

**ASHBOURNE OLD TRUST :**

**A SUMMARY CATALOGUE**

**OF THE**

**HISTORICAL ARCHIVES**

## INTRODUCTION

- Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Ashbourne, was founded by a charter of Queen Elizabeth I in 1585 which appointed three Governors and twelve Assistants to manage it.
- From the early 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards the Governors & Assistants were also given responsibility for various almshouse and other charities. After 1879 the administration of the school was reorganised under its own governors, leaving the original Governors & Assistants to administer the charities as Foundation Governors, known as the 'Old Trust'.
- The archives of the Old Trust comprise the minute books of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School from 1603 onwards (also including the building accounts of the Old School from 1583) as well as numerous bundles of deeds, accounts, rentals, correspondence and other papers totalling over 500 documents. The earliest relate to the school and its endowments but the majority to the almshouses and other charities.
- Apart from the highly important records of the School's foundation, other items of particular interest include the building accounts of both Spalden's Almshouses in 1723-26 and of the Clergy Widows Almshouses in 1768-70; the latter are especially detailed and name all the tradesmen and their work. The archives also shed light on wider aspects of Ashbourne's history, for example the boundaries of the town's three mediaeval open fields which were farmed on the strip system until the 1600s.
- The Old Trust archives stand alongside the Ashbourne Parish Church records as the two most important collections of documents of the town's history and they are also of national importance for the history of early grammar schools and almshouses.

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## A CATALOGUE OF THE ASHBOURNE OLD TRUST ARCHIVES

### 1. Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (QEGS)

*QEGS was founded by charter of Queen Elizabeth I in 1585 following a petition in c. 1583 by a group of men with Ashbourne connections, ie. members of the local gentry, headed by Sir Thomas Cockayne, lord of the manor; wealthy London merchants and professional men who originated from Ashbourne; and local tradesmen in the town. Many of these men endowed the school with both monetary gifts and property which would produce rental income.*

*The charter ordained that the school was to be administered by three Governors & twelve Assistants. From the early 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards this body was also given responsibility for various almshouse and other charities. After 1879 the management of the school was reorganised under its own governors, leaving the original Governors & Assistants to administer the charities under the name of Foundation Governors, commonly known as 'The Old Trust'.*

#### *The Charter*

Memorandum from Thomas Carter of the Middle Temple to the Lord Treasurer [c.1583] soliciting his support for a petition to the Queen for the foundation of a grammar school in Ashbourne.

Copy of 49  
Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Charter of 15<sup>th</sup> July 1585, ordaining that 'from henceforth there shall be one Grammar School in Ashburne ... for the Education Institution and Instruction of the Boys and Youth in Grammar and other Good Learning to Continue for Ever'. The first Governors were Thomas Cockayne jr, John Alsopp, esq., of Alsop-en-le-Dale, and the Rev Robert Hurt, vicar of Ashbourne. The first Assistants were Thomas Alsopp of Alsop, Robert Whithall, Roger Hurt, John Clowes sr, George Jackson, Nicholas Hurt, Jervas Prince, Andrew Milward, James Milward, Robert Hollis, Richard Burch, and Richard Radcliffe, all parishioners of Ashbourne. 1585

*original*  
[The charter is deposited in the Derbyshire Record Office].

#### *Property gifts & endowments*

*Christopher Hurt: the School site in Church Street.*

Deeds of exchange between Sir Thomas Cockayne and Thomas Hurt of Ashbourne, gent, of specified property in Church Street, St John's Street, 'Asshley' & Clifton, mentioning Northcliffe, 'Scholebrucke', 'Magellstone Crosse', 'Earles Medow', the former chantry house of St Mary & the field called 'Naughtmare'; deed & counterpart.(2) 1564

Lease for 61 years by Christopher Hurt of Offcote next Ashbourne, gent, to Robert Warburton, esq, one of Her Majesty's Gentlemen Pensioners, of a croft with messuage lately erected thereon in Church Street, sometime in occupation of Humphrey Smith but now of Christopher Hurt, bounded on the east by a messuage of Christopher Hurt in the occupation of William Adamson, on the west by a messuage of 'one Bradley', on the south by '*the Queen's Highe Streete*', and on the north by '*a certen lane leadinge to the Queene's Mylls*'. 1596

Deed to lead the uses of a fine by Christopher Hurte of Ashbourne, gent, to Governors & Assistants of the '*newe scolehowse*' erected in Church Street with adjacent croft. 1596

*Sir Thomas Cockayne : property in Middle Cale or Butchery*

Grant by Sir Thomas Cockayne to Governors & Assistants of annuity of £ 4 out of his Ashbourne estates. 1585

Warrant of Governors & Assistants to distrain for unpaid rent of £4 pa granted to them by the late Sir Thomas Cockayne, High Sheriff of Derbyshire, on his property in Ashbourne. 1648

(37) Leases & counterparts by Governors & Assistants to Charles Brinsley of Ashbourne, butcher, of three tenements '*now or late used as Stall houses situate in ...the Middle Cale otherwise the Shambles or Butchery*' lately in occupation of William Etches, shopkeeper. 1799

Bond (38) Similar lease to William Etches of Ashbourne. The ground floors of the three tenements were used at 'claming' (?) houses, stables, and slaughterhouses, and upper floors as dwellings in occupation of William Haworth and Sarah Broadhurst. Property bounded on the south west by property of Thomas Etches in occupation of John Tomlinson and on the north east by house of Joseph Bradley in occupation of Sarah Etches. 1811

