
REV. GEORGE MILLER / MILLARD

The Will of George Miller, also known as George Millard, Vicar of Box, Wiltshire, was printed in an issue of *The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* in 1900. It was part of an article "Four Letters written by the Rev. George Millard", which dealt with activities concerning the Charity Schools of the parishes of Box and Calston, and the encouragement of song and psalms around Christian worship¹.

The full volume of the magazine can be found at <http://archive.org/details/wiltshirearcheo31arch>. The article in question of the June 1900 issue commences page 33, volume 31 of the magazine.

Copied from the magazine:-

FOUR LETTERS WRITTEN BY THE REV. GEORGE MILLARD, A.D. 1712—18

Communicated by the Vicar of Box.

GEORGE MILLARD, the writer of the following letters, matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, 28 Feb., 1694-5, as "filius plebis." He graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1698, and would appear to have shortly afterwards taken holy orders, for he was presented in 1701, by George Duckett, Esq., to the rectory of Calston, Co. Wilts. In 1704 he proceeded to his Master's degree. In 1707 he was presented by George Speke Petty, Esq., to the Vicarage of Box, and in 1712, by the Queen, to the Rectory of Haselbury, a parish long since stripped of Church and parsonage and usually served by the Vicar of Box. He retained these three livings till his death in 1740, having, so far as can be ascertained, received no further preferment in the Church. The letters are the originals, extracted from the archives of the S.P.C.K. with the object, it may be presumed, of enabling those responsible for its administration to decide whether the Box Charity School was or was not established in connection with the Church of England. No memorandum is preserved with the letters to explain the matter. Possibly, some century and a half after they were written they may have contributed to a decision in which their author would have rejoiced; but they are not offered now as evidence for or against the Commissioners' report. Apart from their style, which is admirable, whoever reads these letters cannot but feel the better for their perusal.

These details bear out information to be seen after searching the Church of England clergy [database](#). That source indicates George was 23 in 1700, and was born in Boxwell Parish [Gloucestershire]. The Will of Paunceford Miller, who is also in this family, made a bequest to his brother George, "clerk", of Box Parish, Wiltshire, with the Charity School in mind. A "Report on Box Charity" was made at some time which illuminates where the money

¹ The letters from the magazine are not included here. One thing of interest from them: the use of "thorn", þ. In later manuscript it was often rendered something like Y, and stood for the "th" sound in "the", "them", "thine" etc., not "th" as in "think". So "the" would be "þe", "them" "þem" etc. George rendered "them" as "ym" and "the" as "ye". These he used as abbreviations or shorthand; similarly, "wch" he used for "which", and "Xtian" for "Christian", following the old custom of superimposed greek *chi* X and *rho* P as ✠

came from to support it, its purpose, and the nature of its relationship to the Anglican Church. From the magazine²:-

REPORT ON BOX CHARITY,

[Printed in "Sessional Papers," 1834, vol. xxii., 1.]

“ Dame Rachel Speke, of Haslebury, in the parish of Box, by her will³, dated 26th Oct 1710, gave the interest of £100 for the use and better advancement of such Charity Schools as then were and thereafter should be in the parish of Box, for instructing poor children of the said parish, and for furnishing them with books. It appears by a Table of Benefactions in the parish Church, that George Speke Petty, of Haslebury, esq., in 1719 gave to the Charity School the interest of £100 for ever. By deeds of lease and release, dated 23rd and 24th December 1719 Thomas Speke, in order that a convenient house might be provided for the Schoolmaster of the Charity School for ever to dwell in, and for the commodiousness of the said school and poor children to be taught therein, conveyed his messuage or tenement, and garden thereunto belonging, with the small piece of void ground thereunto adjoining, on the north side of the said messuage, and abutting against Box Church-yard, on the east end or side thereof; and also sufficient ground in the garden then in the possession of John Ford, not exceeding two feet in breadth and 42 feet in length, whereon to erect the south wall of the messuage when the same should be rebuilt ; to hold to G. Millard⁴ and others, upon trust for the only benefit of the said charity school, and for books for the children, and for instructing them according to the judgment and discretion of the Vicar of Box for the time being, and other trustees, or any two or more of them, thereof the Vicar of Box to be always one ; and upon further trust, to permit the said messuage, garden, and premises to be occupied, and the profits received and taken by the poor children, or else that the same should be applied for their benefit and for defraying the charges of books.

