

— The —
James, Mary, & Louisa Barton
Charity

—○—
TURVEY and BEDFORD
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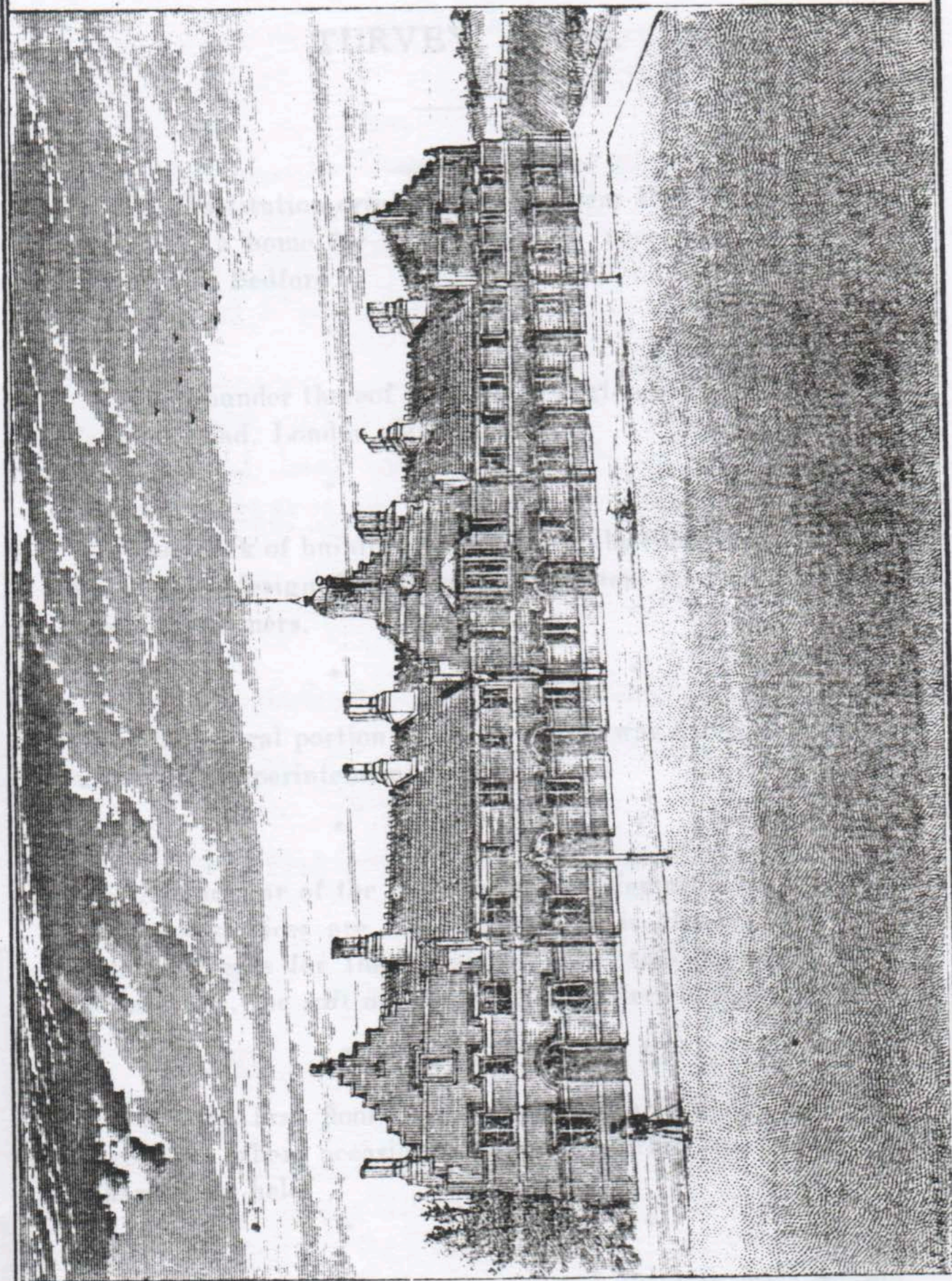
Subilee Souvenir Handbook

50 YEARS
1885 — 1935

A Chronicle of Events
Compiled from the Official Records

BEDFORD
April, 1935

The Barton Charity.



ALMSHOUSES AND MEMORIAL HALL,

TURVEY N^R BEDFORD, 1885.

THE BARTON CHARITY

TURVEY, BEDS.

This Institution originated in the year 1881 with a desire to provide a home for deserving and necessitous poor of Turvey and Bedford.

* * * *

The Founder thereof was James Barton of Oakley House, Camden Road, London, Manufacturer.

* * * *

The block of buildings situate near the Station at Turvey, Beds., was designed to accommodate ten married and ten single Pensioners.

