

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### Introduction

- 1 Seal of Cause, 1813
- 2 Annual Reports, 1817-1935
- 3 History of Society, 1885
- 4 States of the Funds, 1844-1960
- 5 Finance Committee Minutes, 1896-1922
- 6 Visiting Committee Minutes, 1937-1979
- 7 Ledgers of Recipients of Relief, 1792-1797, 1930-1952
- 8 Treasurer's Cash Books, 1824-1912
- 9 Treasurer's Weekly Disbursements, 1930-1981
- 10 Cash Books, 1887-1973
- 11 Convalescent Fund Ledgers, 1892-1938
- 12 Miscellaneous, 1834-1944
- 13 Bertram Trust Papers, 1704-1829
- 14 Plenderleath Trust Fund, 1840-1966
- 15 William Whyte Fund, 1893-1959
- 16 Minutes – Subscribers' and Friends' Meetings, 1901-1948
- 17 Minutes – Directors' Meetings, 1933-1948

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **Introduction**

These records were transferred to the Medical Archive Centre from the Scottish Record Office (now the National Archives of Scotland), where they had been deposited by Messrs Scott & Paterson, Chartered Accountants, and by the Society itself.

The Society originated in 1785 on a voluntary basis, and was incorporated by a Seal of Cause granted by the Town Council of Edinburgh in 1813. It existed to provide relief to those prevented from earning a living by illness, and who were unable to make claims on other public charities or on parish funds. The conditions of applicants were assessed by the Society's visitors, who determined whether each case was a deserving one and worthy of relief. The visitors evangelised and offered spiritual as well as pecuniary relief. Alternatively donations of clothing, coal and meal were made, if considered more appropriate than financial relief.

In addition to the records of the Society itself, there is a large body of papers connected with James Bertram's Trust. James Bertram, a merchant originally from Biggar, Lanarkshire, bequeathed a substantial legacy to the Society in 1828. One of his trustees, Robert Plenderleath, was the Society's Treasurer at that time and so the Trust papers were incorporated with those of the Society. They date from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and include correspondence and other family and legal papers concerning the Bertram family.

**GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

**1 Seal of Cause, 1813**

- 1 Seal of Cause granted by the Town Council of Edinburgh to the office-bearers of the Society, erecting it into an Incorporation, 1813. Typescript copy made in 1924.

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **2      Annual Reports, 1817-1935**

These printed Reports outline the work and aims of the Society in each year. They give details of a few case histories and the help given by the Society. They also list the names of subscribers and donors, and the sums given.

- |   |           |                                                                      |
|---|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1817-1851 | The Report for 1817 gives details of sums distributed from Jul 1785. |
| 2 | 1881-1903 | Also gives Minutes of Annual Meetings of the Friends of the Society. |
| 3 | 1903-1932 |                                                                      |
| 4 | 1935      | Photocopy                                                            |

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **3 History of Society, 1885**

- 1 'The Society's Origin, Constitution and Operations', 1885 A booklet to mark the centenary of the founding of the Society, which gives details of its origin and work. Photocopy.

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **4 States of the Funds, 1844-1960**

These bound volumes contain details of the capital held and interest received by the Society; and statements of legacies received.

- |   |           |                                                                                                         |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1844-1944 | Gives an inventory of property, including a meeting hall and furnishings, owned by the Society in 1844. |
| 2 | 1945-1960 |                                                                                                         |

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **5 Finance Committee Minutes, 1896-1922**

The minute books show the investments made by the committee.

1 1896-1922

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **6 Visiting Committee Minutes, 1937-1979**

These minute books show the total weekly sum distributed, with a note of the number of new cases assisted.

1 1937-1979



## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **7      Ledgers of Recipients of Relief, 1792-1797, 1930-1952**

These give the names and addresses of parishes of recipients and sums of money distributed. The first two ledgers occasionally give details of dependants of illnesses.

- |    |           |                                                                                              |
|----|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1* | 1792-1794 | Some pages torn                                                                              |
| 2* | 1794-1797 |                                                                                              |
| 3  | 1930-1952 | Contains interleaved, a printed application form for relief, filled in by an applicant, 1952 |

\* MICROFILM COPY AVAILABLE

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **8      Treasurer's Cash Books, 1824-1912**

These notebooks, begun by Robert Plenderleath, Treasurer, are a daily record of the monies passed to and from the Treasurer. They record subscriptions and donations received, and funds paid out on the administration of the Society.

