

Communications.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH RECORDS OF UPTON.

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These consist of three main divisions, viz.:—(a) records of donations ; (b) ordinary parish business, such as the election of officers, assessment for “lays,” &c. ; and (c) memoranda relating to the administration of the Poor Law. They by no means exhaust all the matters of interest contained in the records, especially under the third heading ; but they are all that the time at my disposal would enable me to make on the occasion of my visit. It is possible that an opportunity may occur at some future time of continuing these extracts, in which case I shall gladly avail myself of it. The entries in the accounts of the Overseers of the Poor are of especial interest, not only from the light they throw upon manners and customs, prices, &c., but from the fatherly care for the individual poor which they evince on the part of the overseers—contrasting very markedly with the present wholesale and unsympathetic system.

(a) RECORDS OF DONATIONS.

1. INSCRIPTION ON THE SILVER CHALICE.—“ Carolus Bold filius Petri Bold de Upton Armigeri dedit hunc calicem ecclesie “ ibidem eodemq tempore dedit illis Bibliam 1618.”

Charles Bold was the second son of Peter Bold of Upton, by his wife Margery, daughter of Arthur Glegge of Gayton, and at the time of the death of his father in 1605 was married, and had issue Edward and Mary (*Ches. and Lanc. Fun. Cert.* p. 21). The Bolds of Upton (now extinct)—of whom a pedigree is given in Ormerod (II. p. 484)—were a younger branch of the family of Bold of Bold, co. Lanc.

2. “ 4th May, 1734. This is to testifie that Mrs. Scarsbrick of “ Liverpool gave five pounds the Intrest therof to be distributed “ by her brother Robert Bennett and his heirs and assigns for “ ever to the poor of Upton on Good Friday or as they shall “ think fit; And likewise that Robert Bennett aforesaid late of “ Upton deceased gave the further sum of five pounds the intrest “ thereof to be distributed as aforesaid. Which said sum of Tenn “ pounds was desired by the said Brother and Sister to be and “ remain a stock for the use of the poor of Upton for ever: “ Which said sum of Ten pounds was lent to John Denson and “ Thomas Denson to be paid by them or their heirs and assigns “ with Lawfull Intrest As appears by a Bill under handwriting, “ dated 30th December, 1723. As witness my hand, Richd “ Smith, Minister of Overchurch.”

I have not been able hitherto certainly to identify either Robert Bennett or his sister. They were not children of the Peter Bennett of Upton, who died in 1686, but, I am inclined to think, of his elder brother Thomas. Robert Bennett must have died before 30th December, 1723, but there is no record of his will at Chester. He had at least one child, Lidia, christened at Woodchurch in May, 1699, where also his wife Mary was buried on the 11th August, 1701. Two persons of the name of Scarisbrick occupied prominent positions in Liverpool at this time. One, James, who died about 1724, on the 12th August in which year the Liverpool records mention an order “ that 12 yards of ground “ be granted and sett out att the east end of the Almshouses “ att Dale Street end for the Exec^rs of Mr. James Scarisbrick “ to build more Almshouses upon pursuant to his last will”; the other, Mr. John Scarisbrick, Bailiff in 1719, and Mayor in 1723-4, at the time when Mr. James Scarisbrick died. One or other of these was probably the husband of the lady mentioned in this memorandum.

(b) ORDINARY PARISH BUSINESS.

3. ASSESSMENT OF A LAY AND HALF FOR 1732.

Occupiers of the Hall	...	...	...	15/
2 Arthur Bennet	...	...	...	5/
3 Peter Widdens	...	...	...	5/
Do. for Laws House	...	...	...	1/9 3/4
— Lynaker's	...	...	...	4/9
— Smith's	...	...	...	9 3/4
— Wilcock's	...	...	...	2/4 1/2
Thos. Wilson	...	...	...	2/1 1/2
Peter Gill	...	...	...	1/9
16 Thos. Whiteside	...	...	...	5/7 1/2
17 Arthur Lowe	...	...	...	3/0 1/2
18 Thos. Young	...	...	...	3/4 1/2
19 Mrs. Martin	...	...	...	4/9
Thos. Bennet	...	...	...	5/3
				<u>£3 o 8</u>

The numbers prefixed to some of these names refer to the positions which those names respectively occupy in 1752 in the list contained in memorandum 5, in the notes to which memorandum is given any information obtained concerning the persons in question.