(39) Bond (40) Similar lease to Thomas Etches of Ashbourne. 1827

(41) Bond (42) Lease for 31 years by Governors & Assistants to John Chatterton of Ashbourne, gent : '*whereas there is the relicts of an old house in the Middlecale*' formerly in occupation of Dorothy Brindsley, Chatterton to rebuild the property in brick & tile with materials supplied by Governors & Assistants. 1743

(43) Lease by Governors & Assistants to John Potter of Ashbourne, shopkeeper, of the (44) *Three Horse Shoes* [later the *Crown*] in Middle Cale. 1819

*Philip Okeover, esq*

Grant by Philip Okeover of Okeover, esq to Governors & Assistants of £20 pa charged on his lands in Mapleton. 1586

*Thomas Carter, gent*

Grant by Thomas Carter of the Middle Temple, gent., to Governors & Assistants of £20 pa. 1586

*Robert Milward, gent*

68 Copy will of Robert Milward, of 'Bradley Ash' [Broadlowash nr Thorpe] gent, including bequest : 'I give to the finishing of the School in Ashbourne, two marks', and 'To every keeper of my ground or sheep at my decease 10 pence'. 1602

***Governors & Assistants' Accounts, 1583-1723 (in Accounts & Minutes Book: Volume 1)***

*[The main series of accounts covers the periods 1603-1640; 1651-1662; 1668-71; c. 1700-1723, although there are additional ones for 1583-1589]*

[At rear of volume] Summary of expenditure for founding and building the school totalling £ 346 3s 11d; account of monies collected from individuals and other bodies for the school, totalling £ 149 12s 4d. 1583-89

[On a loose sheet] Similar [ partly duplicated ] account of monies collected, totalling £ 194 0s 11d. [c.1583-1590]

[At front of volume] Account of monies received by William Hull from both 'the Londoners or others in the Countrie', April-December 1603; account of expenditure 'towards the Schoole finishing', April 1603 – March 1603 . 1603-1603/4

Memo of receipt of £70 from Mrs Oufield of London, of which £30 had been spent on purchasing land for the school. [c.1603-1604]

Accounts of receipts from further individual donations and property rents. 1603-1611

Memo of receipt of £50 income from the Coumbs estate [near Buxton] of Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury. [c.1603-1611]

Account of expenditure. 1606-1610

Account of expenditure. 1610-1614

Account of income collected. 1616-1618

Account of expenditure. 1616- c.1620

Account of expenditure. c.1619-1640

Account of expenditure. 1651-1660

[At rear] Account of expenditure & income (by Thomas Sheepy). 1660-1662

Statement of all rents due to QEGS and of all regular charitable payments. 1670

[Loose papers inserted] Account of expenditure & income.	1668-71
Account of expenditure & income.	c.1700-1723
<i>[After c. 1723 there are no regular series of accounts, other than special cases requiring resolutions by the Governors &amp; Assistants].</i>	
<b><i>Governors &amp; Assistants' Minutes &amp; Decrees, etc, c 1660-1794 (in Accounts &amp; Minute Book: Volume 1)</i></b>	
Minutes (irregular) of meetings and decrees, etc. These are mainly concerned with the appointment of new Governors & Assistants and of school staff, payments for clothing or apprenticing the poor, etc, admissions to the almshouses, repairs to properties, and the extensive legal proceedings in Chancery over Spalden's Charities and Dublin estates, etc . There are no entries during the Civil War between 1640 and 1651.	c.1660-1794
Testimonial addressed to the Governors & Assistants by the Rev Nathaniel Boothouse, lately vicar of Ashbourne but now rector of Kirk Ireton, as to their ' <i>fidelity, diligence, and public spirit</i> ' and wishing them all ' <i>health, happiness and prosperity</i> ' in the future.	1718
<b><i>Governors &amp; Assistants' Minutes &amp; Decrees, etc, 1794-1813 (in Minutes Book: Volume 2)</i></b>	
Minutes of meetings and decrees, etc. These are mainly concerned with the appointment of new Governors & Assistants and of school staff, admissions to the almshouses, and repairs to properties, etc . <i>[Two thirds of the volume is blank].</i>	1794-1813
<b><i>Governors &amp; Assistants' Minutes &amp; Decrees, etc, 1814-1859 (In Minutes Book: Volume 3)</i></b>	
<b><i>Governors &amp; Assistants' Minutes &amp; Decrees, etc, 1860-1896 (In Minutes Book: Volume 4)</i></b>	
<b><i>Governors &amp; Assistants' Minutes &amp; Decrees, etc, 1896-1916 (In Minutes Book: Volume 5)</i></b>	
<b><i>Governors &amp; Assistants' Minutes &amp; Decrees, etc, 1917 -1956 (In Minute Book: Volume 6)</i></b>	
<b><i>Governors &amp; Assistants: Elections to vacancies</i></b>	
Elections to vacancies of Governors & Assistants, many with the assent of the Bishop of Lichfield. (c.12), with petition to Bishop of c. 1762-1780.	1635-1676; 1773; c.1762-1780.

