

**RECORDS OF AN APPRENTICESHIP CHARITY  
1685-1753.**

By W. G. BRIGGS, M.A.

**A**MONG papers preserved at Radbourne Hall relating to the German Pole Apprenticeship Charity is a manuscript book, foolscap size and bound in parchment. On the outer cover is the following legend: "This Book concerneth the poore Apprentices onely. 1685." A definition of its intention is given at the head of the third page thus: "A schedule of the names of all the Poor Children together with the names of their masters and Trades, what tearme of years and alsoe upon what Conditions they are putt forth Apprentices in the year of our Lord (1685) with the moneyes given by the last Will and Testam<sup>t</sup> of German Pole late of Radbourne in the County of Derby Esq<sup>r</sup> dec'd. to the use of the six towns here underwritten, viz.: Radbourne, Markeaton, Mackworth, Mickleover, Mercaston and Dalbury Lees for and towards the putting forth one Apprentice yearly out of each of the said Towns, as appears by the said will."

The intention thus expressed for the year 1685 is on the whole faithfully carried out until the record ceases in 1753; there is no year for which some entries are not made, and very few for which there is not a record for all the six parishes.

The book opens with a model Indenture of Apprenticeship. As most of the conditions upon which the apprentices were to be bound are mentioned subsequently, little need be said of the indenture. One point however should be noted. The deed is drawn on the assumption that the apprentice will be bound to a Derby master. Accordingly it provides for him at the end of his time to be made, sworn and admitted at his master's charge "a Burgess and freeman of and for the Corporation and Burrough

of Derby". Specific reference to this requirement only occurs infrequently in the subsequent annual records, e.g. in 1695, when boys were bound to a joiner and to a wheelwright in Derby, in 1708 (master a Derby tailor), and in 1709 (master a Nottingham baker).

On the next page of the book is an extract from the will of German Pole relating to the charity. He directed his executors, within twelve months of his death, to purchase land of the clear yearly value of forty-eight pounds and to convey it to the following trustees — Sir Thomas Gresley, Sir John Gell, Henry Gilbert, Francis Mundy or his guardian, John Harpur of Littleover, Thomas Cotchett and Gilbert Mundy. The will directed the trustees each year, in the months of May or June<sup>1</sup> to apprentice in some honest and lawful trade six poor children, male or female, of honest parents, one from each of the six parishes named, and to pay £8 for the binding of each apprentice. In default in any year of a fit child to be apprenticed from any parish, the £8 was for that year to be distributed among the poor of the parish by the Minister and Churchwardens, or in the case of Mercaston by the Minister of Mugginton and the Churchwardens of Mercaston.

The will was dated 16th October 1682. German Pole died on 28th March 1683. Two executors were appointed by his will, but one, John Musters, died shortly after German Pole, and it was therefore left to his widow and surviving executor, Anne Pole, who is commemorated on their tomb in Radbourne Church in these few, but eloquent, words "uxor clarissima ejus", to carry out its

<sup>1</sup> That this requirement later caused difficulty is clear from the following record of a meeting of the trustees held at the Kings Head Inn, Derby on June 14th, 1832, Sir Robert Wilmot being the only trustee present. "It having been represented to this meeting that great inconvenience has been experienced by parish officers, in consequence of their being obliged to bind the apprentices on a particular day, it frequently happening that Masters cannot be found by the day appointed, but that if they were allowed to bind them at other times, such inconvenience would be obviated.

ORDERED That in future apprentices be bound out at any time of the year when the parish officers have apprentices to be put out, and Masters of approved character are to be procured".

The parish officers did not, however, have the last word; both master and apprentice had to be certified as suitable by three or more trustees, and pending the appointment of new trustees by the Rev. Reginald Pole. The record of this meeting is among the Radbourne archives, having been communicated in a letter to Mr. E. S. C. Pole dated June 18th, 1832.

terms. This she did by buying land at Marston Montgomery, which was conveyed to the seven trustees on 1st January 1686, as is shewn by a counterpart of the conveyance among the Radbourne papers. The land was charged with a rent of £20 paid to Thomas Stubbs for life. Anne Pole undertook in the meantime for herself and her heirs to make up the annual income to £48 and also to pay the trustees' expenses and a sum of ten shillings per year which by the conveyance they were required to pay for the benefit of another charity in Radbourne.

