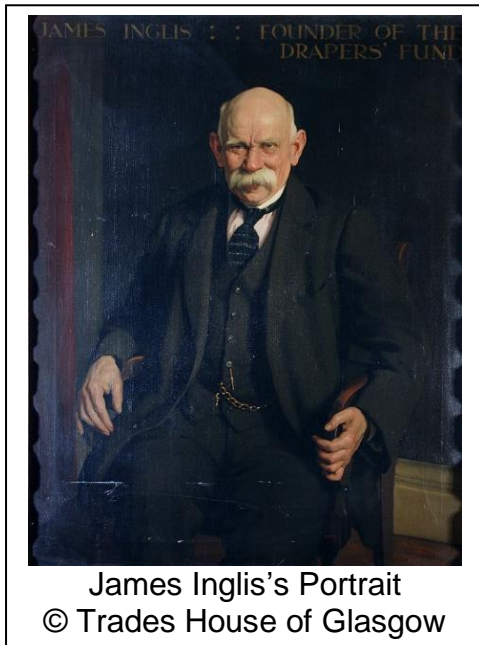


James Inglis and the Drapers Fund



James Inglis was a very generous man who lived in Glasgow for most of his life. He was the founder of the Drapers Fund and the Adoptive Portion of the Drapers Fund. Both these Funds have supported children in Glasgow and forth of Glasgow since their inception.

James Inglis was born on 15th March 1856 at 431 Argyle Street, Glasgow, his parents being James Inglis, some sort of book maker, and Janet McCallum.¹ By 1861, the family had moved to 24 Wilson Street, Glasgow where his 33-year-old father was listed as a warehouseman employing one man. Young James's mother, aged 31, was helping in her husband's shop and her 40-year-old sister Ann was acting as their housekeeper. James had two siblings by this time: Janet aged three and Agnes aged two.²

Apparently James's father was interested in politics as he is listed as having voted in the Sixth Ward Poll Book for John Blackie junior who became the Lord Provost in 1866.³

The 1871 census shows that the family were living at 363 Rutherglen Road. His father James (aged 44) is listed as a drapery warehouseman and young James (aged 15) as a scholar. The occupation of James's wife Janet (aged 42) is given as housekeeper with her 50-year-old sister Ann as assistant housekeeper. By this time, the family had grown to include: Janet (13), Peter (9), Agnes (5), Elizabeth (4), May (2) and Helen 3 months.⁴ The family must have moved to 363 Rutherglen Road prior to 1866 as the business address is 24 Wilson Street and the house 363 Rutherglen Road in the Post office Directory of 1866-67.⁵

The 1881 census shows the family still living at 363 Rutherglen Road and things were looking up for the family and their business. James (aged 25) is described as a drapery salesman as are his two siblings Janet (23) and Peter (17). James's father, aged 53 years, is described as a master draper employing two males and 13 females. His wife Janet was now 51 with her 60-year-old sister Ann being their housekeeper. James's sisters, Elizabeth (14), May (12), and Helen (10) were all scholars.⁶

By the 1891 census, the family had moved to Elmbank, Prospect Avenue, Cambuslang. By this date, young 35-year-old James Inglis is listed as the head of

¹ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1856 James Inglis (Statutory Registers Births 644/5 328).

² www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1861 James Inglis (Census 644/1 6/3) Page 3 of 22).

³ Glasgow Herald, 9 November 1866.

⁴ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1871 James Inglis (Census 644/10 9/26) Page 26 of 26.

⁵ Glasgow Directory, 1866-67.

