reciting that there was standing in joint names of Dorothy Wright and Elizabeth Wright the sum of £700 three per cent reduced annuities, being their property, the dividends of which had been distributed by them for the education of 12 poor children, whose parents were parishioners of and residents in the parish of Barton Stacey, and that they were desirous to perpetuate the charity, and to secure the interest of the said three per cent reduced annuities after the decease of the survivor of them; the said Dorothy Wright and Elizabeth Wright declared that the said £700 three per cent reduced annuities should remain in their names during their joint lives, and the life of the survivor, and that the dividends should be received for their and her own use; and that after the death of the survivor, the said £700 reduced annuities should devolve upon and become vested in the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Barton Stacey for the time being, and that the executors and administrators of the survivor should transfer the same into the names of the then churchwardens and overseers, and on trust that the churchwardens and overseers for the time being should receive the dividends, and apply so much thereof as a majority of them should think proper, for the education of 12, and

³ For an account of the Wright and Courtney families of Barton Stacey, see elsewhere on this website.

not more, of such poor children, males and females, and in such manner as a majority of them should think most proper objects, and whose parents should at that time be parishioners of and residents in the said parish, and no others; and that the residue of the dividends should be distributed by the churchwardens and overseers for the time being, among such of the poor of the said parish, in such portions, manner and form as they should think proper. And it was also declared that the said children should be educated by a woman, to be appointed by the churchwardens and overseers, or a majority of them, as often as should be necessary.

By deed poll, bearing date 8 September 1791, enrolled in the court of Common Pleas, reciting the above-mentioned deed of 10 August 1784, and further reciting that Elizabeth Wright, therein named, having survived her sister Dorothy Wright⁴, was desirous to add to and to perpetuate another and a farther charitable donation for the benefit of the parish of Barton Stacey, and of the poor inhabitants of the said parish, and that she had therefore on the day of the date thereof transferred the sum of £700 three per cent consols into the joint names of herself and Robert Gosling, of Fleet Street, London, Esq; it was declared by the said Elizabeth Wright and Robert Gosling, that the said Elizabeth Wright should receive the dividends during her life for her own use, and then upon her decease the said stock should immediately devolve to and become vested in the vicar, churchwardens and overseers of Barton Stacey for the time being; and that it should be, by the said Robert Gosling (if living), or by the executors or administrators of the said Elizabeth Wright, transferred into the names or description of the " vicar, churchwardens and overseers for the time being of the parish of Barton Stacey, in the County of Southampton," upon trust that the said vicar, churchwardens and overseers for the time being should pay, distribute and divide the yearly dividends, every St Thomas's day, amongst such and so many of the parishioners of the said parish as should be inhabitants of and not burdensome or chargeable to the said parish, in such proportions as they, or the major part of them, should deem proper objects to partake of the said charity.

The £700 three per cent reduced annuities, arising from the joint gift of Dorothy and Elizabeth Wright, and the same amount of three per cent consols arising from the sole gift of Elizabeth Wright, were, after the death of the last-mentioned lady, transferred into the names of the Rev Nicholas Westcombe, then vicar of Barton Stacey, and three other persons of that parish, of whom William Courtney, sen. is the survivor. At the time of our enquiry (February 1825) a power of attorney was in preparation for the transfer of the above-mentioned stock into the names of two new trustees jointly with Mr Courtney.

Of the dividends arising from the first mentioned gift, amounting to £21 per annum, the annual sum of five Guineas was, till 1821 paid to a school mistress for instructing 12 poor children; but in that year the churchwardens and overseers (Mr Courtney being one of the latter) appointed a woman, who was the school mistress of a national school established in the parish, to teach 12 children under this gift, and agreed to pay 10 Guineas to the Rev James Jolliffe, curate of the parish, as treasurer for the national school, to be paid to the said school mistress for the education of the said 12 children, who were to be educated in the same manner as the rest of the children in the school. 12 children of poor persons, being parishioners and residents in the parish, six boys and six girls, have since been nominated by the churchwardens and overseers, and are educated under this charity at the national school.

⁴ Dorothy Wright was buried at All Saints, Barton Stacey on 24 August 1791, her sister Elizabeth on 23 August 1794.

The residue of the dividends arising from the gift of Dorothy and Elizabeth Wright, and the whole of the dividends arising from that of Elizabeth Wright, are distributed annually in money, usually in the month of February, partly to the poor of the parish not receiving constant parochial relief, and partly to those receiving relief, in proportion to the number in their respective families.

The sums thus applied were: --

		To persons not receiving relief			To persons receiving relief		
		£	s	d	£	s	d
In	1821	20	10	8	12	12	9
	1822	20	17	--	10	11	5 ½
	1823	20	18	8	9	13	--
	1824	21	11	8	10	14	10

A small balance, which has remained in each year in Mr Courtney's hands, being usually rather more than £1 after payment of commission to Messrs. Wakefield and Co. of the Andover Old Bank for receiving the dividends, the salary of the schoolmistress, and the sums distributed to the poor, has been carried by him to the account of the following year.

Notice is given of the intended distribution, and on the day appointed Mr Courtney, and the churchwardens and overseers, and other principal inhabitants of the parish, (the vicar not being resident) meet together and make the distribution amongst the poor according to lists previously prepared. The lists with the sums given to each person are entered annually in a book in which the accounts are kept, and the distribution of each year is signed by the churchwardens and overseers present.

