

PARISH OF POTTON.

THE TOWN LANDS.

Potton.
The Town Lands.

By indenture of feoffment, dated the 21st March 1606, a piece of land in Potton-field, called The Eight Acre Piece, was conveyed, in consideration of 40*l.* the amount of three several benefactions for the poor of Potton, to certain trustees and their heirs, upon trust, to permit the overseers of the poor for the time being to receive the rents and profits thereof, and dispose of the same for the relief and benefit of the poor inhabitants of Potton, in such manner and proportions, and to such persons, as the churchwardens and overseers of the poor for the time being should think fit. This land was conveyed to new trustees in 1787, of whom there are six now living.

By indentures of lease and release, the release dated the 30th July 1699, *Jacob Harvey* conveyed to 13 trustees and their heirs, certain freehold lands in Potton, being respectively 24 acres by estimation, 7½ acres by estimation, and two acres of meadow; and the said *Jacob Harvey* thereby covenanted to surrender to one of the said trustees, 5 acres and 2½ acres of customary land, held of the manors of Potton Much, manured, and Potton Regis.

These lands are declared by the deed of release, to be purchased with 230*l.* of which 85*l.* was the amount of six different benefactions, for the use of poor people of Potton; 100*l.* was a sum bequeathed by *John Suitch*, by will dated the 12th June 1687, on trust, to be laid out in land, the rents and profits thereof to be employed in putting out apprentices, poor children born in the parish of Potton; 20*l.* was, on accumulation of interest on *Suitch's* legacy, and 15*l.* was money borrowed to complete the purchase; and the trusts, declared by the indenture of release, are, after payment of the 15*l.* borrowed as aforesaid, that the trustees should, out of the rents of the said land, receive such proportion to answer the purposes of *John Suitch's* will, as the sum of 120*l.* bore to the whole purchase money, and pay to or permit the overseers of the poor of the parish of Potton, to receive the residue of the rents, to be by them bestowed and laid out for the succour, benefit, and relief of the poor of Potton.

The freehold premises, comprised in the last-mentioned deeds, were also conveyed in 1787 to new trustees, of whom four are now living. The copyhold lands have not been surrendered since 1700.

A general inclosure of lands in Potton, under an act of parliament, took place about six years ago, when an allotment of 42 acres was set out in lieu of all the lands mentioned above, except 2½ acres in a common, called Potton Heath. The town lands, therefore, now consist of the 42 acres, and 2½ acres on Potton Heath; but the latter lie waste and unoccupied, the land being of such a quality as not to answer the expense of inclosing it. The poor in general have the benefit of fuel from the waste land.

A conveyance of the whole estate to new trustees is in the course of being prepared.

The 42 acres of land are let to *Thomas Hall*, on lease, for nine years, from Lady-day 1815, at the yearly rent of 42*l.* The lands were let by auction to the highest bidder.

The sum of 19*l.* is set apart out of the present rent, for apprenticing children, pursuant to the direction of *Suitch's* will. The sum of 15*l.* is given as a premium with each child; and that sum being generally found insufficient, the difference is made good by the children's parents. There is a balance in hand to be applied, amounting to 24*l.* or thereabouts; and at the time of this enquiry, a child was about to be apprenticed.

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The remainder of the rents are distributed on Easter Tuesday, among poor persons of the parish, selected by the vicar, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor, at a vestry meeting.

A regular account is kept by the vicar, of the receipt and application of the rents of the poor's land, and the several other funds for charitable purposes in the parish.

POTTER'S CHARITY.

William Potter, by will dated 22d September 1558, devised a house in Horse-low-street, with the appurtenances, to *Thomas Langhorne* and his heirs, to let the same at the highest rent, and after reparation of the house, to pay the residue of the rents to the vicar, churchwardens and constables of Potton; and the testator desired, that the vicar, churchwardens and constables, should have yearly, every of them, 12*d.* and that the residue of the rents should be yearly by them divided among poor people of Potton.

*The premises devised by the will, were conveyed in 1782, by feoffment, to new trustees, of whom *George Hitchin* is the sole survivor.

The property now consists of the following particulars:—

PREMISES.	TO WHOM LET.	RENT per ANNUM.
		£. s. d.
House and yard	Overseers of the Poor	6 — —
Plot of land, adjoining the house, 1 acre	Widow <i>Joluson</i>	3 — —
Close of 5½ acres, being an allotment made on inclosure of Windmill Field and Potton Field	<i>Joseph Edwards</i>	4 10 —
		£. 13 10 —

The premises are held from year to year, and are let at the full annual value. After a deduction of charges for repairs, 16*s.* a year for insurance, 1*s.* for the vicar, 2*s.* to the two churchwardens, 2*s.* to the two constables, and 1*s.* 8*d.* to the feoffee in trust, the residue of the rents is given away in money, among the poor, on Easter Tuesday, together with the residue of the rent of the town lands then distributed.