The first apprentices recorded in the book which is the subject of this article (and which for convenience will be subsequently referred to as "the Apprentice Book") were bound in May 1685, so that the whole of the necessary moneys for that year were apparently found by Anne Pole, as is borne out by a note following the record for 1685 to the effect that on 16th April 1685 £4 was left in her hands, though she may already have been drawing the rents from the land at Marston Montgomery not yet conveyed to the trustees. This had come about because the premium of £8 was paid on four cases only. In the remaining cases smaller premiums of £7 and £5 had been paid, and the balance was held for the benefit of the apprentices at the completion of their term. There is a record that John Waters of Mercaston duly received from Madame Anne Pole £3 on 15 February 1691, and John Stone of Radbourne 20/- on 22nd May 1692.

The procedure adopted by the trustees to carry out the terms of the will is clear from subsequent entries in the Apprentice Book. On 18th May 1686 they decided to meet yearly at the Virgin Inn, Derby, on Wednesday in Whitsun week, the day being altered in 1706 to Thursday in Whit week. The respective ministers and churchwardens were desired to recommend fit children "and to Certify the Ages of such Children to the Intent that they att the expiration of their apprenticeships may be of sufficient Ages for the Managemt of their Respective Trades". The annual meeting at a Derby inn attended by some or all of the ministers and churchwardens (about which more shortly) suggests a social occasion. This is

confirmed by a reference in the Report of the Commissioners on Educational Charities in England and Wales that until the year 1826 "an annual expense was incurred for a dinner on the day on which the trustees met". In 1706 the Trustees decided "that the Churchwardens of each of the respective Towns shall yearly on Thursday in Whitsun week give an account of the proficiency usage and behaviour of all the Apprentices . . . that are not out of their Apprenticeships, that their Aggrievances may be redrest". This argues that the presence at the annual meeting of the churchwardens, and no doubt of the ministers too, was expected, a presumption confirmed by an entry in the case of three parishes in 1749 "that no Minister or Churchwarden appear'd to offer any apprentice", while in 1752 it is recorded that the minister and churchwarden appeared from Mercaston but did not offer any apprentice.

The place of meeting is not usually stated. The original decision to meet at the Virgin Inn was subsequently varied, for it is on record in 1698 and again in 1705, 1706 and 1707 that the rendezvous was at "Philip Bisses". The other meeting places recorded are the Bull (1699); the White Hart (1700, 1701); the King's Head (1708, 1709, 1710, 1719, 1720, 1734, 1736); the house of Andrew Jones (1711 to 1718); the house of Thomas Drake commonly called the sign of the George (1721 to 1728); the house of Ann Drake (1729); the house of Matthew How (1731, 1732).

The names of the trustees attending the meetings are recorded on four occasions from 1685 to 1700. There is then a continuous record from 1701 to 1729, thereafter none except for the years 1731, 1732 and 1736. From these entries we can, however, trace how the conduct of the Trust gradually devolved upon a smaller and smaller number of trustees, until finally Francis Mundy was acting alone from 1713 to 1720. His name first appears in 1697; it will be remembered that at the date of German Pole's will he was still a minor. Of the other trustees Sir John Gell's attendance is not recorded and Sir Thomas Gresley's once only. One by one, as the years pass, the names of the original trustees cease to appear, Henry

Gilbert's in 1702, John Harpur's in 1705, Gilbert Mundy's in 1709 (there is a memorandum that he was present at that meeting but had since died), and Thomas Cotchett in 1713. This left Francis Mundy as the last of the original trustees and he continued until his death at the end of the year 1720.