⁶ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, 1881 James Inglis (Census 644/11 51/21) Page 21 of 21.

the household and a draper. James's father (last described as a draper salesman), had died from bronchitis on the 4th February 1885 at 775 Rutherglen Road. Young James's 61-year-old mother was staying with James and the family: Jessie (33), dressmaker; Elizabeth, known as Eliza, (24), saleswoman; May (22), milliner; and Helen 20 years of age with no occupation given.⁷

The 1899 Glasgow Directory shows that the family business was prospering very well, James Inglis being entered as: draper, 339 Argyle Street; clothier and outfitter, 133 Crown Street; and a draper, cloth warehouseman, &c., 339 Argyle Street and 133 Crown Street.⁸

By 1891, some the family had gone their separate ways with James's 72-year-old mother Janet now head of the household and James, aged 45, described as a draper. Only Jessie (43) and Ellen (30), were residing with them at the family home in Elmbank, Prospect Avenue, Cambuslang.⁹

The members of the family living with James had reduced even further by 1911, as his mother was no longer alive. James, now 55, is described in the census of that year as a draper (retail) and an employer and was living with his sisters Jessie (53), and Ellen (39), in a seven-roomed home at 12 Millbrae Crescent, Langside.¹⁰

The 1918-19 Glasgow Directory shows that James Inglis's business was now operating as: draper, ladies' outfitter, warehouseman, &c, 267 Argyle Street; wholesale warehouseman, 82 Oswald Street; with his house at 12 Millbrae Crescent, Langside. He owned the above properties until his death in 1933.¹¹

It was just before 1918 that James started to become involved with the Trades House when the then Deacon Convener, Jackson Miller, and the Clerk to the House had several meetings with him to discuss his desire to convey to the Trades House in trust for charitable purposes property which he had purchased for £5,070, located at 192/4 Oxford Street, 17/27 Bridge Street, and 2 Carlton Court.

At a meeting of the House in January 1918, the Deacon Convener explained the conditions which Mr. Inglis proposed to convey the property to the House, as provided in a Declaration of Trust to be signed by Mr. Inglis.

The House unanimously agreed to accept the Trust, and resolved:

That the House accept the Trust proposed to be conferred upon it, and authorise the Deacon Convener and Collector to sign and seal on behalf of the House the Declaration of Trust and any other Deeds necessary to constitute 'The Drapers' Fund'.¹²

The level of thought that James Inglis had put into his generous offer was so clearly and well-presented that there was no chance that his very generous offer would be declined.

⁷ www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk, 1891 James Inglis (Census 627/2 21) Page 21 of 36 and 22 of 36.

⁸ Directory for Glasgow, 1899.

⁹ www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk, 1901 James Inglis (Census 627/2 10) Page 2 of 55.

¹⁰ www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk, 1911 James Inglis (Census 560/24 10) Page 10 of 35.

¹¹ Directory of Glasgow, 1918-19.

¹² Trades House Meeting, 23 January 1918.

It did not take the House long to have the Disposition in favour of the House to be signed and recorded in the Register of Sasines, this being reported to the Finance Committee by the Clerk at the beginning of February 1918.¹³

The formal constitution of the Drapers' Fund was reported by the Clerk to the House Meeting on the 22 February 1918 and he submitted an "Extract Registered Declaration of Trust by Mr Inglis, with Minute of Acceptance thereon on behalf of the House by the Deacon-Convener and Collector, dated 24th January, and registered in the Books of Council and Session, 5th February 1918."

James Inglis had nominated his sister, Miss Jessie Inglis to be the first manager of the Drapers' Fund and it was arranged that Miss Jessie Inglis should be asked to attend the next meeting of the House and sign a written acceptance and undertaking to perform the duties of the office, as specified in the terms of the Declaration of Trust. The Deacon Convener then moved a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. James Inglis, founder of the Drapers' Fund. James Inglis and the Rev. William Muir, B.D., B.L. provided "interesting replies" in return. Following this, the Collector moved and the members unanimously agreed that the House resolve "That Mr. James Inglis, Founder of The Drapers' Fund, be presented with the freedom of the Guildry as a Guild Brother of Craft Rank."¹⁴

James Inglis was duly enrolled as a Guild Brother of Craft Rank, *qua* Weaver, his burgess ticket being dated as 23 February 1918 and he entered as a Far Hand at a cost to the House of £5 14s 6d.¹⁵ He was formally presented with the Freedom of the Guildry at a meeting of the House on 24 May 1918 when, on accepting the gift, he "thanked the members for this token of esteem and appreciation".