***Governors & Assistants: Administration of Grammar School, various almshouses and other charities***

List of rents due.	1678
Appointment of named receivers of rents, etc.	1679
Orders by Governors & Assistants for placement of named persons in almshouses. (2)	1688
Summaries of decisions taken at Governors & Assistants' meetings including provision of gowns, repair of almshouses, election of usher, etc. (3)	1694
Accounts for the almshouses (incoming rents & disbursements). (c. 5)	c.1699-1714
Rough accounts [of vicar or churchwardens of Ashbourne ?] listing payments for bells, ringers, wine, visitations, hedgehogs [vermin], etc. (1)	1699-1705
Appointment of named receivers of rents, etc.	1704
Conveyance by Richard Peters of Ashbourne, gent, of moiety of a seat in the loft of Ashbourne church in lieu of debts owing by him to the Governors & Assistants.	1704
Receipt of Humphrey Asbery to Governors & Assistants for £ 7 in payment for 70 yards of 'carsey' cloth for the almspeople .	1708
Receipt of John Meller to Governors & Assistants for £ 4 in payment for taking John, son of Francis Lees, as apprentice.	[1708?]
Summaries of decisions taken at Governors & Assistants' meetings.	1716
Orders by Governors & Assistants for placement of individuals in almshouses. (2)	1760-1761
Ms volume entitled ' <i>Ashborne Charities</i> ' compiled by Thomas Wise [?clerk to Governors & Assistants] summarising the legal position of all the town's charities.	[after 1826]
(54) Opinion of counsel as to use of funds.	1846
(55) Letter from Charity Commissioners to Governors & Assistants recommending action to be taken over the misconduct of an un-named almsperson.	1885
a + b File of estate plans : Shirebrook Estate, Derbys. [purchased by Governors & Assistants in 1613] : colliery, 1909, houses, 1914, sale plan of whole estate, c 1915?; Brailsford Oldpark Farm, 1908; Pegg's & Spaldens' Almshouses, toilets and drainage plan, 1910.	1909- c.1915
Owfields' and Spaldens' Almshouses : colour photographs (damaged) taken before and after renovations; also photographs of re-opening ceremony. (c.20)	[c. 1960?]
Coopers' Gardens : Housing Design Award (Highly Commended) certificate for new housing.	1981

*Grammar School staff, etc*

Election of Mr John Beresford, schoolmaster of Hartshorne, as headmaster in place of Mr Thomas Mounteney, deprived of his position by the Governors.	1635
Exemplification of court decision removing Thomas Mounteney from position as school master.	1638
Letter of Henry Crosedaile at Hope to Rev Mr Beardmore, vicar of Bakewell (Derbys.), declining offer of headship of QEGS.	1666
Removal of Thomas Goodread and Mr Francis Hallowes as headmaster and usher for neglect of duties.	1671
Election of Henry Mellor as head in place of Thomas Goodread who had 'deserted' the school.	1672
Resignation of Henry Mellor who was elected but subsequently declined.	[c. 1672]
Election of Mr George Jackson in place of Henry Mellor; (approved by Sir Aston Cokayne).	[c. 1672]
Conditional Election of William Hardistie.	1677
Election of Mr William Hardistie (approved by Sir Aston Cokayne).	1677
Letter of Sir Aston Cokayne at Pooley (Warwicks.) approving above.	1677
Election as usher of William Hardestee jr in place of Mr Thomas Trewlove.	1698
Letter of William Hawford declining the headship as he was too busy as minister of Bradley (Derbys.).	1712
Attorney General vs Governors & Assistants: objections by Governors & Assistants to report of Master in Chancery concerning salary of headmaster Rev William Langley. [See also under Spaldens' Charity]	1758
Complaints by parents about the incompetence of the usher, the Rev Thomas Gibbs, in 'correcting' sound grammar, etc.	[c. 1837]

*Grammar School administrative & miscellaneous documents*

Ms copy sermon for recovery of King Edward VI; with proclamation of Queen Mary following his death.	[c.1553-1555]
<sup>a+b</sup> (60) Rules & Statutes of QEGS (damaged); with accompanying letter describing its recovery from an unknown workman by local historian Reginald Smith in 1968.	1836 (& 1968)
(61) Rules & Statutes of QEGS	1853



- 57  
a+b Letter of Headmaster, Rev G. Gepp, to Governors & Assistants informing them that the 49 pupils on the school roll were more than was allowed by the Statute (enclosing list of named pupils); also proposing adoption of a school uniform. 1863
- Reply of Headmaster to Governors & Assistants to suggestions for improving the school. 1876
- 63  
a+b Charity Commission order for raising money to rebuild first storey of the east end of the schoolhouse (the undermaster's house). (Printed) *original + copy* 1888
- Scheme for governance of QEGS by Minister of Education. (Printed) 1960
- QEGS School Chest : copy article by R. C. Smith (from *Derbyshire Miscellany*) [c.1960] postulating that before the Reformation the chest belonged to a chantry in the parish church and was given to QEGS in c.1585 by the Hurt family [of Ashbourne & Castern, Staffs.]
- QEGS 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary : miscellaneous papers & photo of HM Queen Elizabeth's visit. (c.10) 1985
- QEGS seal matrices: correspondence of chairman of Governors & Assistants re a metal seal matrix or dye acquired by the British Museum and another recovered from an American collector after an appeal by the Old Ashburnian Society. (c.30) 1985-86

## 2. Roger Owfield's Almshouses Charity

*Roger Owfield, fishmonger of London, left a bequest of £100 in his will of 1609 (proved 1614) to erect eight almshouses for poor inhabitants of Ashbourne, but as the sum was insufficient, the buildings were completed by his widow Thomasin in 1630 at her own expense.*