By indentures of lease and release, dated 2nd and 3rd. September 1723, Christopher Eyre, for better maintaining and continuing of the charity school in Box, and instructing poor children therein, conveyed his messuage or cottage, garden and appurtenances, containing half an acre, situate at Henley, in the parish of Box ; also his other messuage or cottage, garden, orchard and appurtenances, containing in the whole half an acre situate at Henley ; and also his other messuage or cottage garden and appurtenances situate at Henley⁵ aforesaid ; to hold to the said Millard and others, to the end that the said Millard⁶ and others might, as they should think fit, make sale of the premises, and employ the monies so raised, as well as any rents thereof, in trust for the only benefit and better support of the said charity school, and of the poor children, from time to time therein taught, and for books for the poor children, instructing them according to the judgment and discretion of the Vicar of Box for the time being and other trustees, any two or more of them, whereof the Vicar of Box to be always one for ever.

² Spelling, footnotes etc., as in magazine.

³ This will cannot be found at Doctors' Commons or in the Registry at Salisbury.

⁴ Rev. George Millard, and his successors, Vicars of Box, Giles Eyre, Ambrose Goddard, and Samuel Webb, and their heirs.

⁵ The land at Henley belonging to Box Charity is described in the Tithe apportionment, 1838, as only 2s. 17p. and only two cottages are mentioned.

⁶ Rev. G. Millard and his successors, Thomas Speke, Giles Eyre, and Samuel Webb.

It appears by the same table of Benefactions, that Thomas Speke⁷ of Haslebury, esquire, gave to the charity school 100/ in 1726 ; that Mrs. Anne Speke, relict of Thomas Speke, gave another 100/ for the same purpose in 1726 ; and that Mr. Pauncefoot Miller, merchant in Jamaica, gave another 100/ in 1727.

It also appears by the Benefaction table above mentioned, that the five several sums of 100/ given by Dame Rachel Speke, George Speke Petty, Thomas Speke, Mrs. Anne Speke, and Mr. Pauncefoot Miller, had been laid out by the trustees in the purchase of lands, and in building a barn at Foggam.

The lands purchased are specified in the following conveyance:

By Indentures of lease and release, dated 26th and 27th October, 1727, William Northey, in consideration of 297/ 14s. paid him by the Rev. George Miller or Millard, then Vicar of Box, granted and sold unto the said G. Miller, his heirs and assigns for ever, a Messuage, Tenement or cottage, at Foggam, with the Gardens, orchard and appurtenances adjoining, near the north side of the Ground called Foggam Ground ; also that other messuage, tenement or cottage, with the gardens, orchards, and appurtenances thereto belonging, adjoining to the tenement aforesaid ; also a field of arable ground called Foggam Ground, containing by estimation 10 acres, bounded by closes of ground called the Craw Leaze, and near the north part by ground then late of William Basset on the south, by a paddock then late of William Sorill and James Baker on the east, and by Foggam Mead on the west ; also the meadow or pasture ground called Foggam Mead, containing by estimation six acres, bounded by the river there near the north and western part, by ground called Hemming pool on the south, and by Foggam Ground on the east ; to hold to the said George Miller, his heirs and assigns for ever.

A further donation of 100/ appears by the same Table of Benefactions to have been made by the trustees of Henry Hoare⁸, of Stourton, esquire towards building a room in the Workhouse for the Charity School, and that the same was completed and fitted up by other gifts in 1728.

A further small purchase was made by Mr. Miller, on account of the school, in 1732, as appears by the following conveyance:

By Indentures of lease and release, dated 19th and 20th December, 1732, the release being made between Arthur Lewis of Box, yeoman, of the one part, and the Rev. George Miller, of Box, of the other part, the said Lewis in consideration of 43/ 5s. paid by the said Miller, granted and sold to the said Miller, and his heirs and assigns, a little close of meadow or pasture ground called Foggam Ham *alias* Symson's Close, containing by estimation one acre situate in the parish of Box ; to hold to the use of the said George Miller, his heirs and assigns for ever.

Though neither in this conveyance nor in the preceding one of 1727, is any mention made of the trusts on which the premises conveyed were held, the following items found in an account book of Mr. Miller's, now in the possession of the trustees of the charity, leaves no

⁷ No will can be found either at Doctors' Commons or in the Registry at Salisbury.

⁸ By 1st codicil to the will of Henry Hoare proved in Prerogative Court of Canterbury 13th March, 1724, £2000 was bequeathed to trustees for "erecting and encouraging of Charity Schools or Workhouses for the poor or for the benefit of such Charity Schools or Workhouses which are or shall be erected and in such manner as my said Trustees or the major part of them," &c.