* * * *

The central portion of the building was fitted up for the use of the Superintendent or Caretaker.

* * * *

At the rear of the building is the Memorial Hall, where religious services are held, and which is also available for entertainments for the Pensioners. In this Memorial Hall is an organ, the gift of the late Sir Frederick Howard.

* * * *

On the first floor is a spacious Board Room, suitably furnished, where occasional meetings of the Trustees of the Charity are held.

* * * *

When the building was completed, Tablets were placed thereon bearing the following inscriptions:—

The James, Mary, and Louisa Barton Charity

THESE ALMSHOUSES are erected and endowed for the relief of twenty poor persons of good character and reputation, being inhabitants of the Parish of Turvey and of the Town of Bedford, both in the County of Bedford, by—

JAMES BARTON

of Oakley House, Camden Road, London,
in the year of Our Lord, 1884.

To the Glory of God

THESE ALMSHOUSES are erected and endowed in
Loving Memory of

MARY and LOUISA BARTON

By their Brother,

JAMES BARTON

of Oakley House, Camden Road, London,

and are intended for the relief of twenty
poor persons of good character and reputation, being in-
habitants of the Parish of Turvey and of the Town of
Bedford, both in the County of Bedford,

July 22nd, 1884.

The Institution was opened on Wednesday the 24th June, 1885, by :—

The RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL COWPER, K.G.,
Lord Lieutenant of the County,

supported by

The Most Noble the Marquis of Tavistock, M.P.

James Howard, Esq., M.P.

Samuel Whitbread, Esq., M.P.

Charles Magniac, Esq., M.P.

The Pensioners had all been elected and took up their residence there early in July, 1885.

Rules to be observed by the Pensioners had been prepared and circularised, and these Rules were signed by Henry Stewardson, of Bedford, who was the first Honorary Secretary.

James Barton, the Founder, died in January, 1887, and at their subsequent first Meeting the Trustees passed the following Resolution :—

“ The Trustees desire to express the deep regret
“ with which they heard of the death of the Founder
“ of this Institution, and they wish to record their
“ esteem for his benevolent character, and their
“ sense of the great loss which the Institution has
“ sustained by his removal.”

The Deed of Gift of the land at Turvey (whereon the Building is erected) to nominated Trustees, was executed by James Barton on the 14th June, 1884, and this Deed (which was duly enrolled in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice) contained the Rules and Regulations for the future management of the Trust.

The Deed Poll creating the Endowment Fund was executed by James Barton, and the first set of Trustees on the 2nd June, 1885. The amount of the Endowment Fund provided by the Founder was Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-three pounds, six shillings and eight pence Consolidated three per cent Annuities.

In the year 1905 Miss J. A. Owen, of Bedford, bequeathed the residue of her Estate (about £600) to the Trustees of this Charity for the augmentation of the Endowment Fund.

The first Trustees of the Charity were the Founder, James Barton, and the following nominated Trustees:—

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| James Howard, M.P. ... | Clapham Park. |
| The Rev. G. F. W. Munby | The Rector of the Parish of Turvey. |
| The Rev. R. E. R. Watts | The Vicar of the Parish of St. Paul, Bedford. |
| The Rev. Samuel Thomas | The Minister of the Congregation of Protestant Dissenters, Turvey. |
| The Rev. John Brown ... | The Minister of the Congregation of Protestant Dissenters at Bunyan Meeting, Bedford. |
| E. K. Karlake, Esq., Q.C. | |
| W. F. Higgins, Esq., J.P. | |
| W. J. Mackie | Physician and Surgeon. |
| John Rogers | Auctioneer. |
| John Gasking | Lace Manufacturer. |
| Michael Hinde | Plumber, etc. |
| Frederick Howard, Esq., J.P. | |
| Henry Stewardson, Esq. | |
| Henry Pulley | Auctioneer. |
| Luke Cherry, Esq. | |
| John Carrington Conquest | Solicitor. |

Some changes had already taken place in the names of the Trustees.

The Rev. Lambert Woodard was the Vicar of St. Paul's, Bedford, in the place of the Rev. R. E. R. Watts; The Rev. Mills Robinson in the place of the Rev. Samuel Thomas, of Turvey; William James Mackie was disqualified by non-residence, and Luke Cherry had passed away.

At this first Meeting John Carrington Conquest, of Bedford, was elected Hon. Secretary of the Trustees, and he continued in this office until his death, in August, 1909. A Committee of Management was also appointed. Subsequently an Organist was appointed.

The amount of the weekly Pensions to the Pensioners was fixed at 6/- for single persons and 8/- for married couples.

Medical attendance was also provided, the single Pensioners paying 1/6 per quarter and the married Pensioners 2/6 per quarter. Subsequently the Trustees supplemented this amount from the Trust.

