



Brind Charities

Margaret Brind, by will dated 1740, bequeathed £100 for the poor. The interest was to be distributed yearly on 20 July. Mary Broadway, also by will dated 1740, bequeathed £20 to be invested for the benefit of poor widows and the interest to be distributed yearly on 13 April. In 1757 the bequest, together with the capital of Brind's Charity, was used to buy a small amount of land in Stratton St. Margaret. In 1831 the rent from this brought in £9. When the open fields of Stratton St. Margaret were enclosed an allotment in Upper Stratton was made to Swindon church. The share of the poor, known as the Poor's Allotment, was reckoned at two-fifths of the land allotted. In 1800 4 acres at the southern end were set apart for the benefit of the second poor.

Source:- Swindon: Education and Charities, A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 9 (1970), pp. 159-168.

Further to the above the following article appeared in the local newspaper.

The three Brind sisters, along with two others, were born in Wanborough, the daughters of Thomas Brind and his wife, the former Dorothy Hedges. Thomas' sister Martha Brind was the wife of Oliver Pleydell and it was their daughter Mary who married into the Goddard family and became the mother of Richard and Pleydell Goddard. Margaret and Dorothy died within days of each other in May 1748. Dorothy left a brief will with bequests to her married sisters. The bulk of her estate went to Margaret, who died less than four weeks later. The sums of money bequeathed by the two sisters were combined in 1757, when acting on behalf of Margaret and Mary, "the minister, churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Swindon" purchased a three-acre close of meadow or pasture ground called Cannon's Close in Stratton St. Margaret. Although the money didn't stretch to cover the "for ever" clause, the charity was still in operation more than 150 years later when in 1903 the poor fund stood at £30 and the widow's fund at £5.

Trio's cash funded charities

The last tenant to lease Cannon's Close was Richard Blunsden, who paid £9 a year rent in 1831. When land at Stratton St. Margaret, including Cannon's Close, was enclosed, an allotment at Upper Stratton was granted to Swindon's parish church. During the 1880s land acquired with the sisters' bequest was sold, along with land belonging to Richard Goddard and the Poor's Allotment charities.

From the money raised £1,171 was invested as a fund for the poor and £203 for widows. In 1906 these and a number of other 18th and 19th century charities were combined. By 1962 the annual income was £110 and only residents of the ancient parish of Swindon were eligible to apply.

Wiltshire Gazette and Herald, 17 February 1948