A slight hitch in the arrangements had occurred when James Inglis's sister, Jessie, now aged about 60, informed the House that she would prefer not to act as Manager of the Drapers' Fund. The Deacon Convener consulted James Inglis¹⁶ and, following James Inglis's presentation at the House meeting on 24 May 1918, Mrs William Muir accepted the office of first Manager of the Drapers' Fund in place of Miss Jessie Inglis.

James Inglis's generosity was once again evident when on 5 November 1918 he attended a House meeting along with the Rev. James E. Houston, minister of Shawlands. At this meeting he informed the House that he was willing to convey a further heritable property as an addition to the Drapers' Fund, consisting of feu-duties amounting to £158 per annum. The Rev. James E. Houston outlined the conditions that the property would be entrusted to the House and the purposes to which the income was to be applied. The House agreed unanimously to accept this further generous gift, with the Platform and the Clerk being remitted to confer with James Inglis to adjust the clauses of the Deed of Trust accordingly.¹⁷

At a meeting of the House on 19th November 1918, the Deacon Convener reported that the clauses of the Trust by Mr James Inglis consisting of the "The Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund" had been adjusted. It should be noted at this time

¹³ Trades House of Glasgow, Finance Committee Minutes, 1 February 1918.

¹⁴ Trades House of Glasgow Minutes, 22 February 1918.

¹⁵ Trades House of Glasgow Archives.

¹⁶ Trades House of Glasgow, Finance Committee Minutes, 25 April 1918.

¹⁷ Trades House, Education Committee Minutes, 22nd October 1918.

there were many orphans in Glasgow partially due to the effects of deaths caused during World War 1. In 1918 there was no national adoption support in place with adoption and fostering often being done in a very casual way.

“The Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund” was described as follows:

I, JAMES INGLIS, Draper, 267 Argyle Street, Glasgow, CONSIDERING that by Declaration of Trust, dated 24th January, and registered in the Books of Council and Session, 5th February 1918, I constituted a Charitable Fund for certain purposes therein mentioned, to be called The Drapers' Fund, and provided therein that the capital of the Fund might be added to by gifts, bequests, or in any other way by which the Fund might have fortune to be favoured; AND CONSIDERING that I am desirous of bestowing a further part of what I am possessed for benevolent purposes as a branch of the said Drapers' Fund, but only for the specific purposes hereinafter mentioned, and not (unless in so far as herein provided) for the general purposes of the said Drapers' Fund; AND FURTHER CONSIDERING that on 30th October 1918, I purchased from Hugh Walker Martin, residing at three hundred and forty-five Bath Street, Glasgow, by public roup, within the Hall of the Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow, certain heritable estate, consisting of Feu-duties amounting to the annual value of £158 3s. 1d. derived from subjects situated at George Drive and Greenhead Drive, Govan, and that thereafter I declared that I had made the said purchase with the object of adding by gift additional capital to the said Drapers' Fund for the specific purposes herein after mentioned: AND NOW SEEING that at my desire the said subjects have by Disposition, dated, 1918, and recorded in the Division of the General Register of Sasines applicable to the County of the Barony and Regality of Glasgow, the day of 1918, been disposed by the said Hugh Walker Martin to the Trades House of Glasgow, in trust as a branch of the said Drapers' Fund, but only for the said specific purposes, all as provided in the following Declaration of Trust referred to in the said Disposition: THEREFORE I hereby provide and declare that the said Disposition in favour of the Trades House of Glasgow has been granted at my desire, and shall be accepted of by the said Trades House of Glasgow in trust as a branch of the said Drapers' Fund for the following specific purposes hereafter expressed in my own words, viz :-