- |   |           |                                                                       |       |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | 1824-1827 | Contains, on inside back cover, notes on a few applicants for relief. |       |
| 2 | 1831-1836 |                                                                       |       |
| 3 | 1836-1840 | Cash book                                                             | No 9  |
| 4 | 1841-1845 |                                                                       | No 10 |
| 5 | 1874-1912 |                                                                       |       |

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **9      Treasurer's Weekly Disbursements, 1930-1981**

These ledgers contain notes of relief given, either in cash or in kind, by each visitor.

- |   |           |                                       |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1930-1939 |                                       |
| 2 | 1939-1952 |                                       |
| 3 | 1952-1964 |                                       |
| 4 | 1964-1981 |                                       |
| 5 | 1935-1949 | Shows total monies paid out each week |
| 6 | 1949-1969 | Shows total monies paid out each week |

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **10 Cash Books, 1887-1973**

The Cash Books show all financial transactions on a daily basis, including the investment of capital, administration expenses and sums paid out by visitors. Included are pasted-in printed copies of abstracts of Treasurer's accounts.

1	1887-1912	No 1	Includes abstracts 1888-1912	
2	1912-1918	No 2		
3	1918-1924	No 3		
4	1924-1930	No 4	Includes abstracts 1924-1929	
5	1930-1936	No 5	Includes abstracts 1930-1935	
6	1936-1941	No 6	Includes abstracts 1936-1940	
7	1941-1947	No 7	Includes abstracts 1941-1947	
8	1947-1955	No 8	Includes abstracts 1948-1955	
9	1955-1962	No 9	Includes abstracts 1956-1960	
10	1962-1968	No 10	Includes abstracts 1962-1966	and Directors' Annual Report, 1968
11	1968-1973			

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **11      Convalescent Fund Ledgers, 1892-1938**

These ledgers give the names and addresses of patients/recipients and the addresses to which they were sent for convalescence, the length of stay there and any other relevant remarks.

- |   |           |                                                                                                                                     |
|---|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1892-1938 | Contains, loosely interleaved, filled in application forms for relief by the Fund, and filled in Special Case Schedules, 1913-1921. |
| 2 | n.d.      | Blank ledger                                                                                                                        |

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **12      Miscellaneous, 1834-1944**

- 1      Edinburgh Council of Social Service Mutual Register of Assistance Reply Schedules, 1940-1944. A report on assistance given by the Council to those applying for relief to the Society, in order to avoid duplication of effort.
- 2      Notebook of Robert Anderson, visitor for the Society, recording names and addresses of recipients of relief, and amounts given, 1865-1895.
- 3      Rules and Instructions to Visitors of the Society, 1893.
- 4      Rules and Instructions to Visitors of the Society, 1924, (photocopy)
- 5      Two press-cuttings concerning the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society's foundation, 1935, (photocopy).
- 6      Extract from the Trust Disposition and Settlement of William Whyte, dated 1890, registered 1892, bequeathing money to the Society, (typescript, photocopy).
- 7      Three illustrated tickets for the Society's centenary Conversazione, 1885.
- 8      Extract from the Settlement by Robert Plenderleath, Treasurer of the Society, dated 1834, registered 1837, bequeathing money to the Society, (typescript, photocopy).
- 9      King James Bible. Bound "Committee Destitute Sick Society, 1860"

**13 Bertram Trust Papers, 1704-1829**

These papers were collected by Robert Plenderleath, the Society's Treasurer, in his capacity as a trustee appointed by James Bertram, and as an office-bearer of the Society, because the latter benefited from the Trust.

In addition to legal papers concerning the Trust and its administration, and disputes connected with it, there are also legal papers concerning other Bertram family executries, the sale of land in and around Biggar, Lanarkshire, and other family and business papers.

They are arranged in the bundles in which they were found, in a loosely chronological order. Some bundles, however, span a few years, others over one hundred, and some bundles may contain papers concerning several topics, while others are more specific.