Samuel Pole, who had inherited the Radbourne estates on the death without issue of his cousin German Pole, then took over the administration of the trust, the grandson and heir of Francis Mundy being still a minor. In 1729, however, his right to do so appears to have been questioned, and the Apprentice Book contains a long statement in justification of his action which had arisen through the failure of Francis Mundy, though frequently requested to do so by Samuel Pole, to name new trustees. In consequence "Sam<sup>l</sup> Pole hath an Equitable right to See and Cause the aforesaid Charities and Trusts to be duly p'formed". The record for 1730 gives no indication who acted. Samuel Pole died on 10th February 1731. In 1731 and 1732 Mrs. Mundy of Osbaston, guardian to Wrightson Mundy, is named as holding the meetings, and in 1736 Wrightson Mundy held the meeting. Thereafter all records of attendance cease, but a deed dated 1741 exists appointing as trustees Sir Robert Burdett, German Pole, Godfrey Clarke, John Gilbert Cooper, Wrightson Mundy, Edward Mundy of Shipley, Edward Mundy of the Grange and Richard Harpur.

The trustees laid down other general rules for the conduct of their business besides those already named. In 1686 "they thinke it convenient to prefer such Children as shall be taught and Instructed to read the English Tongue and in writinge and arrithmatick, before others that shall not be soe qualified". This is an interesting commentary on the spread of primary education by the end of the seventeenth century, and is in contrast to the state of ignorance of the poor in the towns after the Industrial Revolution. It happens occasionally that the Apprentice Book contains receipts for moneys paid by the charity either to apprentices on the completion of their indentures or to masters when the apprentices were bound. They are too infrequent to draw any general

conclusion, but it is worth recording that out of thirteen such cases ten masters or apprentices could sign their names — only three made their marks. Did the masters sometimes give their apprentices some general education as well as teaching them their trade? This question is raised by the following entry contained on a loose sheet of paper pinned to the records for the year 1701. In that year John Wallis of Mercaston was bound for seven years to Joseph Baker of the same parish, miller. The father was to receive £5 of the charity money and to find his son's clothes and washing; the master was to receive £3, to teach him his trade, to find him meat, drink and lodging and "to teach ye boy to read English if he'll learne".

Another indication of the trustees' interest in education about this time is given by an entry for the year 1693 under the parish of Markeaton. In that year Mary Gratton was apprenticed for three years to Thomas and Mary Skidmore of the same parish. They received £3, Gratton £2. 10s. "to maintain his daughter with meat, drink, Apparrell, washing and Lodging", and the remaining £2. 10s. was paid to the mother of Anne Wagstaff towards keeping her at school. Anne Wagstaff had been apprenticed in the previous year for seven years to one Thos. Allestrey in the Borough of Derby, whose wife was to teach her the trade of a seamstress.

In 1697 the trustees determined that "all masters and mistresses shall become bound with a sufficient bondsman or bondswoman for the true p'formance of the respective Indentures". They also decided in the same year that no private variation of the terms of apprenticeship should be made without their agreement, and in the case of the death of the master or mistress or "on any other occasion" the apprentice should not be discharged of his apprenticeship, but should be bound for the remainder of his term to a new master or mistress approved by the trustees. An instance occurs in the Apprentice Book of a boy being assigned to a second master. In 1717 John Smith of Radbourne was apprenticed for seven years to a weaver and woolcomber in the village; in 1720 the master was required to "assign over his Apprentice

to Joseph Bond of Kirk Langley, Webster, without being paid”.

The names of the sureties begin to be recorded in 1706; from 1717 two sureties become increasingly common. Perhaps the sad plight of Elizabeth Shipman of Mercaston influenced the trustees in their decision to require a surety. This girl was bound in 1690 to Katherine, wife of John Hinckley of St. Alkmund's parish in Derby for five years. In 1693 the trustees determined that “being by her mistress poverty fallen destitute of an habitation” she “shall be put forth for the next year for the town of Mercaston”. As there is no further record of the girl we do not know how the story ended.

The routine business of the Trust can best be indicated by giving verbatim one or two entries. The first two are for the year 1692 when apprentices were forthcoming from all the parishes.

“Markeaton. Ann Daughter of William Wagstaffe of Markeaton bound to Tho. Allestre of the p'ish of Alsaints in the Borough of Derby gent. for 7 years, Mr Allestre's wife to teach her the trade of a Seamstress: the master to find her all sorts of apparrell meat drink &c. and to give her sixpence a Quarter, and att the end of this Tearm 20sh. of lawfull money of England for the p'formance whereof the sd. Tho. Allestre gives bond of Double ye money he Received with her.

