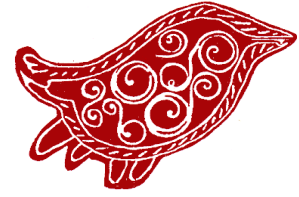


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Some Old Cork Charities.

(Plate VI, 2).

By MICHAEL V. CONLON. M.A., LL.B.

St. Stephen's Hospital (The Blue-Coat School).

The oldest of the Cork Charities is probably that of the Blue-Coat or St. Stephen's Hospital. The Corporation of Cork held lands at Cahirgall and Ballynamocht in the north suburbs, together with lands called "Spittal lands" in the south, for the maintenance of a house for poor lepers and lazars. In 1656, the Corporation was succeeded by Cromwell's supporters, who were ignorant of this charity and their trust until Dr. Edward Worth, subsequently Bishop of Killaloe, drew their attention to it. His brother-in-law, James Cox, was appointed Prior and Manager, and on the death of Cox, Wm. Worth, son of the Bishop, and Recorder of Cork, succeeded to the office and obtained possession of the rents of the lands. He was afterwards made Baron of the Exchequer and was, therefore, in a position in 1685 to obtain by patent from the Crown a grant of the lands to himself and his heirs. This grant was disputed by the Corporation and a Bill was filed against him in Chancery in 1695. Two years later an agreement was reached between Worth and the Corporation. In consideration of his relinquishment of the title to the Priorship, he was permitted to enjoy his lease of the lands in the north suburbs at the nominal rent of £20 per annum, and to have the nomination of four scholars for Trinity College, Dublin, but the right to such nominations should after his death be exercised by the Mayor, the Bishop of Cork, and the heir of Worth, or by any two of them. In 1698, the Corporation, as "guardians of the poor," sought to get him to perfect a deed transferring to them the hospital lands of St. Stephen, and in the following year succeeded in obtaining a grant in fee-farm of the chapel of St. Stephen, together with the "Spittal" lands.

The Corporation undertook to erect a house, to be called St. Stephen's Hospital, for as many poor boys of the Protestant religion as the Mayor and Council should nominate, who were to be educated and maintained therein, and who were each to be provided with a blue coat and cap on every St. Stephen's Day, as well as with other suitable clothing. The boys should be 8 years of age on admission and be apprenticed at 14 years. In 1707, leases of the lands in perpetuity at £335 5s. 2d. were made, instead of at rents to yield £7,000, their yearly value. The Commissioners of the Board of Education were informed (1809-12) "that in the making of these leases the Mayor and Corporation attended more to the advantages of their friends than to the interests for which they were trustees." The Commissioners who inquired into the Municipal Corporations (1834) reported that if the lands had been let in that year they would bring in a revenue of many thousands. When the Municipal Reform Act was passed in 1840, the Mayor and Council were abolished as Governors of the Hospital. According to the information supplied to the Endowed Schools' Commissioners in 1855, the lands produced from £5,000 to £6,000, but they were bringing in

only an annual rent of £457 16s. 0d. In 1851, the Court of Chancery limited the number of free boarders to 20. In 1890, a new scheme was approved: boys were admitted from 9 to 12 years, and they were kept, usually, until they reached the age of 16 years. In 1916, an amending scheme was approved. The income being insufficient for the maintenance of free pupils in the Hospital after providing for its repair and upkeep, the closing of the Hospital was sanctioned and provision was made for the education of boys at any suitable day school or schools, and at any approved boarding-school.

The Green-Coat Hospital (including Skiddy's and Bretridge's Charities).

The building housed three charities, viz.:—Skiddy's, the Green-Coat Hospital and Bretridge's, all of which were administered by the trustees for the Green-Coat Hospital.

Skiddy's Charity.—This was founded by Stephen Skiddy, alias Scudamore, by his will made in 1584. He bequeathed an annuity of £24. chargeable on certain rents, and payable by the Guild of Vintners, London. This was to be distributed by the Mayor and Aldermen of Cork among twelve of the "poorest honest citizens" of the age of 40 years and upwards. These were lodged in an almshouse. The annuity was paid to 1666 when a third part became "defalct" for some years after the Great Fire of London which occurred in that year. There is a stone on the outside of this building bearing the inscription:—"This part of the almshouse belongs to the Foundation of Mr. Clement Skiddy, alias Scudamore, who about the year of Our Lord God MDCXX settled a perpetual annuity of £24, paid by the Vintners Co. of the City of London for the benefit of 12 aged Widows of this City. 'The end of the Commandment is charity.'—5th Timothy." In 1702, the hospital accommodated 16 old men and women, 8 of whom enjoyed ten pence weekly with their lodging, and the others had their lodging only. In 1716, it was occupied by 18 "poor decayed house-keepers." The almshouse was rebuilt by the Corporation in 1718–19, and housed 70 aged persons of both sexes.