Aquittance & receipt by Governors & Assistants to Thomasin, widow of late Roger Owfield, for all money bequeathed under his will for almshouses, poor relief and a 'preaching minister' [see *Lectureship* below]; with covenant to execute his wishes. 1630

### *Property gifts & endowments*

#### *Almshouse site in Church Street*

Copy conveyance by John Manners of Nether Haddon, esq, to Thomas Sheldon of Stanton (Staffs), yeoman, of moiety of five messuages in Ashbourne purchased by him from William & Ales Caldwell, etc. 1579

Copy division by Thomas Sheldon of Stanton (Staffs), yeoman, and Rowland Ragge of Rybarre [Riber, (Derbys.)], yeoman, of property in Ashbourne : RR to have messuage in Market Place 'over against the Market Crosse' in occupation of Thomas Hollis, and TS to have four messuages in Church Street. 1601

Conveyance by Thomas Sheldon of Stanton (Staffs), yeoman, to Thomasin Owfield of London, widow, of the following property : 1614

Two messuages and land adjoining in Church Street 'where a dwelling was lately standing' bounded on east by land of Thomas Lees, and on west by messuage late of William Jackson, gent, deceased., in occupation of Robert Heyward. The messuages are in occupation of Anne Boumfield, widow, William Hill and Thomas Sheldon (formerly of John Boumfield, husband of AB, Luce Moul, widow, & Lawrence Horobin, deceased) & were all purchased by TS from Sir John Manners, deceased.

Conveyence (feoffment) by Samuel Owfeild of Gatton (Surrey), son & heir of Roger Owfeild, merchant, deceased, and his wife Thomasin Owfeild, deceased, to the following: 1640

Thomas Peacock, clerk, John Hieron, clerk, Edward Pegg, gent., Roger Jackson, gent., Roger Owfeild & William Owfeild, gents., Thomas Taylor & Paul Taylor, mercers, Robert Webster ?, yeoman, William Taylor, yeoman, Richard Peacock, yeoman, John Allen, yeoman, Robert Buxton, yeoman, Richard James, yeoman, & George Hill, yeoman, all of Ashbourne, of two dwelling houses and land adjoining in Church Street where a dwelling was standing, bounded on east by land of Thomas Lees, on west by messuage late of William Jackson, gent, deceased, all purchased by Thomas Sheldon from Sir John Manners, deceased, as trustees for site of new almshouses.

John Owfeild & Matthew Berisford, gent., appointed as attornies.

Account of repairs to old almshouses (includes bricks from George Harlow and tiles from Mr Haynes' kiln). 1707

*Almshouse Meadow, Mapleton*

Deeds of exchange by Thomas Leving of Sturston, gent & wife Dorothy to Rev Paul Hull MA and William Owfield of Ashbourne, butcher, of closes called St Lowe Close, Newclose, Wetherweyside close, and Blecheringe near the Earles Butts in Parwich and a beastgate on Upper Callowe and Nether Callowe Commons and 1/2 a. in the Nether Field, in Mapleton., in exchange for a close in Mapleton on either side the Bentley Brook. (2) 1619

70 a)  
b)

Letter of [? William or Roger Owfeild] to brother John Owfeild in London re arrangements for the legal conveyance of a meadow or pingle to the Governors & Assistants for the use of the almshouses. 1652

71

Conveyence by John Owfield, esq, fishmonger of London, and William Owfield of Ashbourne, butcher, to Governors & Assistants of above meadow or pasture called Manley's Close, Mapleton [later called Almshouse Meadow]. 1652

72

Leases of Almshouse Meadow, Mapleton, by Governors & Assistants to various persons for 21 years. (7) 1745;1766; 1792;1813; 1822; 1836 1850

*Parwich property (under will of Nicholas Spalden, 1710)*

Leases by Governors & Assistants of 3 closes called Thorns in Parwich for 21 years. ~~7~~ plus 2 bonds (x6) 1766; 1790; 1811; 1825

69 a  
b  
c  
d  
e  
f

### 3. Lectureship (appointment of a special preacher)

*In c. 1631-2 a group of over eighteen London merchants and gentry from the Ashbourne area raised £400 to buy an annuity of £40 to maintain 'one able pious, payneful, learned and orthodox preacher of the sacred word of God' to preach two sermons or lectures weekly in Ashbourne, or some other place within five miles in case of 'interruption' or 'hindrance'. If this was ever discontinued then the money was to be distributed amongst the poor of the town. This appointment was in addition to the vicar and probably intended to promote Puritan doctrines. Roger Owfield, fishmonger of London, had also left a bequest towards a similar cause under his will of 1609.*

Letter signed by fourteen Governors & Assistants (including William and Roger Owfeild) to John Owfeild in London thanking him with his help in *'our Lecture (by y[ou]r good meanes & oth[er] friends now in a fayre forwardnesse)*' and for his assistance in *'propounding to us a Schoolm[aste]r'* but declining the last proposal. 1631

Conveyance of annuity from old to new trustees, as follows: 1651

*Original trustees* : Robert Bateman, esq, late of the city of London, deceased, John Milwarde of London, merchant, deceased, Thomas Milwarde, deceased, John Owfield, citizen & fishmonger of London, John Milwarde, late of Bradley Ash (Derbys.), esq., deceased, Nicholas Hurt, late of Castern, (Staffs.), esq., deceased, Edward Pegg, sr of Ashbourne, esq, George Taylor of Chesterfield (Derbys.), gent., Edward Smyth late of Ashbourne, gent, Anthony Wagstaffe of London, gent., Roger Fletcher and Lamyell Wagstaffe, citizens and drapers of London, deceased, Thomas Taylor and Paul his son, late of Ashbourne, mercers, deceased, Francis Moore, citizen & mercer of London, George Lees late of Ashbourne., dyer, deceased, Robert Boulton late of Offcote, yeoman, deceased., William Owfeild, late of Ashbourne., butcher, and other inhabitants of London, Derbys. and Staffs.

