

CHARITIES OF KENT REPORT: 1786, 1815 - 1839 & 1868

CRISPE

"The premises were let by auction on lease for 8 years from 10th October 1813 to Thomas Sidders at the rate of £51 14s for the first year, and £150 for every succeeding year of the term.

The farm rent is considerably above real value and the land is not expected to produce much more than half the present rent, when the lease expires. The tenant has applied for an abatement in his rent, but none has yet been allowed him.

The Schoolmaster receives £36 15s yearly for teaching twelve boys and girls mentioned in the will; and he takes twelve more in addition, sometimes one or two more. There are never less than 24.

They are taught reading writing and accounts, and the girls are taught needlework. Each of the first twelve children receives a Bible on leaving School and the Overseers appoint the first twelve children, but the selection of the other twelve is generally left to the schoolmaster. The Apprentices are taken from the first twelve children and the funds are, at present, more than sufficient for the boys who offer to go out on apprenticeships. The Apprentices fees have varied from £10 to £25 and even £35 has once been given."

In an Appendix - "Evidence was given before the Commissioners on Education of the Poor."

Gilbert Stringer was the Schoolmaster at this time. His statement said,

"There is an endowed School in Birchington. The previous to Easter 1817 my salary was £20, and has now been raised to £36 15s. I teach 12 boys and girls and that 12 more are taken in addition. Reading, writing and arithmetic are taught. There is an allowance for books and stationery - the parents find these themselves. I built the Schoolroom, which belongs to me. There is no house attached to the School. I have to find that myself. The original 12 children and the 12 added lately are always filled up and there are always candidates for the vacancies.

"The children attend Church regularly. I send the girls to another school to be taught needlework. There are, in the Parish of Birchington and the Vill of Acol, about 180 children, who have not the means of education, about 140 of whom attend regularly at the Sunday School."