- 1 Disposition by John Young, burgess of Biggar, Lanarkshire, and Marion Telfer, his spouse, of his burgh land in Biggar, to Andrew Brown, 1704. Torn.
- 2 Papers concerning sales and tacks of land in and around Biggar to or by George Bertram, younger, and James Bertram, merchants there, and bonds to repay money borrowed from them, 1707-1770. 44ff
- 3 Business correspondence, mainly concerning Bertram executries and the administration of James Bertram's Trust, and papers and deeds concerning land and property in Biggar, including a decree concerning the division of the burgh muir there, 1729. 1710-1812. 60ff.
- 4 Legal papers, including bonds, receipts, marriage contracts, accounts and business correspondence, concerning the Bertram family and their land in Biggar, 1718-1777. 77ff.
- 5 Legal papers, including bonds, receipts, marriage contracts, accounts and business correspondence, concerning the Bertram family and their land in Biggar, 1718-1777. Includes copy will of George Bertram, elder, and papers concerning his executry, 1719-1780. 64ff.
- 6 Confirmation of the executors of George Bertram, younger, title deeds concerning land in and around Biggar, other papers concerning a disputed title to property there and invoices for legal expenses. Also papers concerning the apprenticeship of George Bertram, son of George Bertram, younger, to John Wright, baker in Edinburgh. 1727-1810. 43ff.
- 7 Papers concerning land in Biggar owned by George Bertram younger and James Bertram. 1729-1818. 55ff.
- 7A Administrative and legal papers of the trustees of James Bertram, including inventories of papers produced by the trustees, and draft marriage contracts of John Brown and Marion Bertram, 1734. 1780-1814. 21ff.

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **13 Bertram Trust Papers, 1704-1829**

- 8 Instrument of Sasine by Alexander Forsyth, portioner of Biggar, to John Bertram, merchant in Biggar, of tenements on the south side of Biggar, and land in the north part of Biggar, for a consideration of 2,000 marks. 11 May 1739.
- 9 Papers concerning a dispute between George Bertram younger and Janet Inglis, widow of James Vallance, portioner of Biggar, concerning the title to a church seat; notes and a draft lease by ?George Bertram younger concerning his property in Biggar; and other papers concerning property let in Biggar to or by George Bertram younger or James Bertram. 1740-1779. 26ff.
- 10 Papers concerning the executry of John Brown, indweller in Biggar, and his wife, Marion Bertram, and the legal expenses incurred by it. 1745-1776. 52ff.
- 10a Copy Testament of James Bertram, papers concerning the administration of his trust, and inventories of his estate and furniture, before and after his death. 1751-1811.
- 10b Promissory notes and bills of exchange on favour of George Bertram younger, and James, George and William Bertram and others. 1748-1803. 25ff.
- 11 Deeds concerning the executry of George Bertram younger, and his family's business affairs. 1759-1792. 27ff.
- 12 Papers concerning land in Biggar owned by the Bertram family; the executry of George Bertram younger; and the sale of Bellfield by James Bertram. 1761-1796. 40ff.
- 12A Papers concerning property in and around Biggar owned by James and William Bertram, and concerning the executry of their sister in law, Helen Montgomery, widow of George Bertram. Also papers of George Bertram younger concerning property in Biggar. 1767-1812. 112ff.
- 13 Inventories of deeds concerning lands in Biggar; business correspondence and invoices; and three statements of William Bertram's affairs at 1795, 1799, 1803. 1780-1810.
- 14 Copy dispositions of land in and around Biggar, and draft deeds relating to the disputes concerning the land between James and William Bertram. 1780-1816. 80ff.
- 15 Legal papers concerning a legal dispute over a title to land in Biggar between James and William Bertram, and James Aitchison there. 1787-1811. 28ff.
- 16 Papers concerning the financial investments of James Bertram. 1791-1811. 77ff.
- 17/



## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **13 Bertram Trust Papers, 1704-1829**

- 17 Inventory of estate of James Bertram; accounts of legal expenses; Trust Disposition of James Bertram; and four promissory notes. 1800-1817. 34ff.
- 18 Invoices and accounts addressed to William Bertram, the majority paid by James Bertram. 1803-1810. 43ff.
- 19 Inventories of vouchers and papers, legal and business correspondence, and legal accounts, all concerning James and William Bertram. 1805-1811. 50ff.
- 20 Accounts, vouchers and letters concerning James and William Bertram, acting as trustees for the creditors of John Robb, horse dealer in Biggar. 1808-1810. 35ff.
- 21 Letters of, and to, James and William Bertram, and of, and to, James Bertram's trustees concerning land in Biggar, some from Christian Bertram, James Bertram's wife. 1808-1822. 33ff.
- 22 Papers concerning the executry of Helen Montgomery or Bertram, sister in law of James Bertram and widow of George Bertram, 1808-1813. 62ff.
- 23 Legal papers concerning an action by James Bertram against John Vallance, his tenant in Biggar. 1808. 8ff.
- 24 Letters to William Howison, writer, Edinburgh, from William Bertram. One from Alexander Mundell. 1810-1811. 15ff.
- 25 Legal papers concerning a dispute between the trustees of James Bertram and the executors of William Bertram. 1810-1817. 62ff.
- 26 Copy minutes of meetings of the trustees of James Bertram. 1810-1821. 58ff.
- 27 Copy minutes as in 26 above. 1810-1821. Includes a letter of Christian Howison, Holmfoot, and a copy letter of John McGhie, shoemaker, Biggar. 80ff.
- 28 Letters of Christian Bertram, James Stirling, James Reed and James Bertram concerning the latter's trust. 1810-1811. 17ff.
- 29 Financial papers, including share certificates and accounts of James Bertram's trustees, invoices and receipts. 1810-1824. 138ff.
- 30 Letters of Messrs Thomas Coutts & Co, bankers, London, to William Howison, writer, Edinburgh, concerning the trust funds of James Bertram, and an inventory of letters. 1811-1821. 29ff.

