

## Stickney Charities

*A list of charities connected with the parish of Stickney with dates so far as known*

**William Hardy** of Stickney in his will in 1552 gave One pound six shillings eight pence a year out of Figtoft Farm to be paid at Easter to the Churchwarden of the Village. Out of this charge, three shillings and four pence, is to be given to each maiden of the parish to provide her with a **Spinning Wheel** on her day of marriage. The farm stands back of the main road just south of the picnic area and once consisted of a House and garden, and two closes of about ten acres of land. It was owned by Harry Silson but the building is now derelict and belongs to Mr H Taylor. (Field numbers 152 153 re.1905 map ) This tradition is still kept up today although the “spinning wheel” has now been replaced by a small sewing kit.



**Richard Bruster** by his will that is dated 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 1583, left Thirteen shillings and four pence a year to the poor of Stickney out of a four and half acre pasture field called Kings Close lying in the West fen Lane, Field number 113 One Mark was an old English unit of currency valued at Thirteen shillings & four pence, although there was no actual coin of this value. The money had to be paid at the Feast of Nativity to the Churchwardens for distribution. The tithe on this land has not been redeemed and is at present paid every five years by Mr R Lenton

**Thomas Bishop** left six shillings and eight pence a year to be paid at Easter to the poor of Stickney out of a pasture called Pear Tree Close. The “Schedule of property” from the charity commission in 1926 listed a John Joseph Simons as paying the dues on nine acres of land in Stickford at that time. The date of this arrangement is unknown although records show that a Mr Bishop was paying the tithe in 1684 and C Tupholme from 1701 This land is sometimes

referred to as Tupholme Close and lies to the East of Manor Farm and behind the Old Globe Public House, field number 139. The tithe was eventually redeemed in 1980 by Harry Simons who lived at Old Bolingbroke.

**William Steeping**, by his will of 1601 left a charge on his house and a piece of land known as Backhouse Ridge in Thorndales Lane to the poor of Stickney. The tithe at the time was Thirteen shillings and four pence a year and was last paid in 1797 by Robert Cousens, when it was “fenced and stocked” to obtain a fair price for it. This may be the land that was exchanged in 1800c. for a three and a half acre field in West fen Lane that was first referred to as an allotment and let for five pounds in 1813. The accounts of 1863 state that this field was divided into fourteen equal portions and let to the poor of the Village for Ten Shillings a year. The field number is 199 and is at present rented by Mr Borrill. Field number 589 is two acres of land in Thorndales Lane that remained the property of the charity and is most likely the Seven gads (Roods) of Meadow that was also mention in his will. This field has always attracted a rent that was revised each year until it was sold to Mr Staples in 1970 and the proceeds invested for the charity.

Another meadow in Thorndales Lane that was referred to regularly in the Vestry book, was known as “The Poor Piece” and was let yearly with the rent payable on Plough Tuesday and Easter Tuesday. The money was distributed to the poor of the parish on St. Thomas Day. In 1803 the field was taken by Thomas Houghton for Three pounds five shillings a year. This is the last time the land is mentioned at a Vestry meeting and was probably lost to the drainage scheme at that time.

**William Strawson** was one of the original Trustees of William Lovells School and also Rector of Stickney from 1666. In his will of 1686, he left Ten Shillings a year out of land called Claxby Dale in Stickney for a sermon to be preached on the anniversary of his burial on April 13<sup>th</sup> and also Six Shillings and Eight Pence a year to be distributed amongst the poor of Stickney on the same date. The records are a little vague about the collection of the money for

the poor, although it was paid by Mrs Ironmonger in 1862. Claxby Dale is recorded in the Church Terrier of 1864 and the Ten Shillings as being paid to George Coltman, the Rector of Stickney at the time. The actual location of the land is yet unknown.



**Edmund Cocker** of Stickney by his will that was proved in 1732 gave Five shillings a year to the Churchwardens of Stickney that was payable out of his estate in West fen Lane for the use of the poor of the village. The premises are described in the parish book of 1767 as consisting of a house and yard, a close of pasture containing four acres known as **Homestead** and five small meadows in the east field totalling Two and a half acres called **Field Lands**. The money from the tithes was to be distributed on Easter Day. At the time the estate was in the hands of Richard Ward, and by the 1940s the land and house became the property of Harry Dodds and was subsequently let to Arthur Ireland who start a shop here. The house still stands opposite the roadway to Musgraves Farm although it has since been extended considerable. Ironically, another very similar bequest is recorded by the will of Haman Gibbons in 1720c. who left Five Shillings a year out of the "Farm where I now live" to the poor of Stickney to be paid on 13<sup>th</sup> June for ever. The "Heirs of Cocker" are actually listed in a charity book as paying this tithe 1737