*New trustees* : the said John Owfield, citizen & fishmonger of London, Anthony Wagstaffe of London, gent., John Milward of London, gent., William Bateman [later Sir] of London, merchant., Robert Archer, citizen & grocer of London, Francis Archer, citizen & haberdasher of London, Roger Hurt of Casterne (Staffs.), esq; John Milward jr of Snitterton (Derbys.), gent, the said Edward Pegg, sr., of Ashbourne, esq, the said George Taylor of Chesterfield, gent., John Hieron of Breadsall (Derbys.), clerk.

Reciting that G Taylor, R Fletcher and Richard Gregson, citizen & draper of London, now hold the funds. These were originally invested in the Rectory of Wragby (Yorks.) but then sold for £600, and were now invested in the purchase of a farm at Walton [near Chesterfield] (Derbys.). The funds had also been augmented by a legacy of Paul Taylor for one additional lecture of £30 pa to prepare communicants to receive the Lord's Supper.

Edward Croshawe of Walton (Derbys.), yeoman, & wife Elizabeth convey to the new trustees £40 rent from the manor or house in Walton where he lives together with enclosed ground called Grangewood and Owlerwelles, (140a), for £720.

Conveyance of annuity from old to new trustees, as follows:

1682

*Old trustees* : Sir William Bateman, late citizen of London (formerly WB, merchant), and John Hieron of Loscoe, (Derbys.), gent, (formerly of Breadsall, clerk); all other trustees of 1651 being deceased.

*New trustees* : Sir John Moore, Lord Mayor of London, Cheslinge Bateman, citizen & skinner of London, Francis Gell of London, merchant, William Woolley of London, 'silke-man', George Frank of London, grocer, William Byfeild of London, merchant, Sir John Gell of Hopton (Derbys), bart, Samuel Saunders of Little Ireton, (Derbys.), esq, John Buxton of Ashbourne, gent, John Heiron of Loscoe, gent, Hugh Bateman of Derby, gent.

47

Assignment of annuity by Sir William Bateman to new trustees John Gisbourne, James Webster and Samuel Ward.

1689

Bundle of legal papers re Lectureship lawsuits in 1859 & 1879, including office copies of 1651 deeds, etc. (13)

1859-1879

Charity Commissioners' Schemes, decrees, etc, re property in Walton, etc, (4)

1882-1933

#### 4. Paul & George Taylor's Charities, including Longdoles Meadow, Clifton

*Various bequests were left by Paul Taylor under his will of 1640 and by George Taylor under his will of 1668. George Taylor also left an annuity charged on his ownership of common grazing rights in Longdoles Meadow (between Clifton and Hanging Bridge). In 1763 the meadow was 'enclosed' into private plots but was still subject to common rights for part of the year. It is not known when these rights were commuted to money payments.*

50

Copy will of Paul Taylor of Ashbourne, mercer, including bequests to Owfield's Almshouses and for paving Church Street; referring to Palmer's farm in Offcote & Underwood.

1640

Copy grant by Robert Webster of Ashbourne, butcher, acting under terms of wills of Paul & Elizabeth Taylor, of rent charge of £4 16s out of Littlefield Close in Offcote & Underwood.

(1659)

Extract from will of George Taylor of Ashbourne, 1668 [including bequests to Owfield's Almshouses out of land at Offcote].

1682

List of charitable bequests by Paul and George Taylor, including provision of a lecture, bread for the poor, making seats in a loft in the parish church for the QEGS scholars, paving Church Street, and 'to buy ladders and hookes and bracketts' [for fighting fires in thatched roofs ?].

[1682]

Memorandum by Edward Pegge jr sent to Sir William Boothby re Longdoles meadow (14 a.), divided between Mr Taylor (3 a), Mr Pegge (6 ½ a), the Deanery (2 ½ a), Sir William Boothby (1 a), & the Mill Acre *'which always is to make ye fence'* (1 a). Along with adjacent land, Longdoles had always been used as common grazing *'after corn and hay'* and was divided by annual *'lotts or agreem[en]t betwixt y[e]mselves'*. Recommending that as this benefited the rich rather than the poor farmers, instead of common grazing the meadow should be enclosed and the tenants should pay 2s. per acre to the Governors & Assistants for them to distribute the money to the poor instead. 1666

Award by three commissioners for enclosing Longdoles Meadow. This was grazed by eight common right holders (including the Governors & Assistants) and was divided into 14 doles which had customarily been allotted annually. It was now to be divided into separate fenced closes, subject to grazing by all commoners from after hay harvest on 12th August until 13th February each year when gates had to be left open; with incomplete fragment of sketch plan of new enclosures. (4 copies) 1763