The same table also mentions a further £100 as given by Mr. Hoare's trustees in 1728 "towards building the workhouse."

doubt that they were held in trust for the school⁹, the interest of which Mr. Miller appears to have zealously promoted :

1722. Memorandum, that in this and the preceding year, G. M., Vicar expended in building the Schoolhouse &c. the sum of £162 2s. 5d. Besides the timber given value £30.

| | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| N.B. Collected in money towards the building | | £54 . 10 . 5 |
| So G.M. expended in the building the sum of | | £101 . 12 . 0 |
| 1727. Oct. 27 | Paid Mr. Northey, for the purchase of land at Foggam for the Charity School | 297 . 14 . 0 |
| | Paid Mr. Maundrell for the deeds of purchase | 1 . 15 . 6 |
| | Paid the Expenses of going twice to Bristol about the purchase | 13 . 6 |
| 1732 Dec. 20 | Paid Arthur Lewis for the purchase of his little ground at Foggam | 43 . 15 . 0 |
| Ditto | Mr. Maundrell for the deeds of purchase | 2 . 10 . 0 |
| Ditto | Expenses in going to Bristol about deed of purchase | 7 . 6 |
| | Five items contained in the abstract amounting | 21 . 12 . 0 |
| | | £475 . 19 . 6 |

It appears by several entries made in the same book, that Mr. Miller paid in 1733 for building the barn and divers walls about the premises ; but neither the particular sums paid or amount of the whole is specified. There has been no subsequent conveyance of the property belonging to the charity, and it now possesses all that ever belonged to it. It consists of house of seven rooms and two gardens, containing together from 18 to 20 perches¹⁰, and two outhouses, all now occupied by the schoolmaster, worth about £10 a year ; about 20 acres of land¹¹ at Foggam, in the parish of Box, in three parcels, with a barn upon it, also occupied by the schoolmaster, and worth from £50 to £60 a year ; and three cottages and premises given to the charity by Christopher Eyre. One of the cottages became decayed and fell down forty or fifty years ago, another afterwards was burnt ; the third cottage, with the garden and premises belonging to the cottages which have fallen, is now let to Thomas Ford, at £5 a year. The school consists of one large room in the workhouse, and was much improved by the father of the present master, who made separate passage to it from without, at his own expense.

As considerable doubt was expressed by several persons connected with the charity whether the house adjoining that occupied by the schoolmaster, and now annexed to the vicarage, did not belong to the schoolmaster also, or rather did not originally form part of the schoolmaster's house, we inspected the premises, procured all the information we could on the spot, and have since been furnished with copies of the most material parts of the titles to both houses. As the parcels of property belonging to the vicarage and those belonging to the charity have been subject to various changes both with regard to place and form, and as the instruments by which they have been successively conveyed do not point out with precision either the extent or locality of either, it appears to us impossible at present to pretend to fix with certainty the limits of either. The strong ground urged on behalf of the Vicar, that the house which adjoins the schoolmaster's really forms part of the vicarial endowment, is this : that a

⁹ By the Box tithe commutation apportionment, dated 10th December, 1838, these lands, specified in detail and admeasurement amounting to 19a. 2r. 18p., are described in the column under the head of "owners " as " Charity Lands of Box."

¹⁰ By tithe admeasurement, 1838, 26 perches.

¹¹ By tithe admeasurement, 1838, 19a. 3r. 18p.

house is described in the Vicar's title deeds and muniments as belonging to the vicarage, situate at the south eastside of the church-yard, and unless the house in question be the one described no other can be pointed out as answering to it. On the other hand, the two adjoining houses, viz., the schoolmaster's and the one now spoken of, form but one pile of building, though it has two doors, and appears for many years to have formed two dwellings : the partition however between the two houses is only of lath and plaster, though the walls are of solid masonry : and by a deed of 1719 sufficient ground in a garden then in the possession of John Ford, is given for the benefit of the charity, not exceeding 2 feet in breadth and 42 feet in length, for the purpose of erecting a south wall, and this extent of 42 feet forms the exact length of the two houses taken together. The Vicar has for a very long period been in uninterrupted possession and receipt of the rents of one of the houses, and the charity can produce no evidence of a contrary nature at any time whatsoever.

The Rev. George Mullins in Aug. 1796 succeeded his Father, who had been master for 50 years preceding. The present Master received his appointment from the Rev. Sam. Webb, then Vicar of Box, and it seems that so long as he performs the duties of such schoolmaster he shall receive to his own use the rents incomes and profits of all such messuages, lands, and property as have been given for the benefit of the Charity School and Schoolmaster.

The school has been considered by Mr. Mullins open to all boys and girls, children of parents who are parishioners of Box to the number of 30 at a time. Thirty he considers the number the master is bound to teach. From a list still preserved, the number appears to have been the same in 1737. No rules or Regulations have ever been given to him by any persons as trustees or otherwise for the management of the school, beyond what were contained in his appointment. The children are admitted on application to the schoolmaster by their parents.