**John Robinson** The Rev. John Robinson in 1811 left Twenty nine pounds a year out of small pieces of land and houses in Stickney to help to provide for one poor spinster and four poor widows of the parish. The charge on these pieces of land was redeemed in 1980 for a one off payment of ten times there value. In 1939 Mr John Richardson Effield gave his seven and half acres of land in Hall Lane to the charity, most of which still attracts a annual rent. The site that the Youth Hall now stands on was land given by Mr Effield and bought from the charity in 1969 after initially paying just a ground rent. Small plot of land behind the Charity Cottages in Hall Lane is at present let for growing Christmas trees. Holme Close (327) is a grass field of approximately five and half

acres laying to the south of Hall Lane and bordering Harrison Close. A foot path passes through both these fields and continues to Pinfold Lane.

**William Joitson** of Stickford, by his will gave Three shillings and two pence yearly out of a pasture once owned by Thomas Kirkham (that was called Harrison's Close in Stickney), to be distributed among the poor on St. Thomas Day. The land is a sixteen and a half acre field number 335 on the west side of the William Lovell School. The date of the will is unknown but an extract contained in a charity book in 1628 states that twelve penny worth of bread is to be distributed to the poor of Stickney out of a Rigg of land where Oat Close Hedge did once stand. This appears to form a rent charged on the lands of Mr Kirkham who willingly paid it annually from 1767. The long triangle piece of land may have been the piece on the west side of the main road near to the roadway down to "The Grange" and it is rumoured that it had to be kept vacant for any Travellers to camp on. William Joitson also left four shillings a year to be paid out of Larks House and Close for the poor of Stickford. The money was to be collected by the Churchwarden and distributed among the poor of the parish. The actual house and close haven't been identified yet.

**Daniel Salter** of Stickney gave to the poor of village ten shillings a year payable on Plough Monday of three pastures called "Salters Close"

It is recorded in the parish book under 1767 as being occupied by William Parker. The first deeds for the property down West fen drain side is in 1721 and according to it the farm was later bought by William Pomell in 1764. From the 1930's to the 1960's this was Frank Butler's poultry farm. The field numbers are 267 271 & 284 totalling six and three quarter acres. The tithe was redeemed in 1980 by Mr F Dawson for one payment of Five pounds.

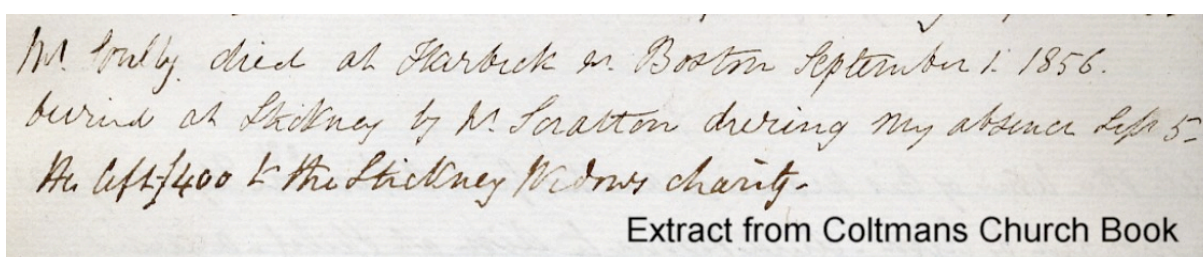


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**William Lovell** His will of 1678 left all his forty seven acres of land in Winthorpe to maintain a free School in Stickney forever, and a three acre field in

West fen Lane. The field number 194 is owned by the William Lovell Trust and is not connected to The Consolidated Charity's

**William Soulby**, who died in 1856 bequeathed the interest on four hundred pounds to the John Robinson charity, which gave an extra income of four shillings a week for each of the five poor women mentioned in the John Robinson charity. William Soulby's property was the house & butchers shop opposite the Rising Sun that is now known as Oxford House



**Clark's Charity** was founded in 1936 when a house and land at Staples Corner was left to charity. Thomas Herbert Clark who died in 1936 at the age of eighty, left all the residue of his estate to the charity trustees of



Stickney. Thomas was born in London to a single woman, and moved to Stickney to work on her brother's farm, eventually inheriting the property from his uncle. His will was that a half acre plot of land in West fen Lane was to be bought from Cyril Hardy for sixty pounds, and five Almshouses were to be erected on it by Cott's the builders of Stickney for an agreed price of nine hundred pounds. The houses were to be let to the poor and aged persons of the parish of good character at a reasonably and affordable rent. A specificity stipulation of his will was that one of the bungalows was to be let to his former house keeper Helen L Waddingham and another was made available for Oliver Hempstock the former Headmaster of the Northlands school and his wife Gertrude for the duration of there lives. Because of a legal dispute over Mr Clark's will only four bungalows were eventually built.