Peter Gill must have been an old man at this time, as he was one of the three persons who made the inventory of Peter Bennett of Upton in 1686; accordingly his name does not appear in the list of 1752, being apparently represented by that of George Gill.

Thomas Bennett was probably a brother of the Robert Bennett mentioned in the previous extract, and an uncle of Arthur Bennett, included in this and the later lists. He had two daughters (1) Mary, who died young, and was buried at Woodchurch, on the 17th July, 1694; and (2) Elizabeth, christened there in September, 1700.

4. "[We wh]ose names are underwritten bei[ng leg]ally met at a Towns meeting do appoi[nt T]homas Whiteside to be Clerk for the Township of Upton and make all lesses [an]d keep all the Officers' Accts and do allow him the sum of Five shillings p "An [num] as Witness our hands this 2^d day of October, 1752.

" Peter Widdens
" Arth ^r Bennett
" Thos. Kirks
12 " Robert Ellison
" John Yong
26 " Daniel Dalamore
" John (J.) Parkinson
" his mark."

The handwriting of the first three signatures indicates that the writers were persons of education; while that of the remaining four is of a very illiterate character. The names of Thomas Kirks and John Parkinson do not occur in any of the lists—those persons were probably therefore only tenants.

5. UPTON ASSESSM^{NT} FOR THE LAND TAX, AT 3/- P POUND.

Apparently for year 1752, being preceded by foregoing, and succeeded, first by a highway lay, with the same names, and then by Overseers' accounts for 1752.

1.	Foster Cunliffe, Esq....	...	£9	11	3 3/4
2.	Arthur Bennett, Esq....	...	3	13	3
3.	Peter Widdens	...	3	10	3
4.	Woodchurch Poor	...	0	3	0
5.	Shop	...	0	3	0
6.	<i>Thomas Leicester</i>	...	1	8	1
7.	Richard Sherlock	...	0	6	0 3/4
8.	Jn ^o Miller	...	0	9	7
9.	Dan ^{ll} Peacock	...	0	9	7
10.	Rev. Mr. Crookail	...	0	3	3 1/2
11.	W ^m Leen	...	0	3	7
12.	Robt. Ellison	...	1	12	9
13.	Robt. Harrison	...	0	1	10 1/2
14.	Geo. Gill	...	0	10	8
15.	Overchurch Land	...	0	5	4
16.	Thomas Whiteside	...	1	18	6
17.	Arthur Lowe	...	1	5	9
18.	Thomas Young	...	0	9	7 1/2
19.	M ^{rs} Martin	...	2	11	10 1/2
20.	<i>Sr Rouland Stanley</i>	...	9	6	9
21.	Sam ^{ll} Huntington	...	0	15	0
22.	John Wade	...	0	13	3
23.	Bridge House...	...	0	2	4 1/2
24.	Mrs. Robinson	...	0	8	4 1/2
25.	Revd Geo. Hodgson	...	0	8	4
26.	Dan ^{ll} Dallamore	...	0	4	9
27.	Robt. Corf	...	0	4	0
28.	Thos. Fleet	...	0	1	6
29.	Mr. Murray	...	0	2	4 1/2
30.	John Godwin	...	0	3	6
				£41	12 6 1/2

There would appear to have been some error in transcription (probably the omission of one name with the amount 4/11 1/2), as the amounts set out above do not cast to the total given, but to £41 7/7.

The names printed in italics are those of persons who appear as "suitors" of the "Hundred Court of Worrall" in 1744, in the document which formed the subject of Canon Hume's *Notes* (Hist. Soc. XXVII. pp. 183-9).

The numbers prefixed to the several names do not occur in the original, but are inserted here for convenience of reference.