No children have been admitted to the school in any other way except one, who was nominated by Mr. Horlock the late Vicar. The schoolmaster keeps a list of the applications to him ; and the children are admitted in order, without limitation of age, as vacancies occur. They remain as long as their parents think fit. The children are instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic and the Church Catechism, and the girls are taught needlework gratis.

The schoolmaster supplies the children with books in school, both for reading and writing, but not books to carry home.

The present schoolmaster has also about 10 pay scholars. Pay scholars and free scholars are seldom classed together when taught, but religious instruction is given to all alike.

Complaints appear to have prevailed in the parish to a greater or less extent for a considerable time past both with respect to the management of the school, and the Charity property. After explanations had taken place between the parties concerned, and some misapprehension had been removed, it was finally agreed upon that the present schoolmaster should hereafter teach 50 children instead of 30, that books should be furnished to the annual amount of £2 . 10 . 0 and that the children should be appointed by the trustees to be nominated in a new trust deed, which was then agreed to be executed. This settlement appeared to us to be equally beneficial to all concerned in the charity.

The additional children have been admitted, and are now taught but difficulties having been suggested on the part of one of the surviving trustees, no new trust deed has been executed. The surviving trustees are J. J. Horlock Esq., of Rocks House, near Bath, and Mr. Ed. Webb Solicitor, in Bath.

THE WILLS OF DAME RACHEL SPEKE AND THE REV. GEORGE MILLER.

Since the above letters [*not here included—DD*], and the report intended to illustrate them, were in type, a search has been made, with very satisfactory results, among the wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. The will of the "Excellent Lady of my Parish . . . the Lady Rachell Speke," has come to light, and the will of the good Vicar himself, as follows :—

" To all to whom these presents shall come I dame Rachell Speke alias Rachell now wife of Richard Musgrave of Haslebury in the County of Wilts Esquire." Whereas by an indenture tripartite between her by the name of Dame Rachell Speke, of Haslebury, Co. Wilts, widow, of the first part, the Rt. Honble. Thomas Earle, of Charboro, Co. Dorset, Esq., Nathaniel Palmer, of Fairfield, Co. Somerset, Esq., and William Ettricke, of the Middle Temple, London, Esq., of the second part, and Richard Musgrave, then of Lyons Inn, Co. Middlesex, Esq., " my now husband," of the third part, before her marriage with the said Richard, she did, by his consent and agreement, grant and assign to the said Thomas, Nathaniel, and William divers manors, &c., for the residue of a term of 500 years, which term was made and granted to her for securing payment of several annuities payable to her during life ; and whereas being seised of considerable personal estate, consisting of jewells, plate, &c. . . . she desires to be buried in the chancel of the parish Church of Box, the expenses of her funeral not to exceed 50*l.*, &c. . . . The clauses of the will which relate to the charity are appended in full:" Item I give devise leave and bequeath the interest and profit of the sume of one hundred pounds of good and lawfull money of Great Britaine to be applied and employed for the vse benefitt promotion and better advancement of such Charity Schooles as now are and hereafter shall be in the said parish of Box and for the teaching and instructing of poor children of the same parish in the said schools and for the furnishing such poor children from time to time with bookes that shall be needful on that Occasion which said sume of one hundred pounds I doe order will and direct shall within the space of one month next after my decease be paid and delivered by my Executors into the hands of Mr. George Milliard, the present Minister of the parish Church of Box aforesaid or his Successor, Minister of the said parish, for the time being and shall be imediately or soe soone afterwards as conveniently may be and from time to time and at all times afterwards for ever be putt and placed forth at interest vpon good security to be had and taken at the discretion and in the names of the said George Milliard and his Successors Ministers of the said parish for the lime being and of George Speke Petty of Cheney's Court in the same parish Esquire Giles Eyre of Ashley in the same parish Esquire and Samuel Webb of Coales, in the same parish Gentleman, and their severall and respective heires or two or more of them whereof the minister of the said parish of Box for the time being shall alwaies be one to the intent and purpose that the interest produce and all yearly profit of the said one hundred pounds shall from time to time and at all times after my decease for ever be paid to and had received taken laid out used applied and employed by