Mackworth. Thomas Sanders sone of Ellen Sanders of Mackworth bound for 7 years to Edmund Ault of the Borough of Derby Baker, the master is to pay unto his apprentice six pence a Quarter and at the end of the Tearm of seven years the sd. Edmund Ault is to pay unto his apprentice 30sh. and to maintaine his sd. apprentice with sufficient meat drink washing & lodging during the sd. Tearm.”

The remaining extracts are for the year 1725, when four apprentices were bound.

“Mickleover. That Jos. Son of Wm. Pegge of Mickleover Taylor be bound Apprentice to his ffather for 7 years. The Mar to find him Meat drink washing

Lodging & Apparrell to pay him 6d per quarter & to put out at Int. £5 of ye money & ye principle and Int. to be paid to ye Apprentice at ye end of ye terme.

Hen. Pegge } of Mickleover,  
 Tho. Jackson } husbandmen, sureties.

Mercaston. Haveing no app<sup>r</sup> ye £8 is ordered to be distributed according to ye directions in ye will."

These entries are typical, though for certain years they are less orderly and detailed. An analysis of all the entries is attempted under the following heads:

- (i) the trades to which the children were apprenticed,
- (ii) where the trades were practised,
- (iii) the length of apprenticeship,
- (iv) the conditions to be observed by the masters,
- (v) the payments made to the poor.

#### (i) TRADES TO WHICH THE CHILDREN WERE APPRENTICED.

The year or years given in brackets after each trade shew the first and last occasions when apprenticeships to that trade were recorded. Those most frequently occurring are tailors (1685. 1752) and shoemakers (1688. 1753), usually called cordwainers or cordwinders. Fifty-one boys and four girls were apprenticed to the former trade, forty-two boys to the latter. It is worth noting that while 32 of the 55 children were apprenticed to tailoring between 1685 and 1711, the majority apprenticed to shoemaking occurred in the later years, 32 out of 42 between 1718 and 1753. To the shoemakers should perhaps be added the boy bound in 1707 to a lastmaker and heelmaker at Burton-on-Trent.

Framework-knitters (1691<sup>2</sup>. 1729) come next in order of frequency, with 21 boys and 1 girl. The latter was "to Learne the art of seaming and making-up stockings, after they come from the frame". The apprentices were bound to masters in villages round Derby until 1713,

<sup>2</sup> Dr. J. D. Chambers, Reader in Economic History at Nottingham University, who has kindly read this paper in manuscript, tells me that this is the earliest mention he knows of the framework knitting industry in the Derby district. The boy in question was apprenticed to a master in Mickleover.



after which apprenticeships in Derby became common. Of the eleven villages named in the Apprentice Book, the following do not appear in the map showing the distribution of stocking-frames in Derbyshire in 1844 in Miss Clare Higgins' article "The Framework-Knitters of Derbyshire" (*D.A.J.*, Vol. LXXI, 1951): Brailsford, Chaddesden, Chellaston, Dalbury Lees, Duffield, Mickleover, Mugginton, Quarndon.

Next in frequency come Blacksmiths (1685. 1744), 20 boys, and Weavers—usually called Websters—(1687. 1748), 19 boys and 1 girl, in whose case the master was to teach her to weave, "his wife to learne her to sowe". One blacksmith is described as also a "ploughwright", and one weaver as "webster and woolcomber".

The remaining trades are set out below:

Wheelwright. (1685. 1732.) 14 boys, one master being described as "wheelwright and ploughwright".

Seamstress. (1688. 1731.) 11 girls, one mistress being described as "Seamstress and Starcher".

Baker. (1685. 1730.) 10 boys.

Butcher. (1697. 1743.) 8 boys.

Carpenter. (1685. 1744.) 7 boys.

Glover. (1701. 1750.) 4 boys. 2 girls.

Three masters are called "fell monger and glover"; two "breeches maker and glover". (See also under *Skinner* below.)

There are records of four apprenticeships, all boys unless otherwise stated, to each of the following trades:

Bonelacemaker. (1690. 1702.) All girls.

Fellmonger. (1693. 1706.)

Joiner. (1695. 1741.) One described as "carpenter and joiner".

Skinner. (1686. 1745.) One called "skinner and glover".