Arrangements were also made for religious services in the Memorial Hall by the Rector of Turvey and the Non-conformist Minister at Turvey, and these services are held on Sundays to this day. A Harvest Thanksgiving Service is held annually in the Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Huckle were the first Caretakers at the Institution.

In 1887, 1889, and 1893 further land adjoining the Institution was purchased by the Trustees, and this land is now used as Vegetable and Flower gardens by the Pensioners and the Caretaker.

All the original Trustees have passed away.

New Trustees to fill vacancies have been from time to time appointed, their names being:—

Ex-Officio Trustees.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------|
| The Rev. C. B. Hulton | } | Turvey |
| „ „ F. W. Fulford | | |
| „ „ Guy Beech | | |

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------|
| The Rev. J. H. Speck | } | Bedford |
| „ „ Canon Robins | | |

NONCONFORMISTS:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------|
| The Rev. D. E. Williams | } | Turvey |
| „ „ John Gordon | | |
| „ „ J. R. Price | | |
| „ „ J. H. King | | |
| „ „ E. Slater | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|
| The Rev. W. Charter Piggott | } | Bedford |
| „ „ Leonard Brooks | | |
| „ „ C. B. Cockett | | |
| „ „ R. H. Turner | | |

Nominated Trustees.

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--------|
| A. J. Chapman | } | Turvey |
| S. G. Crosse | | |
| J. W. Pascoe | | |
| Capt. Cooper | | |
| Gustavus F. Higgins | | |
| Capt. C. T. Lindsell | | |
| J. W. Backhouse | | |
| A. W. Previt  | | |
| Major C. E. Wells | | |
| S. C. Jury | | |

Joshua Hawkins
 Charles Wells
 Alfred Clare
 John E. Page
 Col. E. R. Green
 S. L. Kilpin
 Chas. Franklin
 Rev. V. P. Wyatt
 J. W. Biss
 F. W. Conquest
 T. E. Rose
 Edmund Walker
 Dr. Harvey Goldsmith
 W. S. Brocklehurst
 W. D. Stevens
 Percival Gregory

Bedford

Many of the above have died and others have left the District.

In January, 1891, Walter Shepherd, of Bedford, was appointed Assistant Secretary to the Trustees, and he has remained in office from that date—a total of 44 years.

In June, 1892, A. E. Anthony, of Bedford, was appointed Surveyor to the Trust. Mr. Anthony died in the year 1920, and he was succeeded by Major C. Gude, of Bedford, who still holds the office.

In 1894 Robert Huckle and his wife (the Caretakers) were appointed Pensioners of the Charity, and James Bird and wife were elected Caretakers.

From time to time Caretakers (as they grew infirm) were appointed Pensioners. The further names of Caretakers are as under:—

| | |
|--|----------|
| Mr. and Mrs. W. Keech | Turvey |
| Mr. and Mrs. H. Sargeant | „ |
| Mr. and Mrs. S. Lay | Lavendon |
| (gave up the position in February, 1935) | |

The present Caretakers are Mr. and Mrs. L. Church.

On the death of Mr. J. C. Conquest in 1909, Mr. Alfred Clare was appointed Hon. Secretary to the Trustees, and he continued in this office until his death in 1912.

Mr. James Harold Howard was thereupon appointed his Successor, and he continued to hold this office until he died in the year 1929. Mr. Howard took a very keen interest in the Institution and the Pensioners.

Since that date the duties of Hon. Secretary have been ably carried out by Mr. W. S. Brocklehurst, who still continues in that office.

In the year 1913 arrangements were made for a continuous supply of water to the Institution from the Water Supply in the ownership of Capt. Higgins, of Turvey. The water was subsequently installed for domestic and garden purposes, and the old well from which the water had been obtained since the founding of the Institution was abandoned. A fire hydrant and hose was also installed.

In the year 1916 application was made to the Charity Commissioners for an Order authorising an increase in the amount of weekly pensions. This application was granted. Increases were made and the amount of the pensions are now :—

8/- per week (single persons)
12/- per week (married couples)

These amounts are in addition to the Pensioners' Old Age Pensions of 10/- per week each under the Government Scheme.

In July, 1922, the installation of Electric Light was considered and agreed to. A suitable Electrical Engine and

Plant was thereupon installed. Recently the Institution has been linked up with the Public Electric Supply, the current being supplied to the Inmates free of charge.

In October, 1922, a suggestion was adopted for the using of the large Board Room by the Pensioners as a Recreation and Reading Room. A number of books and periodicals were provided by the late Edmund Walker and others to form a library. This scheme, however, was not favoured by the Pensioners, and it was subsequently discontinued.

In the year 1923 an Order was made by the Charity Commissioners authorising the Trustees to pay an Annual Fee for services rendered at the Institution by the Rector of Turvey and the Nonconformist Minister at Turvey.