the said George Milliard and his Successors Ministers of the said parish of Box for the time being for the said vse, benefitt promotion, and better advancement of such charity schools as aforesaid and for the teaching and instructing of poor children in the said parish of Box for ever and for the furnishing them from time to time with books that shall be needfull for their Learning and instruction in such manner forme, and methodd as the said George Milliard and his successors and the said George Speke Petty Giles Eyre and Samuel Webb and their severall and respective heires or any two or more of them whereof the Minister of the said parish of Box for the time being to be alwaies one shall for ever after my decease thinke fitt direct, order or appointe and to the further intent and purpose that the said principall sume of one hundred pounds shall alwayes and for ever remaine intire and as a perpetuall stock or ffund for the raising and producing (out of the principall moneys) an Annuall halfe yearly Quarterly, or other interest and profitt thereof to be applyed and forever employ'd to and for the vses intents and purposes aforesaid Provided alwaies that if I shall at any time hereafter dureing my Life pay deliver or deposite into the hands of the said George Milliard, or into the hands of the said George Speke Petty Giles Eyre and Samuel Webb or any or either of them, or into the hands of any other person or persons the like sume of one hundred pounds to the intent and purpose that the interest and profitt thereof shall be employed for the vse benefitt promotion or advancement of such Charity Schools and for the teaching and instructing such poor children and furnishing them with books as aforesaid or if I shall in my lifetime by any deed instrument or writeing by me to be duely executed make any other settlement establishment or disposition touching or concerning such sume of one hundred pounds or the interest produce or profitt thereof to or for the intents or purposes last abovemention'd That then and in such case the sume of one hundred pounds by me as above willed and directed to be paid by my Executors shall not be by them paid by virtue of this my will but that the Gift devise and bequest abovemention'd herein and hereby made by me touching the said one hundred pounds and the interest and profitt thereof for the benefitt of the said Charity Schools and for teaching and instructing poor children and furnishing them with books as aforesaid shall be utterly void and of none effect to all intents and purposes." . . .

The will was proved 22 Dec, 1711, and is registered C.P.C. "Young," fo. 268.

It would seem by the following will that the Vicar of Box, who was undoubtedly known during the earlier stages of his career as "Millard," had latterly adopted the spelling " Miller." There is, of course, a strong presumption, that the "Mr. Pouncefoot Miller", mentioned in the "Report," was his kinsman, but no clue to the nature of the relationship is given by his will [*they were brothers; their father's Will was in the name "William Miller alias Millard".—DD*] :—

In the name of God, Amen I George Miller of Box in the County of Wilts. Clerk, do make this my last will and Testament in manner and form following Imprimis I give and bequeath unto my Brothers W^m. Miller and Thomas Miller each one Guinea to buy them mourning Rings Item I give to my beloved daughter Lucy two hundred pounds Item I give to the poor of Box not receiving Alms the sum of fforty shillings to be

distributed amongst them in Bread on the Third day after my Interment
Item I give and devise unto my dearly beloved wife all my Lands
Tenements and Hereditaments wheresoever they be in the Counties of
Wilts and Gloucester and all my Estate real or personal subject to the
payment of the Legacies aforesaid and of all the debts which I shall owe
at the time of my death Lastly I make and constitute my said beloved
wife Executrix of this my last will and Testament desiring her to Burn
all my Sermon Notes and all other paper Books and papers of my own
hand writing other than such as relate to the Tythes of Box Vicaridge
and such as may be usefull to her in the Execution of these presents as
soon as the same shall come to her power or possession In witness
whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Sixth day of
November A.D. 1732 Geo :Miller. Sign'd seal'd publish'd and declar'd in
the presence of us who have subscribed our names in the presence of
the Testator Tho : Nutt Joseph Casey Mary Vesey

Proved at London 10 May 1740 by Susannah Miller, widow, the relict and executrix.

C.P.C. "Browne," fo. 150."

These documents serve, through the reference to Pancefoot Miller, to tie this George Miller or Millard back to the Pancefoot Miller who died in Jamaica, his brother in this genealogy. Pancefoot referred to his brother as George, "clerk" of Box, Wilts. George's place of birth as Boxwell Parish and as aged 23 in 1700¹² helps tie together the siblings of William Miller alias Millard, yeoman of Boxwell— as being a brother of George above, Thomas¹³ and Pancefoot. The Will of William Miller 1699-1781 grocer and banker of Bristol, written in 1771, refers to, among others, Pancefoot Miller of Jamaica, who would have been his uncle.

Neither Susannah nor Lucy Miller is mentioned in any later documents or Wills seen to date [JUL2012].

¹² In the Anglican clergy database referred to above.

¹³ Thomas Miller is not yet [JUL2012] pinned down in records, although in connection with Pancefoot, William the banker mentions cousins George and Mary Miller. These two may have been children of Thomas, as they are distinct from everyone else mentioned in William's Will, but no other mention of them has been found t.d. [JUL2012].