In 1837, in addition to Skiddy's bequest, it enjoyed rents of premises at Shandon Street and Cornmarket Street, given by the Corporation. In 1855 the trustees of the Green-Coat Hospital were said to have property at Spring Hill in the South Dublin Union and also eleven ploughlands comprising 4,500 acres in the County of Cork. The endowments in the 1890 Scheme showed only 74 acres, 2 roods and 10 perches in the Barony of Coolock, Co. Dublin, producing a rent of £108 8s. 8d. yearly. It shows no holding of land in the County of Cork. These lands at Dublin and Cork must have been held by the trustees of Bretridge's Charity, for there is no mention of them in the list of rents payable to Skiddy's Charity as set forth in the Minute-Book in 1848. The gross income was £493 18s. 0d. and is now about £350. The trustees are four Catholics and four non-Catholics.

The almshouse affords accommodation to about 22 women, of whom about one-half are Catholics. Payments are made at the rate of 2/6 weekly to those in receipt of Old Age Pensions, and 5/- to those who are not pensioners.

The Green-Coat Hospital.—In 1716, two schools—one for boys and one for girls—were built adjoining the churchyard of St. Anne's Shandon, and "where the old parish church stood." The intention was to educate 20 boys and 20 girls, and that their clothing be green and yellow. The trustees ordered two charity-boxes to be fixed up at the foot of the figures of two charity children known as "Bob and Joan." (Pl. VI, 2). The qualifications for admission to the school were: that the children be real objects of charity, residing in or near the parish of Shandon, and between the ages of 7 and 12 years. The trustees of the Linen Manufacture presented 20 wheels and a bounty of £30 to educate the poor girls in spinning hemp and flax. They were taught and clothed in the schools, but they were housed in their own homes. There were also several contributions made by one of the early trustees—Daniel Thresher—towards the building of the Hospital. He bequeathed £26 yearly for ever, but there is no mention of this charity in the 1890 Scheme.

In recent years a primary school for girls is conducted in this building, as well as a Sunday school.

The library contained a large number of very old and rare books, a list of which is contained in *Pietas Corcagiensis*. Whatever books now remain are under the control of the Diocesan Church School Board.

Brettridge's Charity.—In 1717, Captain Roger Brettridge, also called Bertridge and Betridge, left £33 per annum for the children of poor Protestant soldiers, as well as an estate of £30 yearly for the support of seven old soldiers. This was presumably the date on which the will became operative, for it was made on 26th May, 1683. He devised to the Corporation of Cork certain lands called Drumcummer East, on the Blackwater, near Kanturk, in trust to divide 10/6 weekly amongst seven old men who had been soldiers and who were unable to work, and to expend £1 yearly on St. Simon's and St. Jude's days on each soldier for clothes.

The residue of the rents was to be applied to the apprenticing of the sons of soldiers, if available, otherwise to the sons of other Protestants at the discretion of the Mayor, Recorder, and the Incumbent of St. Mary Shandon. The lands were held in fee simple and were let prior to 1835 at £258 (British) per annum. The 1890 Scheme gives the acreage as 340 acres 2 roods, and states that the lands at that time were let to tenants at yearly rents amounting to £254 11s. 9d. It amalgamated the Parochial Schools of the city, the Green-coat Hospital, Brettridge's Charity, the Cork Grammar School and other endowments, and appointed a Board of Governors to be called "The City of Cork Church School Board." In 1920, the rents produced £211 1s. 0d., and the income on £2,675 3s. 10d. invested in British Government Stock was also available for the charity. Apartments were provided in the almshouse for the seven selected old soldiers. On the outside of the almshouse is inscribed: "In this part of the building is lodged seven old Protestant soldiers for whose support and the apprenticing of poor Protestant soldiers' children, Capt. Roger Bertridge gave an estate of £63 per annum. Anno Dom. MDCLXXX. The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance. Ps. CXII." Over the arches of the almshouse,

facing south, is inscribed : " This building was begun by the City of Cork, July 5 A.D. 1718 and finished Sept. 21 A.D. 1719."

Thomas Deane's Charity.

