

Female Beneficiaries

Prior to the Trades House being created by Letter of Guildry in 1604, the Incorporations had a number of Pensioners which were housed in the Alms House where they were looked after. This system stopped in 1808 when the Pensioners were given financial support in the community. At this time no females received Pensions. It took until 14th November 1876 for this to be reconsidered when William Morrison proposed that "That Widowed daughters of Craftsmen should receive Precepts out of the Funds of the House". It was agreed to seek the views of the Incorporations before taking a decision. The Incorporations must have been supportive because in December 1876 the following rates of pensions was set:

Conveners' Pensions,		£50
Collectors' "		£40
Deacons' "		£30
70 Craftsmen's "		£20
50 Widows' "	(Deacon's Widows £15)	£10
100 Daughters' "	(From £5 to £8 average £6 8s)	

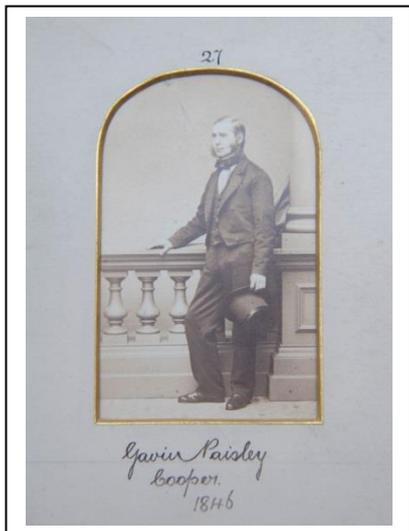
It was also agreed that Pensions payable to Craftsmen, Widows, or Daughters, be purely alimentary, and shall not be affected in any way by their debts or their deeds.

The meeting recommend the House to resuscitate the Bye-law adopted on 4th September 1850 that a Committee be appointed to visit each Pensioner on the funds of the House at least once a year.

In December 1876, the reports from the Incorporations were reviewed at the Joint-Committee on Pensioners and Finance and found that eight Incorporations, viz., Hammermen, Tailors, Cordiners, Weavers, Bakers, Fleshers, Masons, and Dyers, approve of the allocation of the Joint-Minute of meeting of Pensioners and Finance; that four disapprove thereof, viz., Maltmen, Skinners, Coopers, and Gardeners; and that two Incorporations, viz., Wrights and Barbers, send in no report. Further, that seven Incorporations, viz., Tailors, Cordiners, Bakers, Skinners, Coopers, Fleshers, and Masons approve of the scheme regarding the other Pensions; five, viz., Hammermen, Maltmen, Weavers, Gardeners, and Dyers, disapprove thereof and two, viz., Wrights and Barbers, send no report.

It was not until 15 February 1877 that the House approved the motion to pay Pensions to widows and daughters of craftsmen.

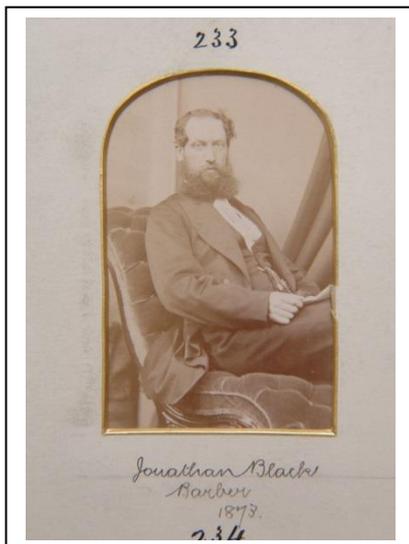
From this point on widows and daughters of Craftsmen appear in the Minutes of the Trades House showing applications for pensions. A few examples are given below:



Wife of Gavin Paisley

Deacon of Coopers 1846 ~ Died: 10 February 1883

In January 1898 his widow applied for a vacancy on a House Pension. Her health was not strong and she had a 45 year old son who was dying. The Incorporation of Coopers were giving him £21 a year. She was receiving a further £59 0s 10d per year from property and other investments. She was hoping to receive £15 per year from the Trades House.



Jonathon Black

Deacon of the Barbers 1873 ~ Died: 15 September 1878

In January 1899 his widow Isabella Black applied for a vacancy on the House Pension Roll. She was not healthy and unable for any employment. Isabella also had a son and daughter, both of whom were married. She was receiving £12 12s 0d per year and had received a £1 10s 0d New Year bonus. Her additional income amounted to £20 per year from the Incorporation of Maltmen.

In October 1902, Collector Goldie moved that the amount of pension payable to unmarried daughters be increased to £10 per annum. In speaking to the motion, he explained that the average age of unmarried daughter Pensioners was 65, and that experience showed they were generally in a much more necessitous state than widows or Craftsmen, who, in most cases, had relatives to depend upon.

He thought the case of the unmarried daughter Pensioner was therefore worthy of more generous treatment, and that the additional £2 per annum to each of the 100 unmarried daughters on the Pension Roll, or £200 per annum in all, might willingly and unanimously be granted by the House.

The motion was seconded by late Convener Macfarlane, and unanimously agreed to.

Miss Margaret Murray

Miss Margaret Murray's father had been a Deacon of the Incorporation of Fleshers in 1857. She was 53 years of age and her health was indifferent, her income consisted of £8 per year from the Incorporation of Fleshers and £8 per year from Hutcheson's Hospital.