Three apprenticeships occur to each of the following:

Cooper. (1685. 1743.)

Gardener. (1689. 1715.)

Hatter. (1745. 1748.) In the first entry the same master, who in 1746 is called a hatter, is described as "feltmaker".

Mason. (1703. 1727.) One called a "mason and bricklayer".

Two apprenticeships to each of the following:

Buckle-maker. (1744. 1745.)

File-cutter. (1731. 1733.)

Locksmith. (1687. 1732.)

Miller. (1701. 1715.)

Woolcomber. (1702. 1720.)

Trades occurring only once, the apprentice in each case a boy unless otherwise stated, are

Barber & Perukemaker. (1708.)

Bricklayer. (1728.)

Brickmaker. (1703.)

Cartwright. (1704.)

Chairmaker, wheelmaker & bowl turner. (1713.)

Cook. (1719.)

Glazier. (1751.)

Gunsmith. (1745.)

Housewifery, sewing &c. (1695.) A girl.

Ironmonger & Cooper. (1699.)

Leather washer. (1752.)<sup>3</sup>

Plasterer. (1747.)

Saddler. (1687.) Described as "Codder alias Whittawer".

Stonecutter. (1740.)

Turner. (1686.)

Whitesmith. (1753.)

The trade to which the child was apprenticed is not stated in fifteen cases, usually in the earlier years. Some of these were girls, often bound to mistresses presumably to learn the domestic arts; of the eight boys, two were bound to their fathers.

<sup>3</sup> The master so described was a citizen of London. The apprenticeship (John Topliss to William Passell) is recorded in the Leathersellers Company's registers under date August 6th, 1752. John Topliss — spelt Toplis in the Apprenticeship Book — became a Freeman of the Company on 7 July 1761. The term leatherwasher is unusual. One explanation offered is that it may have related to the washing of leather clothes, another that it applied to a man who took the skins from the yard and washed the wool of the skin before pulling and delivering the pelt to the tanner, in which case he would probably be employed by a fellmonger. I am indebted to the Master and Clerk of the Leathersellers Company for this information.

## (ii) WHERE THE TRADES WERE PRACTISED.

As is to be expected, the majority of the children were apprenticed in Derby, as the following list shews: Baker (5), Barber & peruke-maker (1), Blacksmith (3), Bone-lacemaker (4), Butcher (2), Carpenter (2), Cook (1), Cooper (1), Fellmonger (2), Frameworker-knitter (7), Gardener (3), Glazier (1), Glovemaking (5), Gunsmith (1), Hatter (3), Housewifery & sewing etc. (1), Joiner (2), Locksmith (1), Mason (1), Plasterer (1), Seamstress (8), Shoemaker (16), Skinner (3), Tailor (19), Turner (1), Weaver (1), Wheelwright (7), Whitesmith (1), Wool-comber (1).

Other places where several children were apprenticed were:

Ashbourne: Butcher (1), Fellmonger (2), Shoemaker (7), Skinner (1).

Brailsford: Framework-knitter (1), Tailor (1), Weaver (2).

Burton-on-Trent: Brickmaker (1), Lastmaker & heelmaker (1), Seamstress (1), Tailor (2),

Chaddesden: Framework-knitter (1), Shoemaker (2), Wheelwright (1).

Dalbury Lees: Blacksmith (3), Carpenter (5), Framework-knitter (1), Shoemaker (1), Tailor (6), Weaver (2).

Duffield: Cartwright (1), Framework-knitter (1), Joiner (1), Shoemaker (1), Stone-cutter (1), Tailor (5), Weaver (1).

Findern: Blacksmith (1), Chairmaker (1), Glove-maker (1), Wheelwright (1).

Littleover: Blacksmith (1), Shoemaker (1), Tailor (1).

Mackworth: Blacksmith (1), Tailor (1), Weaver (2), Wheelwright (1).

Markeaton: Baker (1), Blacksmith (2), Seamstress (1), Tailor (2), Wheelwright (1).

Mercaston: Blacksmith (1), Miller (2), Wheelwright (1).

Mickleover: Blacksmith (1), Butcher (1), Framework-knitter (3), Saddler (1), Shoemaker (3), Tailor (4), Weaver (1).