It is recorded by Tuckey that the Corporation gave to Capt. Thomas Deane, in 1719, a piece of ground adjoining St. Peter's Church, to erect a school and an almshouse. According to *Pietas Corcagiensis*, printed in 1721, two¹ charity schools were begun in the parish in 1719, and were completed in 1720. They accommodated 20 boys and 20 girls. The trustees were to receive £52 yearly, and every poor child of the Institution was to be given a loaf of bread on the Lord's Day. There is subsequent reference only to one school in the parish. There is mention in the 1890 Scheme of a sum of £52 reserved by a rent-charge, and which produced £64 ls. Od. yearly, from the bequest of Sir Thomas Deane " for schooling 20 boys and 20 girls born in Cork City." The Rev. Archdeacon Pomeroy contributed £180 to this charity in or about the year 1735. The 1890 Scheme states that he gave a bequest of £180 (Irish) and that a Mrs. Mary Shearman gave £50 (Irish). These two sums produced £10 12s. 4d. annually.

In 1809-12, the Board of Education reported on " Deane's Charity-School " as follows : " There has been but one school established which is in St. Peter's Parish. There are 25 boys and 25 girls clothed and educated in this school." Its income totalled £113 15s. Od. and consisted of :—

- (a) £72 paid by the Corporation. This is probably interest on a deposit of £1,200 made to that body in 1765 for the purchase of a fee-simple estate, and which does not appear to have been completed.
- (b) £12 paid as a bequest by the representative of the late Mr. Lysaght.
- (c) £29 15s. Od. out of Deane's fund.

The scheme approved in 1890 states that Sir Thomas Deane's School was " at the school-house and alms-house at the North side of St. Peter's Lane and was held in fee-simple." The almshouse portion of the building was occupied by 2 women and 6 men.

The amount of the investment for this charity in 1920 was £2,673 7s. Od., and the annual income therefrom £94 12s. 2d. The payments in that year included £16 12s. 6d. for 14 poor boys and 6 girls, £24 14s. 2d. for almshouses, and £7 18s. 5d. for clothing.

Moses Deane's Charity.

This charity was founded under the will of Moses Deane in 1726. It directed that the rent of a concern in Cockpit Lane worth about £136 yearly be put to interest to raise the sum of £1,200 each successively for the parishes of St. Peter, St. Nicholas, St. Mary (Shandon) and Christchurch, to educate 20 boys and 20 girls in the parishes named. The lease expired " about the year " 1800. The sum of £1,200 for St. Peter's amounted

¹ It is likely that one of the schools belonged to Moses Deane's Charity. It was erected during his lifetime.

to £6,109 15s. 0d. in 1824. The 1890 Scheme shows that the sums available from this charity were :

- (a) £1,107 13s. 10d. lent at interest to the Corporation and producing £50 8s. 6d. yearly.
- (b) £200 invested in Government Stock and yielding £6 per annum.

There is nothing to show how the capital sum was reduced from £6109 15s. in 66 years.

The St. Nicholas accumulation reached a like figure. In 1858 the income on £5,559 17s. 8d. was £166 16s. 0d. The cost of building the school was £370. In that year there were 55 boys and 74 girls in attendance. The 1890 Scheme states that this fund was represented by £5,559 17s. 8d. Government Stock.

When the lease of the Cockpit Lane property expired there was available for St. Mary Shandon only £800 of the £1,200 intended by the will. In 1835 it was stated that the income was derived from an investment of £2,000 at 3½ per cent. This endowment is shown in the scheme of 1890 as £2,001 2s. 8d. and included :

(a) Bequest of Moses Deane	£1,200
(b) Donation	£200
(c) Bequest of Thos. Casey (1833)	£100

The St. Mary Shandon School (Newsom's Quay) was brought into operation on this endowment when the funds were recovered by the Commissioners for Charitable Donations and Bequests. It was established in 1834 at a cost of £743, of which £200 was part of the Thomas Casey bequest. This school is now located at Shanakiel for at least half a century. In 1858 it had personal property amounting to £2,101 2s. 0d. Christchurch parish derived no benefit under the will.

In a report of the Commissioners of National Education (1809-12), it is stated that a school-house was erected during the lifetime of Moses Deane, and was known as Deane's Charity School. A Report of the Endowed Schools' Commissioners (1858) stated :

- (a) That he bequeathed rent-charges, for ever, amounting to £216 for the support of the schools and almshouse, but that his intentions were not executed.
- (b) That no rent was paid to the estate for 30 to 40 years prior to the Report.
- (c) That a lawsuit was instituted unsuccessfully in 1788 by the Bishop of Cloyne to recover this charity, and
- (d) That the estate no longer remained in the family of the founder.