In 1928 the question of provision of more modern Sanitary arrangements was considered by the Trustees. A plan and specifications for a septic tank and new W.C.'s, etc., were prepared by the Surveyor and presented to the Trustees. The scheme was adopted and the work subsequently carried out.

To the sincere regret of his Colleagues, the Rev. Guy Beech (Rector of Turvey) has recently left the district. Mr. Beech was greatly interested in the Institution and acted as Chairman of the Trust since the year 1919. His successor is the Rev. C. A. B. Allen.

By careful management of the Finance and (in the early years) by the transfer of portions of the Trust moneys (under the expert guidance of the late Mr. J. C. Conquest) into securities of a higher yield of interest, the amount of the Endowment Fund has been considerably increased. At the commencement of 1884 the Endowment Fund consisted of the sum of Fifteen thousand eight hundred and thirty-three

pounds six shillings and eight pence Consolidated three per cent Annuities. In 1934 the Fund had been increased to upwards of Twenty-four thousand pounds (at cost price of investments). The Endowment Fund is now vested in the Charity Commissioners.

The Income for the year 1934 amounted to £1,039 0s. 0d., and the expenditure to £877 0s. 0d.

The Accounts of the Charity are submitted annually to the Charity Commissioners.

All the various improvements at, and additions to, the Institution, such as the purchase of additional ground, the water supply and conversion of W.C.'s, the electric light installation and machinery and the sewage plant have been paid for out of Revenue and the Endowment Fund is now in a strong position.

The buildings and grounds, etc., have been carefully surveyed each half-year, under the direction of the late Mr. A. E. Anthony, and subsequently of Major Gude, and as a result they continue in excellent repair and condition. Tablets to the memory of the late Miss Owen and Mr. J. C. Conquest have been placed in the Memorial Hall and read as follows:—

MISS J. A. OWEN.

“ This Tablet was erected by the Trustees in
“ Memory of Miss Josephine Annie Owen,
“ formerly of Bowdon, Cheshire, and afterwards
“ of the Town of Bedford, who died 1st December,
“ 1904.—and who by her Will bequeathed the
“ residue of her Estate to the Trustees of this
“ Charity to be applied by them in augmentation
“ of the Endowment Fund.”

MR. J. C. CONQUEST.

“ To the Glory of God and in grateful remembrance of John Carrington Conquest, who was born August 23rd, 1839, and died August 7th, 1909, and who generously rendered valuable services as Secretary of the Barton Charity from the foundation on June 14th, 1884.”

The present Trustees of the Charity are:—

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------|------|
| The Rev. C. A. B. Allen | Turvey | 1910 |
| The Rev. E. Slater | Turvey | 1920 |
| The Rev. Canon Robins | Bedford | 1927 |
| The Rev. R. H. Turner | Bedford | 1928 |
| Capt. C. T. Lindsell, J.P. | Turvey | 1929 |
| Mr. A. W. Previt , J.P. | „ | 1929 |
| Mr. W. S. Brocklehurst, J.P. | Bedford | 1931 |
| Dr. Harvey Goldsmith | „ | 1942 |
| Mr. S. C. Jury | „ | 1943 |
| Mr. W. D. Stevens | „ | 1944 |
| Mr. P. Gregory | „ | 1945 |

Mr. P. N. Binns, of Bedford, is Solicitor to the Trust.

The Officers are:—

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Hon. Secretary | ... | Mr. W. S. Brocklehurst |
| Surveyor | | Major C. Gude |
| Assistant Secretary | ... | Mr. Walter Shepherd |
| Organist | | Miss S. M. Birch |
| Caretakers | | Mr. and Mrs. Church |

WALTER SHEPHERD,
17, St. Paul's Square,
Bedford.

April, 1935.

LIST OF PRESENT PENSIONERS AT TURVEY ALMSHOUSES

| TURVEY OCCUPIERS | Year of Election |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Miss Allen | 1919 |
| Mrs. George King | 1920 |
| Miss Freeman | 1923 |
| Mr. H. Sergeant | 1925 |
| Mr. F. Street | 1929 |
| Mr. and Mrs Osborn | 1931 |
| Mrs. Ada Sergeant | 1932 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Weed | 1933 |
| Mr. W. A. Clifton | 1934 |
| Miss E. Birch | 1935 |

BEDFORD OCCUPIERS

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Mrs. Simons | 1921 |
| Mrs. Crawley | 1924 |
| Miss C. Abrahams | 1928 |
| Mr J. Rubython | 1928 |
| Miss Fuller | 1931 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch | 1932 |
| Miss E Y. Ayres | 1932 |
| Mr. and Mrs. F. Higgins | 1934 |
| Miss Baker | 1935 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Whittle | 1935 |