#### 5. Jane James' Charity

Will of Jane James of Ashbourne, spinster (brother of Robert James of Ashbourne, butcher); bequests made include an annuity [out of two Dakin's Closes at Roston] for the benefit of Owfield's Almshouses, and a 'cottage house' near the Back Bridge left to her servant. 1669

#### 6. Joan Denton & Edward Shawe's Charity

##### *Grants made by Joan Denton and Edward Shawe in 1619 and 1625 for various purposes.*

Grant by Joan Denton of Ashbourne, widow, of £ 5 pa to Governors & Assistants for benefit of the poor (witnessed by William Hull and Paul Hull). 1619

Grant by Edward Shawe of Ashbourne, mercer, and Joan Denton of further charitable bequest (described below). 1625

Appointment by Thomas Levinge the elder of Derby, gent., of Arthur Buxton and Edward Buxton, both of Ashbourne, yeomen, as his attorneys to distribute annuity bequeathed under wills of Edward Shawe of Ashbourne, mercer, and Joan Denton of Ashbourne, widow. 1627

The annuity was charged on lands in Bradley, Compton, Fenton and Sturston, and was to be used by the Governors & Assistants and the *'the then preacher or minister'* at Ashbourne for the benefit of fatherless children, *'honest discreet widowes'* in Ashbourne and the *'hamlett'* of Compton, the maintenance of a preacher, and to ensure that *'pore children may bee carefully taught'*. Also their bequest to Ann wife of Robert Allexander of Ashbourne, tanner, and her daughter Elizabeth for their lives and then to the same uses as above.

(51) Declaration of trusts by Thomas Levinge re Denton's charity, etc 1637

7. **Edward Pegge's Charity**

*Edward Pegge left a bequest in his will of 1666 of income from land in Sturston to be used for distributing bread weekly to six poor inhabitants of Ashbourne & Osmaston (Derbys.).*

Court brief re lands of Lady Anne Mollineaux and Roger Nott, later owned by Edward Pegge, gent. [17<sup>th</sup> C ?]

Will of Edward Pegge leaving property in Ashbourne, Sturston, Wingerworth, Mouldridge Grange, Castleton, Mercaston (all Derbys.), etc. 1666

8. **Christopher Pegge's Almshouses Charity**

*Christopher Pegge left a bequest in his will of 1669 of property in Ashover & Wingerworth to endow the building of six almshouses. This was augmented by a later bequest by German Pole in his will of 1682 of property in Mercaston.*

Summary of legacies under will of Christopher Pegge, 1669, including bequest 'to German Pole, Gervase Bennett and Jo. Buxton his House in Ch. Street to pull down and build six almshouses in 3 years after decease for 6 old poor persons inhabited in ye Town of Ashborne'. [c.1669]

Note of legacies left by Christopher Pegge, esq, including provision for erecting six almshouses. [c.1669]

Account of payments [? by vicar], including almspersons, clothing for the poor, and apprenticeships. Also 'p[ai]d for ye Memoriall of Mr Xpher Pegg's Charity sett upp at his Almshouse End & amendm[en]t of ye letters since', 1704. 1701-1706

Account of payments to the poor by Daniel Morley out of the rent of Samuel Ragg's property, naming c. 30 recipients; with receipt. (2) 1758-1770

**Property gifts & endowments**

*Ashover & Wingerworth (& Brailsford) property*

Conveyance by Richard Roberts of Bakewell (Derbys.), yeoman and Humphrey Roberts of Hoefield, Ashover (Derbys), yeoman, to Richard Birdon of Alport (Derbys), yeoman, of Haslehurst farm in Ashover, excepting some land at Stanage, (Derbys); reciting sale in 1611 by Sir Thomas Reresbye of Thrybergh (Yorks) to Samuel Tryon of London, merchant, of manor of Ashover with lands in Eastwood, Milltown, Nuttingfield, Northedge, Hardwicke and elsewhere (all in Ashover). 1625

Holland family settlement following marriage of Hannah, widow of late John Holland of Ford, North Wingfield (Derbys), yeoman, with John Halton of Wingfield Manor (Derbys), gent. 1720

Lease for 21 years by Governors & Assistants to Anthony Bennett of Swathwick (Derbys), yeoman, of farm in Wingerworth (Derbys).	1721
Assignment of residue of above lease by Anthony Bennett of Stubbings, Wingerworth, to Israel Hollingworth of Shitterly, Ashover (Derbys), husbandman.	1735
Private Act of Parliament authorising the Governors & Assistants to exchange charity land in Wingerworth and Ashover for land of similar value in Brailsford (Derbys), (printed; 15 copies); (with similar Act relating to King Edward's Grammar School at Macclesfield (Cheshire) in c. 1774, probably used as a precedent).	1776
Survey of the Brailsford estate.	1813
<i>Mercaston property (German Pole)</i>	
Note re rents due from William Jenkinson of Mercaston.	1720

9. **Nicholas Spalden's Almshouses & Schools Charity**

*Nicholas Spalden, coach harness maker, of London, left bequests in his will of 1710 of property in London, Ashbourne, Parwich, and Dublin, Ireland, for the erection in Ashbourne of ten almshouses for the poor, two schools for boys and for girls, and 'four neat and pretty houses for entertaining the widows of clergymen of the Church of England'. Although the schools (in Church Street) were built in c.1715 and the ten Almshouses in School Lane were completed by 1725 there were insufficient funds and legal issues relating to the Dublin property. A protracted series of Chancery suits over the charity was not resolved until 1768, enabling the Clergy Widows' Almshouses to be finally built in Church Street.*