CHARITIES OF ROBERT SMITH, HENRY WARD AND WILLIAM HANKIN.

Robert Smith, by will dated 18 July 1738, gave to the vicar and churchwardens of Potton, and their successors, 100*l.* to be placed out at interest, the produce thereof to be distributed yearly at Christmas, for the relief of the poor of the parish, not receiving alms, whom they should think proper objects.

Henry Ward, by will dated 24 January 1739, gave 60*l.* to the churchwardens of Potton, to be put out at interest; 20*s.* a year to be paid to the minister of the parish, to preach a yearly sermon, on the Sunday next after the 24th of January, and the rest of the interest towards teaching poor children to read.

The sum of 55*l.* only was received under this bequest.

William Hankin, by will dated 4 April 1782, gave to the minister and churchwardens of Potton, 30*l.* to be put out at interest, the interest thereof to be applied towards teaching poor children to read only; and he gave 20*l.* to the parish, for the uses mentioned in *Mr. Alexander Atkinson's* will, by which, as hereafter mentioned, the interest of 30*l.* was given for preaching a yearly sermon, and the interest of 20*l.* for teaching poor children to read.

The sum of 205*l.* arising under the three legacies, is placed out at interest of five per cent, and secured by the bond of *Richard Kefford*, of *Elstoe*, in *Bedfordshire*, and a surety payable to the vicar and churchwardens of Potton.

The interest, 10*l.* 5*s.* per annum, is thus applied:—5*l.* are given away among poor people of the parish, with the other funds distributed on Easter Tuesday; 4*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* is paid to the vicar, for preaching sermons; and the sum of 3*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* is applied with the produce of other benefactions mentioned hereafter, in sending poor children to school.

ALEXANDER ATKINSON'S CHARITY.

We have not met with any copy of *A. Atkinson's* will, but it appears by a minute in the doption book of the parish, that he died November the 8th, 1712.

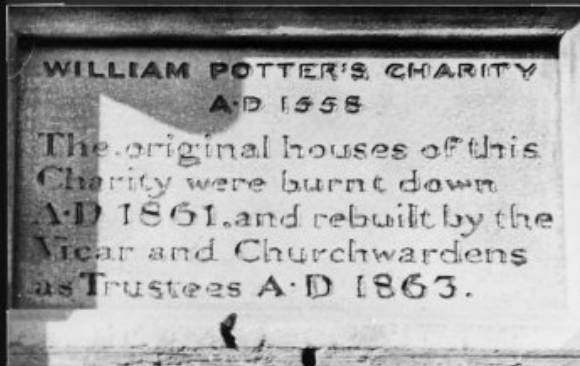
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POTTON CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES



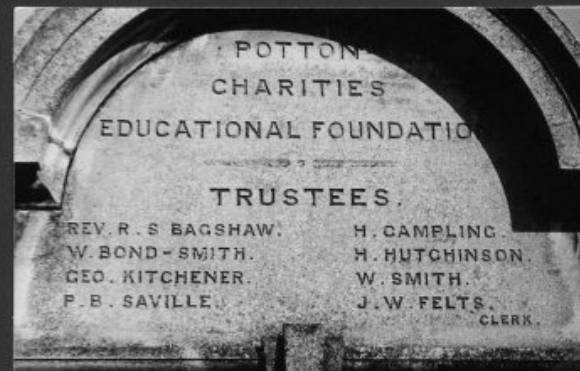
Commemorative Stone

Construction of the
Technical School, 1930



Potter's Cottages, Horslow Street

Mrs Pettifer with Barbara,
Dorothy and Raymond.



POTTON CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES



Charities' clock for school

Mr James Jennings, vice-chairman of Potton Charities trustees, pointing to the wall clock presented by the Charities to Potton Lower School Everton Road, to mark the retirement of Mr F. I. Pierce, headmaster (right) after 25 years. Mr Pierce has been a charity trustee for some years.

Biggleswade Chronicle June 30th 1978

Cost of 'Rocket'
£721.35



Presentation of 'The Rocket' to the Town to celebrate the Royal Wedding. Trustees, Town Councillors and Clerks:- F.Simms, B.Smith, F.Jakes, D.Sale, E.Mayston, J.Norman, S.Howard, J.Hutchinson, K.Tear, J.Jennings, I.Russell. September 1981

Cost of clock -
£50.00



Presentation of the Minibus to Burgoyne School, May 1983. (Left). £1,000 had been donated to the special fund by the Charity Trustees.