Mugginton: Framework-knitter (1), Tailor (1), Weaver (2).

Nottingham: Baker (1), Butcher (2), Framework-knitter (1).

Sutton-on-the-Hill: Blacksmith (1), Butcher (1), Mason (1).

The number of children apprenticed in Dalbury Lees — the largest after Derby — and the variety of trades, are a little surprising.

In addition to the cases mentioned above, children were apprenticed to:

Tailors at Allestree (1), Breaston (2), Draycott (1), Kirk Ireton (1), Mapperley (1), Marston-on-Dove (1), Morley (1), Rolleston (1), Shardlow (1), Smalley (1), Stanton-by-Dale (1), Willington (1).

Shoemakers at Aston-on-Trent (1), Barrow-on-Trent (1), Beeston (Notts.) (1), Draycott (1), Egginton (1), Melbourne (2), Spondon (3), Tutbury (1).

Framework-knitters at Breadsall (1), Chellaston (1), Horsley (2), Kilburn (1), Quarndon (1).

Blacksmiths at Ilkeston (1), Osleston (1), Radbourne (2), Turnditch (1).

Weavers at Heage (1), Horsley Woodhouse (1), Hulland (1), Ible (1), Kirk Langley (1), Leek (1), Little Chester (1), Long Eaton (1), Radbourne (1), Tutbury (1).

Bakers at Lichfield (1), Pentrich (1), Rolleston (1).  
Wheelwrights at Breedon (1), Ockbrook (1).

The remaining places recorded are *Taddington*, Butcher (1) — probably, from the similarity of the surname, to a relative; *Longford*, Cooper (2); *Melbourne*, Joiner (1); *Dale Abbey*, Mason (1); *Wirksworth*, Seamstress & Starcher (1); *Belper*, Sieve maker (1); *Breedon*, Wheelwright (1); *Kings Newton*, Woolcomber (1).

A few children were apprenticed further afield, two at London, to a blacksmith and a leather washer respectively, one at Wapping to a bricklayer, and a little group at Wolverhampton in 1731, 1732 and 1733, the trades being File-cutter (2), Locksmith (1), and at Walsall in

1744 and 1745 to Bucklemakers — the second boy however “never went”. He was apprenticed in 1746 to a Derby Shoemaker.

Reference has already been made in a footnote to the boy apprenticed to a leather washer in London. The other was one Thomas Baldwin, son of John Baldwin of Radbourne, blacksmith. He was apprenticed in 1723 to Thomas Westlock, citizen and blacksmith of London for seven years. The Register of Freedom Admissions (stamp duty book) in the Guildhall Library contains the following entry for April 1730: “Thomas Baldwin, late apprentice of Thomas Westlock, on his testimony admitted and sworn.” His younger brother William was apprenticed to his father in 1724, and a still younger brother, by name John, was, in 1731, apprenticed to a William Baldwin of Radbourne, blacksmith. Could this be his elder brother, the William just mentioned?

### (iii) THE LENGTH OF APPRENTICESHIP.

This was usually, but by no means invariably for the seven-year period provided in the Elizabethan Statute of Apprenticeships. Here are some exceptions; the list is not exhaustive.

In 1688 two boys were bound for eight years, both to tailors, in 1695 a boy was bound to a joiner in Derby for nine years, in 1699 a “poor fatherless boy” was bound for eight years to a gardener in Derby, and in 1726 a girl was bound to a master, Francis Grosvenor of Mark-eaton, seamstress for nine years. The record for the year 1716 is unusual. In that year out of four children apprenticed, all boys, only one was bound for seven years, the terms in the remaining cases being eleven years (to his father a baker), nine years (to a framework-knitter), and eight years to a weaver and woolcomber. In 1720 a boy was apprenticed to a woolcomber for ten years. During the first seven years he was to receive the customary wage of 6d. per quarter, but this was to be increased to £3 per annum for the last three years. Throughout the period the apprentice was to be found meat, drink, washing and lodging, and in addition clothing during the first seven years.