Copy will of Nicholas Spalden, coach harness maker of London, but now living in lodgings in Ashbourne, including bequests as above, and also of named household goods to his sister Elizabeth Figges, to the Vicar, to the Lecturer (Samuel Dakeyne, clerk) and bellringer of Ashbourne for sermons. With two probate copies (3)	1710
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***Property gifts & endowments***

*Spaldens' Almshouse's site [in School Lane]*

Conveyance (bargain & sale) by John Spalden, of Ashbourne (nephew of Nicholas Spalden, lately deceased), to Thomas Barnes of Ashbourne, joiner, of Shenton's Croft with barn in Ashbourne, late in occupation of John Stevenson, which Spalden had purchased from Thomas Goodread, mercer, as site for new almshouses	1722
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Conveyance (part lease & release) by John Spalden, gent., of Ashbourne (nephew of NS), and Thomas Barnes of Ashbourne, joiner, to Governors & Assistants of Shenton's Croft with barn in Ashbourne. Reciting Chancery suit won by	1722
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Governors & Assistants, and appointment of John Beresford, esq., one of  
Governors & Assistants, as receiver of rents from Irish estates.

Accounts for '*Building the Alms houses in Shentons Croft*' by Thomas Barnes, 1723-1725  
totalling £560

Account of John Beresford and John Allsop for their expenditure out of proceeds c.1720-1740  
of Spalden's Irish estate in purchasing Shenton's Croft, levelling and fencing it,  
etc and building almshouses on it. (2)

*Clergy Widows Almshouses' site in Church Street*

Conveyance (lease & release) by Alexander Stanhope of the Middle Temple, 1705 ?  
London, esq. to Thomas Watson of Ashbourne, cordwainer, of messuage in  
Church Street with yard etc extending to the School Brook, & a croft at 'Ashborne  
Towne Head' in Offcote & Underwood in occupation of Thomas Watson .

Conveyance (part lease & release) by Jane Watson of Ashbourne, spinster, heir of 1754  
Thomas Watson of Ashbourne, cordwainer, deceased., to Governors & Assistants  
of messuage where TW lived in Church Street with yard etc extending to the  
School Brook, now in occupation of JW, John Cordin, Thomas Ault, Francis  
Bennett, Samuel Ellam & Sarah Maddock.

*Dublin property*

Sketch plan of Spalden's and neighbouring properties near St Francis Street, [c.1760-70 ?]  
Dublin.

*Chancery court papers etc*

Chancery suit : legal papers. (c.40) c.1750-1768

Chancery suit : legal papers of John Goodwin. (c 20) 1759-1761

Chancery suit : court papers, examinations, witness lists, etc. (c 20) c.1730-1760

Chancery suit : court papers, decrees, depositions, etc, including abstract of title of c.1700-1760  
NS's estates in Ashbourne, Dublin and London, c 1670 – 1700. Also papers re  
lawsuit between Governors & Assistants and Headmaster (Rev William Langley)  
over his salary, (a hearing held at Blackmoor's Head, Ashbourne in 1757). (c.40)

Affidavit by John Thompson, apothecary, that John Allsopp of Ashbourne, gent, [1759]  
solicitor [acting for the Governors & Assistants], is unable to act further in the  
case as he '*was so weak and sick in bed*'.

Copy will of John Allsop of Ashbourne, gent., 1755. 1755; proved  
1759

Opinions on case by Masters in Chancery.(3) 1715/1737;  
1767; 1795



John Goodwin's bill to the Governors & Assistants for legal services in the Chancery suit, 1759-1769, totalling over £ 230. Includes numerous charges for searches for papers in the 'School Chest'; £200 'paid to Watsons for the Ground to build Clergymen's Widows houses upon' (1761); 'Paid for carriage of a parcel of papers relating to this cause by the Ashborne carrier and for portorage from the Inn' (1759); 'Paid carriage of them by the Stage Coach to Mr Perkins [in London] 5s., they taking at that time no papers'.

### Accounts

Accounts for legal fees, paving, etc. (c. 25)	c.1710-1760
Receipts for interest on investments.	1716-1737
Accounts for paving (streets ?).	1724-1755
General accounts. (2)	1724-c.1743; 1748-1755
General accounts (booklet), including accounts for paving (streets ?).	1725-1757
General accounts.	1762-1768
General accounts. (6)	1771-1779

### Bills & Vouchers (receipted bills)

Vouchers for supply of bread by Mary Bagnall & Joseph Allen.(2)	1759-1780
Vouchers for supply of clothing by various tradesmen and for bread by Mary Bagnall. (c.10)	1769-1776
Weekly signed receipts for payments from Spalden's Charity for Mary Pearson, 1768-1771, Thomas Parker, 1775-1777, and Mary Parker, 1777-1779. (booklets) (2)	1768-1779
Vouchers for payments to teaching at Spalden's schools, mainly to Mary Pearson and Samuel Briddon. (c.5)	1769-1779
Vouchers for reading prayers (the lecture) and ringing the prayer bell. (c.5)	c.1760-1780

Draft scheme to use surplus income from Spalden's charity fund for provision of a fire brigade and street lighting : *'First in regard several Fires have happened in the Town of Ashborne which have done great damage for want of being extinguished and which might have been extinguished had the Engines provided in the said Town been in good repair and practised. The Governors and assistants do humbly recommend that out of the said Surplus when the same shall arise a Salary of six pounds annually shall be given to four able and strong men to exercise the said engines and examine the condition or want of repairs thereof monthly and to attend occasionally in case of any Calamity of Fire in the said Town - to be subject to be displaced on ill behaviour or neglect .... Also that as* [after 1758; c.1768 ?]