1. *Foster Cunliffe* was three times Mayor of Liverpool—in 1716, 1729, and 1735. He derived from the ancient family of the name whose pedigree is given in Gregson's *Fragnments*, pp. 176-8, being eldest son of Ellis Cunliffe, B.D., by his wife Jannet, elder daughter and co-heiress of — Foster, of Airton, co. York. He died on the 11th April 1758, in his 73rd year, and was succeeded, first by his eldest son, Sir Ellis Cunliffe (who represented Liverpool in Parliament from 1755 to 1767); and on the death of the latter on the 11th October, 1767, by his second son, Sir Robert Cunliffe, the ancestor of the present baronet of the same name at Acton, co. Denbigh. A monument to Foster Cunliffe still exists in S. Peter's Pro-Cathedral, Liverpool.

2. *Arthur Bennett* was probably the grandson of Peter Bennett of Upton before mentioned, and was the last of the family of that name and place which derived from James, third son of John Bennett, of Salghall Massey, *temp.* Elizabeth.

14. Probably son of Peter Gill mentioned in memorandum 3.

16. The subject of memorandum 4.

20. Of Hooton.

6. In the assessment (at 2/ in the £) for 1754, No. 6 is spelt "Lister"; No. 8 is not mentioned; "Woodchurch Poor land" takes the place of No. 10.; Thos. Whiteside (16) seems to have parted with some of his land, for his name appears for only 12/10; his other share was acquired by

Arthur Bennett, Esq. (2)	...	...	...	4/10
31. Wm. Key	...	...	...	5/7 ¹ / ₂
Mrs. Martin (19)	...	...	...	2/4 ¹ / ₂

Arthur Lowe (No. 17) had apparently bought Jn^o Miller's land, his assessment being increased proportionately, and standing at £1 3/7¹/₂. The name of *John Young* (18a) appears in place of 18, *Henry Fleet* in place of 28, and the Rev. Mr. Crookall in place of No. 29.

31. William Kay, yeoman, married at Overchurch, on the 28th February, 1778, to Lidia Peacock, by Roger Jacson, Curate (afterwards Rector of Bebington).

7. In the assessment (at 4/- in the £) for 1771, Sir Robert takes place of No. 1. *Thomas* had succeeded Peter Widdens (3), and apparently bought up Woodchurch Poor Land. Joseph had succeeded to Thos. Lister (6). Wm. Key had increased to £1 13/. Overchurch Land had apparently acquired three-fifths of Samuel Huntington's land (21). John Young (18A) had been succeeded by Thomas Young (4/10), Ellen Rathborn (4/), and Robert Ellison (4/). Thos. Perry had succeeded Mrs. Martin (19). Sir Wm. had succeeded Sir Rowland Stanley (20). Alice Parkinson (4/4), and Thos. Houghton (3 8½) had apparently succeeded to the remaining two-fifths of S. Huntington's land (21). Wade (22) was dead, and his "tenement" paid instead. Mr. Atkinson had succeeded Mrs. Robinson (24), the Bidston Church lands replaced Rev. G. Hodgson (25), and Dr. Wilson had succeeded Mr. Murray (29). Robert Harrison (13) and Bridge House (23) had disappeared, and their lands probably formed part of those acquired by Wm. Key.

8. In the assessment for 1772 (the last in the book), Thomas Broster is in possession of Arthur Bennett's original property, and the latter has only that acquired from Thomas Whiteside; and Arthur Lowe (17) appears with £1 7/4.

(c) ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR LAW.

9. "[C]ou[n]ty of Chester. Wee whose names are [here] unto
"Subscribed Overseers [of] the Poor of Township of Arrow In
"the said County of Chester d[o] hereby own and acknowledge
"Wm. Much and Martha his wife To be Inhabitants legally
"setled within the said Township of Arrow As Witness our
"hands and seals this Eighth day of July, 1740.

"Signed and Sealed}
"in presence of us, }
"John Jones
"Joshua Wood

"Sam^{el} Dutton
"Thos. X Leicester
"his mark."