In contrast to these long apprenticeships are the following: again these are quoted as examples only. Four years was the term for which a girl was bound to a sempstress in 1688, in 1693 a girl was apprenticed for five years to a framework-knitter. In the same year another girl was bound for three years to Thomas Skidmore of Markeaton and Mary his wife, no trade being named, and in 1699 a girl was bound to a weaver for five years, "the master to teach her to weave, his wife to Learn her to sowe". Indeed these shorter terms were not exceptional for girls.

An interesting variant of the seven-year term is recorded in 1691 when a boy was bound to his father for five years and to a master in Derby for two years to learn the trade of tailor.

#### (iv) THE CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED BY THE MASTERS.

In the model apprenticeship deed appearing on the first page of the Apprentice Book, the master undertook to teach the apprentice his trade and to provide him with "all sorts of Wearing Apparrell meat drink washing Lodging and all other necessaryes". The individual entries shew that in addition the master was generally required to pay his apprentice a quarterly wage, usually 6d., though occasionally a smaller payment, e.g. 4d. or even 2d. is stipulated. In addition it seems to have been a general rule that he should give his apprentice at the end of the term "if he be living" (significant hint of the high mortality rate), an outfit in kind or a sum of money, sometimes both. The money payment seems to have been more frequent in the earlier years, though the records are not always precise. The payments varied from 10/- to 40/-.

From 1703 for a time the apprentices tended to be more generously treated. Thus Joseph Carter of Mackworth apprenticed in that year was to get "two suites of cloathes (whereof one is to be new)", Isabel Bembrigg, apprenticed in 1704, was to be given new shoes, stockings, clothes and all sorts of wearing apparel. Joseph Wallis apprenticed in 1705 was to have 5/- in money, a new suit of

clothes, woollen and linen, shoes and a hat. David Ellis, apprenticed in 1712, was better off with 15/- in money, two suits, woollens, linen, stockings, shoes, hat and gloves. His brother apprenticed in the following year was less fortunate. He was to receive 10/- and "a new suit of all wearing apparrell". Nicholas Smith bound in 1714 was to get two new shirts, a new suit and a common wearing shirt, but no cash. In later years practice was more uniform and less generous, ten shillings and a new suit of clothes being the provision generally made, though occasionally the suit was omitted.

When a boy was apprenticed to his father it is frequently stipulated that part of the premium should be reserved for the boy's benefit, e.g. £4 was paid to the father and £4 put into the hands of a third party to be paid to the boy at the end of his term, the father to have the interest in the meantime (1698); the whole premium was put out to interest, the boy to have principal and interest at the end of the apprenticeship, but if he died within his term, then it was to pass to the father (1716). The boy had, however, to serve for a term of eleven years. In 1695 a girl was bound to her aunt for five years and the money was put into the hands of a third party for the girl's benefit at the end of the term. This may well have proved a not unacceptable dowry.

In eight cases of boys apprenticed to framework-knitters, reference is made to the Customs of Apprenticeship in that trade. Six refer to payment for "over-work"; sometimes full-payment and sometimes half-payment is to be allowed. In one case it is to be according to the custom and usages of the trade. Reference is made more than once to binding the boy at Nottingham; this no doubt has reference to the Courts held for the purpose from time to time at Nottingham by the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters of London.

#### (v) THE PAYMENTS MADE TO THE POOR.

The will of German Pole provided that if in any year there should be no child, male or female, fit to be apprenticed in any parish, the premium of £8 should for that year be distributed by the Minister and Churchwardens

to the poor of that parish. During the sixty-nine years covered by the Apprentice Book, there are 285 records of apprenticeship and 123 cases when no children suitable to be apprenticed were forthcoming. A few cases are recorded when the trustees decided to bind a child, but the child was for some reason not subsequently apprenticed, and the £8, sometimes less expenses already incurred, was paid to the poor. These have been included in the 285 records of apprenticeship above-named. The records for the years 1701, 1702 and 1721 are incomplete. It is noticeable that with the passage of time the number of occasions on which the charity money was paid for the relief of the poor markedly increased. Did the trustees perhaps become less zealous and more liable to accept easily the recommendations of the Ministers and Churchwardens, and were the latter influenced by the chance of reducing the parish charges for poor relief by a welcome £8? May it even indicate that masters were becoming less anxious to take apprentices and that the slow decline of the apprenticeship-system was already beginning? Whatever the reason the tendency is clear from the following table:

Years.	No. of children apprenticed.	Occasions when premium was paid to the poor.
1685 to 1704	... 110	5
1705 to 1724	... 80	39
1725 to 1744	... 73	47
1745 to 1753	... 22	32

This section may well be concluded by quoting in full a letter addressed to German Pole pasted into the record of the meeting held in 1750. The writer was Rector of Dalbury Lees:

“Sr,

James Walters the Bearer of this is Churchwarden of Dalbury and as now is the time we usually distribute the Charity money, I beg the fav<sup>r</sup> that you'll be pleased to pay it into his hands, and I will take particular care to see it distributed according to the Will of the Founder. Our Compliments attend you your Lady &c. with the good old wish of a merry



Christmas and happy New Year from Your obedient  
humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

Sam<sup>l</sup> Davison

Dalbury. Dec. 24th, 1750."

A receipt for £8 in the handwriting of and signed by James Walters, Church-warden and Overseer of the Poor of Dalbury under date Dec. 24th, 1750, appears in this record.

From considering the payments made to the poor of the six parishes, it is a natural transition to the question of settlement, a matter of such anxious concern to the Overseers of the Poor in particular and to the parishes in general. There are two examples of boys whose fathers were not resident in one of the six parishes benefiting from this Charity. In 1748 John Maycock, son of Samuel Maycock of Heage "whose settlement is at Markeaton" and Thomas Brown, son of John Brown of Willington "whose settlement is at Mickleover" were apprenticed for the parishes of Markeaton and Mickleover respectively.

An instance of another kind occurs in the records for the year 1696. This is quoted in full and speaks for itself:

"Md. that Thomas Byard of Newton Solney in the County of Derby Yeom. doth for himself and other the Inhabitants of Newton afores'd Consent that John Morley of Newton, Taylor, may have Liberty by and with the consent and good Likeing of him and other the Inhabitants of Newton aforesd to take to Apprentice Rich. Harrison a poor child from Mickleover soe as to make him capable of a settlement att Newton when his time is out."

Even so formal a record as the Apprentice Book cannot be perused without hints of human tragedies appearing. The case of Elizabeth Shipman of Mercaston, who in 1693 fell destitute of a habitation, has already been mentioned. Of another order is the following under date 29th May, 1740:

"Mickleover. Order'd that Henry Handson, son of ffrances Thornilee now ffrances wife of [*here is a*

*blank space*] be put out apprentice to John Spencer of Mickleover af'd Taylor for seven years . . ."

There are two marginal notes, the first in the same hand as the entry, the second in another hand, the first "Q. Whether this is to be putt out", the second (doubtless after enquiries had been made) "this boy being a bastard is not entitled to the Charity so Mr Pole will pay the money to Mickleover". A receipt for £8 shews that the premium was duly given to the Minister and Churchwardens of Mickleover on October 27th, 1740.

In 1743 Henry Dand, son of Sarah Dand of Dalbury Lees was "ordered to be put an apprentice to Benjamin Holbrook of the parish of St. Alkmund in the Borough of Derby Skinner and Glover for seven years". Once more, and in a different hand, a marginal note appears "Memorand. this boy was not putt out apprentice to Ben Holbrooke, for after the Inden. was made it was discovered that he was a certificate p'son." (i.e. was subject to poor relief and presumably his place of settlement was in doubt.) "So the £8 was paid to the Minister and Churchwardens of Dalbury for the poor."

Dand's story, unlike Henry Handson's has a happy sequel as the following entry shews:

17 May 1744.

"Ordered that Henry Dand son of Sarah Dand of Dalbury Lees widow be putt apprentice to George Ashmore of Long Lane in the parish of Sutton-on-the-Hill in the County of Derby blacksmith for seven years."

Just what had happened in the interval between the two entries to establish his eligibility to benefit from the Charity? To this question there can be no answer, since the record is silent. Maybe it was decided to stretch a point in his favour: maybe enquiries had established his right to a settlement in Dalbury Lees. Be this as it may his future prospects were restored, and on this happy note this account of the German Pole Apprentice Charity may fittingly close.

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