This Report stated that much of the property appeared to have been lost, that a considerable portion of the rents directed to be accumulated was misapplied, and that the leases of the premises out of which they issued had expired. It further added that "the Commissioners in 1791 noticed that the St. Nicholas School was one of the two schools on the foundation of Moses Deane, but it had ceased to be so when the Commissioners were reporting in 1809-12." The only school on this foundation at that time was that of St. Peter.

Master's Charity.

William Masters, by his will dated 31st March, 1727, gave £20 per annum, for ever, to be lent to Protestant tradesmen in sums of forty shillings on security, and the interest on £400 calculated at £10 per annum, for ever, to be divided between two Protestant servant-maids who marry Protestant tradesmen. The sums mentioned represented Irish currency. He recommended that preference be given to those educated in the Green-Coat Hospital. The value of the investments in 1920 was only £246 19s. 11d. and the income therefrom £6 1s. 0d. It is evident that this charity was not administered in the best interests of the trust.

Lapp's Charity.

This was founded by William Lapp, who died on 28th February, 1833. He bequeathed a large portion of his property to his sister for her life, and devised the residue to the Protestant Bishop of Cork and the Rectors for the time being of the various city parishes as trustees, to establish certain charities as soon as the fund should have accumulated to £30,000.

It was not until 1856 that a scheme to establish the charity was sanctioned. It provided for 12 inmates who should be afforded board and lodging in an asylum to be founded for aged and infirm Protestants of Cork. A licence to hold land was sought and obtained from the Crown. In 1858, a lease of 3 acres, 2 roods and 10 perches of part of the lands at Castlewhite was acquired from Thomas Jennings for 895 years at £80 per annum, plus a fine of £300. The Institution is situated at the city side of the Bon Secours' Hospital.

In 1860, the scheme was amended to enable poor persons to be relieved outside, as well as inside, the asylum. At that time the annual income was stated to be £1,244 3s. 0d. In 1876, the expenses totalled £1,327 19s. 2d. Two years later the Court ordered "that no sum should be expended on payment of outdoor pensioners, except the surplus, if any, after providing for the full and complete maintenance of inmates."

In 1881, there were 19 inmates, each in receipt of ten shillings weekly and in enjoyment of a separate apartment comfortably furnished. Their ages ranged from 63 to 85 years. There were 20 outdoor pensioners in receipt of seven shillings each.

At the present time the annual expenditure amounts to about £1,250, and the number of inmates falls below the number prescribed in the scheme, while the number of outdoor pensioners is also less than one dozen. The average cost of maintaining each inmate is roughly fifty shillings weekly. The investments total £30,000 approximately.

The South Charitable Infirmary and County Hospital.

The trustees of this Infirmary were incorporated in 1722. In 1765, an Act was passed "for erecting and establishing publick infirmaries or hospitals in this kingdom." By this Act, the County Infirmary was established at Mallow, and the clergy of the Protestant Church were created

a perpetual Corporation for the erection of such Infirmaries. The Infirmary had been opened on 2nd August, 1762, but it was not incorporated by Statute until 1771. In 1832 a Bill to amalgamate the North and South Infirmaries was passed by Parliament and the Committees of both Institutions met as one Board of Management. It was intended to build one general hospital, but when this intention was abandoned the two Boards again functioned separately.

In 1861, the removal of the County Infirmary from Mallow to the South Charitable Infirmary was authorised, and the Grand Jury were enabled to contribute the £700 annually to the South Infirmary, which was by the 1836 Act payable to the County Infirmary. The County Council continue this contribution, and defray half the cost of repairing the Institution. The Cork County Borough Council also contribute £700 and meet the remainder of the cost of repairs.

The income in 1835 was £922 3s. 0d. The number of intern patients in that year was 381, and exceeded the figures for the North Infirmary, but the figures for the extern patients were 14,354, and were slightly lower than those of the North Infirmary. The number of persons treated during the year 1941 was 32,213. Of this number, 31,231 were extern, and 1,982 intern patients. The daily average number of beds occupied was 109. The expenditure during the year totalled £14,080 14s. 5d.

The Committee of Management consists of 28 persons. The trustees elect 12; the County Council, 9; and the Borough Council, 7.

The North Infirmary.

