

Raymond Hill

From: Maeve O'Rourke [maeveorourke@gmail.com]
Sent: 23 April 2012 15:58
To: Raymond Hill
Subject: Fwd: Charitable Donations & Bequests
Attachments: CharitableDB_Rough_Minutes_1946_49.xls; Rough Minute Book_40.pdf; Rough Minute Book_41.pdf

Hi Raymond,

Thanks very much for your email earlier. Just forwarding this email from Jim to Nuala today, for your information.

Best,
Maeve

----- Forwarded message -----

From: James Smith <james.smith.2@bc.edu>
Date: 23 April 2012 15:54
Subject: Charitable Donations & Bequests
To: "Nuala.NiMhuircheartaigh@dfa.ie" <Nuala.NiMhuircheartaigh@dfa.ie>
Cc: "clairemcgettrick@gmail.com" <clairemcgettrick@gmail.com>, Maeve O'Rourke <maeveorourke@gmail.com>

Dear Nuala,

At our meeting last week, you asked that I forward the additional information I found in the National Archives demonstrating interaction between the Charitable Commissioners and various Magdalene Laundries.

I looked at only two sample "Rough Minute Books" from the Charitable Commissioners covering meetings from 1944-49. The National Archives have these Rough Minute Books going back to the early 20th century, but not moving forward into the 1950s and beyond, unfortunately. I don't have the time to go through all of them -- they are huge bound registers with typed minutes "cut and paste" into them. But, in two I examined, I did come across about 18-20 instances of bequests to various Magdalene institutions that came before the Commissioners and upon which they published an "Order." I have created an Excel Spreadsheet (attached) with information. There are also a few references to the Bethany Home, which I also included. And, in some cases there are disagreement between various orders when a Bequester gets information wrong in the will, e.g., the McNamara bequest that left 100 pounds to "Good Shepherd Magdalen Asylum, Galway" and 25 pounds to "Good Shepherd Magdalen Asylum, Dun Laoghaire," when in fact the both institutions were run by the Mercy Order ... while the intention of the bequest seems clear the Good Shepherds in Limerick weren't beyond making a claim on the monies. Unfortunately, due to a shaky hand and a poor enough digital camera the images for two bequests were un-readable when I looked at the .jpgs today --sorry about that. Thanks to Claire's technical wizardry, I can attach two .pdfs with copies of the original details from the Minute Book all in order to support the Excel Spreadsheets.

I continue to work through the information from the Factories Acts, 1955 archives discovered in the Department of Labour files -- I will forward some of that information in the coming days, but frankly it is a tad overwhelming and I want to try to stick with what might be relevant and helpful.

Best wishes,

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Jim

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