*there is no Parliamentary provision for lighting the said Town [money to be] applied annually in providing and supporting Lamps for lightening the said Town in Dark Nights.'*

*Clergy Widows Almshouses*

Vouchers for salaries to named clergy widows (c.5)	c.1768-1779
Summary account by Mr Allsopp for building Clergy Widows' Almshouses	1768-1771
Vouchers for building Clergy Widows' Almshouses from main and sub-contractors, including printed weighbridge tickets for slate weighed by G and J Adkin at 'Derby Old Machine' and 'New Machine'. (c. 30)	1768-1771
Vouchers for repair work at various almshouses, including John Harlow <i>'for work done in the Almshouse Gardins Shifting the Necessary House'</i> . (c.5)	c.1777-1779
(66) Declaration of trust by Jesse Watts Russell of Ilam (Staffs.), esq, for £1333 stock to provide stipend for each occupant of the four Clergy Widows Almshouses.	1841

10. **John Hanson's Charity**

*John Hanson of London left bequests to the Governors & Assistants in his will of 1678 of income from the tithes of lead ore in the High Peak. This was later paid out of Duke of Devonshire's estate.*

(62) Grant by John Bullock of Charlesworth <sup>Challeshorth.</sup> (Derbys.) to Roger Jackson of Newport House, St Martins in the Fields, Middlesex, gent, and John Hanson of London of fee farm rent of £6 13s 4d out of tithes of lead ore in Bakewell, Tideswell, and Hope in High Peak (all Derbys.).	1677
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11. **Unidentified Charity**

Decree re obligation of Thomas Boothby, esq, to pay principal and interest owing by him for the poor of Ashbourne, Compton and Thorpe for a bread dole, etc.	[c.1720? GR water-mark]
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12. **Edward & Uriah Cordens' Charity**

Will of Edward Corden of Ashbourne.	1840
Probate copy will of Edward Corden of Ashbourne, gent.	1851
Probate copy will of Uriah Corden of Clifton, gent.	1829
Declaration of trust by Edward Corden of £4720 stock for benefit of Owfield's, Spalden's & Clergy Widows' almshouses.	1843
List of stock invested in various local authority corporations.	1932

13. **David & Septimus Bradleys' Charity**

65 Grant by David Bradley of Crutched Friars, London, & Septimus Bradley of Ashbourne., merchant (sons of Joseph Bradley, late of Ashbourne, banker & grocer) declaration of trust re £300 stock to be applied for benefit of the poor of Ashbourne. 1844

14. **Harriett Blunt's Charity**

64 Declaration of Trust by Harriett Blunt of Offcote Hurst in Ashbourne, widow of Rev John James Blunt, formerly Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, of endowment of £100 for the Ashbourne Orphan Association. 1887

15. **Hilda Cooper's Charity**

Declaration of Trust by Hilda Stonier Cooper of Paignton (Devon), spinster, of endowment for erection of a bungalow almshouse in Ashbourne; with opinion of counsel, etc. 1965; 1978

16. **Field Rents**

*Ashbourne originally had three large mediaeval open fields to the north of the town. These contained arable strips which were farmed on a communal basis but thrown open to common grazing after harvest time each year. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century there was pressure by the farmers to 'enclose' the strips into individual privately owned fields which were more efficient & profitable, but this was resisted by the poorer inhabitants who would lose their grazing rights. Following disputes in the courts in 1625 & 1630 it was decreed that the enclosures could proceed subject to the farmers paying compensation in the form of a rent charge on each new enclosed field, which was to be used for relief of the poor of the town. These 'field rents' were to be collected and distributed by the Governors & Assistants.*

67 Exemplification of a court decree over enclosure of the three fields of Ashbourne, which normally lay fallow after harvest, and whether the owners of properties in the town were entitled to graze animals there even though the fields were situated in township of Offcote & Underwood. The open fields are named as 'Nautymere Field', 'Woodhall Field' and 'Lowefeild'. 1653 (1625 & 1630)

Similar exemplification of decree relating to same issue. Fields now named as 'Townhead Field alias Nottymerefeild', and 'Woodies Field.' 1663 (1625 & 1630)  
Copy of above decree. 1663 (1625 & 1630)

Mr Grammer's list of field rents, with letter from him to John Beresford (3). 1691; 1703  
Names include *Boot Legg, Fishpond Close, Townhead Field Close, Sandybrook Close, Low Top, Little Hall Croft*, etc.

- 53 Memorandum of field rents on land belonging to Mrs Harriett Frank of Ashbourne Hall, including *Fishpond Close*, etc. 1886
- 'Map of the Field lands wherein the inhabitants of Ashbourn had formerly Rights of Common'* & other sketch plans of the three former open fields. (c. 5) c.1850
- Field rents booklet. 1837-1853
- Report on field rents by C Bradley, chairman of committee set up to investigate them. c.1850-1880
- Case notes, opinions of counsel, lists of rents and tenants, tithe redemption certificates, etc. (c. 15) 1861-1879

**End**