Windele says this Infirmary was founded in 1719. *Pietas Corcagiensis* states that the foundation was laid on Candlemas Day, 1720, and that the building was "considerably advanced" in 1721. Tuckey, in his *Remembrancer*, gives the year as 1744, and says "it was established by the members of a musical society who appropriated their surplus funds for its support." This surplus, and voluntary subscriptions, enabled the trustees "to repair and fit a large commodious house" for the purpose of an Infirmary. The surplus contributed in 1750 was £100, and subscriptions totalled £275 12s. 10d. In the same year £34 1s. 2d., representing the profits of a charity play, was contributed, together with a donation of £14 15s. 9d. Tuckey's statement is confirmed in "An account and short state of the proceedings of the Trustees" for the financial year ended 1st August, 1754. It is clear that an Infirmary was founded in 1721, and a second Infirmary in 1744. The first Infirmary was 70 feet by 24 feet and was capable of accommodating 24 sick persons.

When a special Act was passed in 1751, the old Infirmary was stated to be 80 feet by 25½ feet and the backyard was about 66 feet in length. The preamble stated that it was an Act for establishing an Infirmary in the city and for vesting in trustees the house called the Infirmary House and the backyard thereunto belonging, which is built at the east end of the churchyard of St. Mary's (Shandon), now St. Ann's Shandon. The receipts during the financial year ended 7th August, 1754, totalled £629 5s. 6½d. and the

payments totalled £367 15s. 0d. By 1835, the intern patients totalled 270, and the number of extern patients was 14,606. The income amounted to £1,231 3s. 3d. There were 18 trustees named in the Act and all were Protestants. They, with the Subscribers, elected 15 persons to act with the trustees as Governors of the Infirmary.

The income for the year 1941 totalled £8,177 17s. 5d. and the payments totalled £12,700 13s. 0d. The number of patients treated during the year was 1,837, and of this number, 1,288 were treated without charge. The number of extern patients treated was 71,879. There are now 15 trustees elected annually by the Subscribers. The membership of the Committee of Management totals 28 : the trustees appoint 12 ; the Cork County Borough Council 8 ; and the County Council 8.

The Cork Foundling Hospital.

This was opened at Leitrim Street in 1747 on a site now occupied by Murphy's Brewery. It was described as the "Workhouse" originally and a map in Smith's *History of Cork* shows it as the "Poorhouse." It was financed chiefly by a tax on the import of coal. The Governors of the Hospital passed a resolution in 1838 that no new admissions would be permitted and the numbers, therefore, decreased until there were but 16 inmates in 1854. Two years later the buildings were sold for £1,200 by the Poor Law Commissioners and the money was placed to the credit of the Cork Board of Guardians. The inmates were transferred to the Cork Workhouse. This Workhouse is, since 1922, known as the County Home. Children are not now retained in the institution but are boarded out with foster-parents and are inspected regularly. (See *Journal XL*, 1935).

The House of Industry.

This Institution was situated where the Blind Asylum now stands. It was intended by the Act of 1771-2 to serve two purposes : (1) as an Asylum for the distressed, and (2) as a house of correction. It was opened in 1776 and was occupied until 1841 when the Workhouse—now the County Home—was built. The inmates were then transferred. Its income in 1833 was £4,936, and the number of paupers admitted during the previous year was 1,850. In 1942, the average number of persons in the County Home and Hospital was 1,317 and the annual expenditure totals about £54,658.

The Lunatic Asylum.

This Asylum adjoined the House of Industry. It was established under a Gaol Act passed in 1787-8. The number of inmates in 1832 was 343. The present Mental Hospital, formerly called the Cork District Lunatic Asylum, was opened in 1851 by the then Lord Lieutenant, Lord Eglinton, and the Asylum was commonly known as the Eglinton Asylum. The number of patients in the Hospital in 1942 was 1,978, and the gross expenditure for that year amounted to £101,176.

SS. Joachim and Anne's Asylum.

The SS. Joachim and Anne's Asylum was founded in 1841 by Mr. John Lane—a non-Catholic—for distressed Roman Catholic females. He appointed 7 prominent gentlemen, including the then Bishop of Cork, as trustees and endowed the Institution generously as well. In later years, Mr. John Fitzgerald gave a considerable contribution to its funds. About 1858, the handsome building in Anglesea Street was erected, and there from 12 to 14 females, who have seen better days, are housed and partially supported. Owing to changes in the times the income of the Asylum is considerably reduced and now amounts to only about £500 a year. It is still under the control of 7 trustees, including the Most Rev. Dr. Cohalan, Bishop of Cork.