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **13 Bertram Trust Papers, 1704-1829**

- 31 Letters of Alexander Mundell to William Howison, writer, Edinburgh, concerning probate of the will of James Bertram. One letter of A Findlater. 1811. 16ff.
- 32 Papers concerning the executry of William Bertram and a claim by a relative on the estate of James Bertram. Includes copy testament-dative of William Bertram. 1811-1812. 47ff.
- 33 Probate granted by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury of the will of James Bertram. 1811. 5ff.
- 34 Legal papers concerning a dispute between the trustees of James Bertram and the executors of William Bertram; accounts between James and William Bertram; a submission and decree arbitral between the trustees of the former and the executors of the latter. 1813-1817. 148ff.
- 35 Legal papers concerning a dispute between the trustees of James Bertram and the executors of William Bertram. Includes notes on the state of the trust fund at May and August 1817, and accounts of William Howison, writer, with the trustees of James Bertram. 1816-1817. 141ff.
- 36 Legal papers concerning disputes between tenants of James Bertram and his trustees. Includes letters from John McGhie, shoemaker, Biggar, a tenant of James Bertram. 1816-1819. 72ff.
- 37 Papers and minutes of the trustees of James Bertram, some concerning the dispute with the executors of William Bertram; and statements of the trust funds. 1816-1817. 28ff.
- 38 Papers concerning the state of funds of Bertram's trust, including invoices and accounts. Also papers concerning business, including house sales and purchases, conducted for William John James, attorney, Kingston, Jamaica, by William Howison senior and William Howison junior, writers, Edinburgh. Letters of John McGhie, shoemaker, Biggar, to William Howison senior. 1819-1824. 145ff.
- 39 Accounts of Bertram's trustees and of William Howison senior, writer. 1821-1824. 138ff.
- 40 Notes on the state of the funds of the trust; lists of first, second and third cousins of James Bertram entitled to inherit a legacy from his estate; minutes of trustees' meetings, and a certified copy minute of the Society for Relief of the Destitute Sick. 1821-1828. 47ff.

**GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

**13 Bertram Trust Papers, 1704-1829**

- 41 Accounts, receipts and other papers concerning the executry of Christian Bertram, widow of James Bertram and the administration of the trust fund. 1824-1826. 43ff.
- 42 Accounts and vouchers concerning the administration of the trust, and the sale of James Bertram's house in St Patrick Square, Edinburgh, 1826-1828. 24ff.
- 43 Accounts and vouchers concerning the lease and sale of James Bertram's house in St Patrick's Square, Edinburgh, by his trustees. 1828-1829. 23ff.

## **GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

### **14 Plenderleath Trust Fund, 1840-1966**

- 1 Minute Book of the Trustees of Robert Plenderleath, Treasurer of the Society, which includes reports on applicants for relief to the fund, 1840-1868.
- 2 Minute Book, Trustees' meetings, 1840-1952. Includes excerpt of settlement by Mr Robert Plenderleath, 1837.
- 3 Treasurer's Book, 1870-1954. Includes lists of pensioners, 1887-1954.
- 4 Cash Account Book, 1954-1966.

**GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

**15 William Whyte Fund, 1893-1959**

- 1 Minute Book of Managers, 1893-1952. Includes excerpt from Trust disposition and settlement, 1892.
- 2 Cash Book, 1893-1959

**GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

**16      Subscribers and Friends of the Society, 1901-1948**

1      Minute Book, Sunscribers' and Friends' meetings, 1901-1948

**GD10/ EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF THE DESTITUTE SICK**

**17 Directors of the Society, 1933-1948**

1 Minute Book, Directors' meetings, 1933-1948