The will of Martha Sharrow 1905

An additional charitable bequest was made in 1905 in the will of Martha Sharrow. Mrs Sharrow lived at Ebor Cottage in Barton Stacey village (now called The Malthouse). She was born Martha Birt in the Islington area of London in about 1821, daughter of John Birt, a clerk of Coles Terrace, and his wife Martha. She married John Sharrow in 1853, a draper from Sherriff Hutton in Yorkshire. He retired in the 1870s and they moved from Southgate Road, Hackney to Ebor Cottage, Barton Stacey⁵. Mr Sharrow died in 1888 aged 61, his wife on 1 June 1905. Probate was granted on 29 July of that year at London to her brother Sir William Birt of Nortcotts, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, who had worked his way up from railway clerk at the age of 14 to become General Manager and, on his retirement, Director of the Great Eastern Railway Company. He was knighted in 1897⁶.

⁵ 1841 census, piece 665 folio 7/9 page 13; 1851 census, piece 1499 folio 439; piece 1871 census, piece 317 folio 97; 1881 census, piece 1260 folio 23.

⁶ Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institute of Civil Engineers, Volume 185, Issue 1911, p.389.

The formation of the Barton Stacey United Charities in 1947.

In 1946 the Trustees of the Barton Stacey charities applied to the Charity Commission for a change of status of the four charities for which they were responsible, viz.

1. The charity of Dorothy and Elizabeth Wright, founded by deed poll dated 10 August 1784;
2. The charity of Elizabeth Wright, founded by deed poll dated 8 September 1791;
3. The charity of Jacob Hinxman, founded by Will dated 6 August 1774; and
4. The charity of Martha Sharrow, founded by Will proved in the Principal Registry on 29 July 1905;

all in the Parish of Barton Stacey, in the County of Southampton; and in the matter of the Charitable Trust Acts, 1853 to 1939.

This was signed by the following:

- The Rev Gerald Claude Randolph D'arcy, Vicar of Barton Stacey, and
- Edward Tom Le Lacheur, of Wade's House, Barton Stacey, retired merchant, the Trustees of the Charities numbered one 1, 2 and 3 above, the said Gerald Claude Randolph D'arcy being also a Trustee of the Charity numbered 4 above; and by
- Dorothy Constance Le Lacheur and
- Christiana Thatcher, the Churchwardens of Barton Stacey, the remaining Trustees of the Charity numbered 4 above.

The new Scheme separated off the endowment of the charity of Dorothy and Elizabeth Wright, which became called the Dorothy and Elizabeth Wright's Educational Foundation. Its Trustees were to apply the clear yearly income in advancing the education of poor children residing in the parish of Barton Stacey in such manner as the Minister of Education may approve.

The endowments of the charities of Elizabeth Wright, Jacob Hinxman and Martha Sharrow were to be administered by the body of the Trustees to be called **the United Charities**. The body of Trustees consisted of the Vicar of Barton Stacey (ex-officio), two Representative Trustees appointed by the Parish Council and two Co-optative Trustees residing or carrying on business in or near Barton Stacey (Mrs Dorothy Constance Le Lacheur of Wade's House, Barton Stacey, became one of the first co-optative Trustees).

The clear yearly income of the United Charities other than the charity of Martha Sharrow was to be applied to 'the general benefit of the poor'. The income of the charity of Martha Sharrow (£115 2s. 1d., 2½% consolidated stock) was to be applied to 'some deserving old man or woman' resident in the parish of Barton Stacey.

The Charity Field

The body of trustees were enabled to let the land of Jacob Hinxman, which in 1947 was occupied by Arthur and Christiana Thatcher as yearly tenants at the rent of £3. The Charity Field was later let to Mrs Talbot of Church Farm House, from 1969 until its sale in 1995.

As a result of the 1993 Charities Act it became possible for Charity Trustees to dispose of charity land without the need for a Commissioners Order even if there were no express power of sale conferred upon Trustees in the charity's governing instrument. Under Barton Stacey United Charities governing instrument the Charity Field represents permanent endowment which means that the sum total of the proceeds of the sale of the land has to be reinvested so that it continues to represent permanent endowment and the clear income realised by that investment may only be expended in the furtherance of the existing objects of the trust.⁷

The following notice was published on page 34 of the Andover advertiser on 25th August 1995 and displayed on the gate of the charity field, in the window of the village shop and on the noticeboard of the village hall⁸.

Barton Stacey United Charities.

Sale of land known as the 'Charity Field'.

Notice is hereby given by the Trustees of the above charities that they intend to dispose by way of sale of the freehold parcel of land known as the 'Charity Field'.

Bids for the purchase of the land will be sought in due course.

Any persons wishing to express their views on the proposed sale are invited to make their representations, in writing to

The Secretary, the Barton Stacey United Charities, Yellow Lodge, Barton Stacey,
to reach him by Saturday 30th of September 1995.

No representations were received. The land was sold by Pearson's and described as

A paddock (OS number 1921) which amounts to about 1.67 acres, lies on the edge of the village of Barton Stacey, as shown edged pink on the 1:2500 plan overleaf. The land is within one enclosure and is at present down to grass. It is bordered by a stock proof fence and mixed hedgerow with a field gate giving access off the adjoining lane to the South. A metered water supply is connected to a trough within the field.

Offers for the freehold were invited in excess of £7500 and it was purchased by Mr Mason.

⁷ Letter from the Charity Commission to the Rector of Longparish, August 1995.

⁸ Handwritten note by Major John Evans, the then Secretary of the Barton Stacey United Charities, appended to the sale notice.