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed Two of his
"Majesty's [Justices] of the Peace and Quorum for the said County
"of Chester do allow of the Certificate above written and we do
"also Certifie that John Jones one of the Witnesses who attested
"the Execution of the above written Certificate hath made Oath

" before us that he saw Sam^t Dutton and Thos. Leicester the
 " Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Arrow severally sign
 " and seal the above written Certificate, and further made Oath
 " that his name John Jones and the name Joshua Wood sub-
 " scribed as witnesses to the signing and sealing of the said
 " Certificate were severally of his own and their own proper hand
 " writing As Witness our hands this Eighth day of July Anno
 " Dni. 1740.

" Wm. Glegg
 " Jas. Mainwaring."

Both the subject and the signatories of this acknowledgment appear on the list of "suitors" before mentioned.

10. A similar certificate by Joseph Pemberton and Lemuel Gladwin, Overseers of Great Neston, respecting Henry Smith and Mary his wife, with the same witnesses and subscribing Justices, but dated 1st March, 1737.

11. " Bold, Nov. 30th, 1730.

" We whose names are hereunto subscribed Chapp[el]
 " Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of Bold do hereby own
 " and acknowledge John Travers his wife and children to be all
 " Inhabitants legally settled in our said Township of Bold and
 " we do hereby promise and oblige our Selves and our Successors
 " in the Aforesaid Offices to Bear harmless and Indemnifie Your
 " said Township in the County of West Cheshire from the said
 " John Travers his wife and children whensoever they shall
 " become charg[e]able or Burdensome to Your said Township in
 " the County of West Cheshire and be Ready and willing to
 " Receive them at any time when they shall become troublesome
 " to Your [sic] or your township As witness our hands the Day
 " and ye[ar] above written.

" Edward Lenten his " John X Ellison mark	" John Woods Chappel Warde[n] " Peter Travers } Overseers. " Richd. Travers
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" We whose names are herewith subscribed Two of his Majesty's
 " Justices of the Peace of and for the s^d County Do allow the
 " above Certificate John Ellison one of the witnesses having first
 " made due Proof of the Execution thereof and that the mark
 " of John Ellison is the deponent's handwriting this Eighth of
 " feb^r 1730.

" Thos. Cave
 " Foster Cunliffe."

12. "Memorandum it is agreed to this 10th of December 1765
"that Hannah Hughes from the 19th of this Instant shall have
"four Pounds p An̄ Allowed her towards the Bringing up of
"her Two children which said Sallary was allowed by Publick
"Meeting. "Thos. Whiteside Clerk."

13. " 1767 Mar. 17th. It is agreed this day with Richard
" Houghland of Greasby that he is to have Three Pounds Ten
" shillings a Year for the Maintenance and Cloathing of the Child
" belonging to Ellen Rimmer deceased which is allowed by publick
" meeting. " T. Whiteside, Clerk."

14. "Memorandum. Mary Troughton Spinster was Brought
"to Bed of a Bastard Child the 16th of February of which child
"W^m Millington is the Reputed father."

15. "1774, March 29th. I, Mary Troughton, do hereby promise
"to pay Towards the Nursing and bringing up of my child for
"the space of ['twelve months' erased, and 'fourteen years'
"substituted], to the Township of Upton the sum of Twenty one
"shillings and also find and provide the said child with suitable
"Cloathing and apparel.

"As witness my hand

"Witness
"Thos. Whiteside.

her
“ Mary + Troughton.”
mark.

April 14th, 1774.

16. "It is this day agreed by the Overseers of the Poor of the
"Township of Upton by and with the consent of the Inhabitants
"of the said Township with Thomas Clark of the Township of
"Irby for the Nursing and Table wages of Mary Troughton's
"Bastard Child for the Term of Three years provided the said
"child shall so long live for the sum Three Pounds fifteen
"shillings a Year which said sum is to be paid by the Overseers
"in four Quarterly Payments during the said Term and the said
"Thomas Clark dothe hereby promise and agree the [sic] he the
"said Clark will provide the said child with good and sufficient
"meat drink washing and Lodging during the said Term In
"Witness whereof the said Clark and the Overseers have hereunto
"subscribed the [sic] names the Year above written.

the mark of
"Thos. + Clark
"Thomas Broster."