- First- The Trust to be called the Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund.
- Second- The capital shall form part of the capital of the said Drapers' Fund, but shall be held by the said Trades House of Glasgow only as a supplement to or branch of that Fund.
- Third- The revenue of the Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund shall be disbursed by way of rewards to people of any rank who have adopted others, the essential qualification being that adopted and adopter have lived together in family in the same condition and station of life for a period of not less than five years, and that the grace of hospitality shall appear to be the motive for the adopted being received and kept in family by the adopter.
- Fourth- The amount of each reward shall be £50 or thereby.
- Fifth- The Manager of the Drapers' Fund shall have full power to select beneficiaries for the Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund. In the event of the Manager finding any difficulty in the administration of the Fund, or in the choice of beneficiaries, he shall be at liberty to seek the aid and advice of the Visiting Committee of the Trades House.
- Sixth- In selecting beneficiaries, the Manager shall satisfy himself that the grace of hospitality has been the primary motive for the adoption, and that without regard to station in life of the adopter, as the rewards are designed for rich or poor, and as a mark of honour rather than as financial help.
- Seventh- The person adopted may be of any age, and if his or her death should occur before the full five years' adoption have passed, the adopter may be granted the reward for the person deceased.

- Eighth- In selecting beneficiaries, consideration shall primarily be given (1) to persons of the name of Inglis or of the name of the Manager of the Drapers' Fund for the year; (2) to those who have a connection with the Drapery Trade; and (3) to those resident or in business near to the centre of Glasgow.
- Ninth- If in time to come the Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund shall have moneys added to it by gifts from others, the same rules shall be followed by the Manager of the Fund in his selection of the beneficiaries receiving rewards from the new portion of the Adoption Fund, viz. :- Consideration primarily of the donor's name, or trade, or residence, or place of business; and in case of gifts from a Society, consideration shall be given by the Manager to the name of such Society, the name of its President for the time, or the trade or the district with which it may be associated.
- Tenth- If after a period of ten years' experience of administration of this supplementary fund, the members of the Trades House, by a two-thirds majority, declare that they consider that a better way can be found for distributing or allocating the revenue of the fund, the distribution of rewards to beneficiaries may be discontinued, and the money applied by the Manager in any other way in accordance with the aim of the Donor, as expressed and provided in the said Declaration of Trust constituting the Drapers' Fund.
- Eleventh- One beneficiary may be granted more than one reward for the adoption of persons into his or her family, but a period of not less than five years shall elapse between the times of obtaining the first and second or subsequent rewards.
- Twelfth- As it is usually the lady of the house who is responsible for an outsider being received into the family, it is recommended that accompanying the reward money a Ticket, similar to a Burgess Ticket, be presented to the lady of the house of the adopter containing a brief statement of the case.
- Thirteenth- The names of beneficiaries or recipients of the rewards shall in no case be published in the public press without their full consent. Any breach of this rule shall render the guilty person liable to prosecution by law.
- Fourteenth- The Rules contained in Clauses Fifth, Ninth, Tenth, and Twelfth of the said Declaration of Trust constituting the Drapers' Fund shall also apply to this Trust, and these presents shall be read and construed as if these four Clauses had been inserted herein.
- Fifteenth- If any balance of revenue remains in the hands of the Manager at the expiry of his term of office, it may be added to a reserve fund, or carried forward to the revenue of the succeeding year: AND I consent to the registration hereof for preservation: IN WITNESS WHEREOF

On the motion of the Deacon Convener it was unanimously resolved:

That the House accept the Trust proposed to be conferred upon it, and authorise the Deacon Convener and Collector to sign and seal on behalf of the House the Minute of Acceptance engrossed on the Declaration of Trust and any other Deeds necessary to constitute 'The Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund'.¹⁸

¹⁸ Trades House Minutes, 19 November 1918.

At a meeting of the House on 24th February 1919, the Clerk reported that the Adoption Portion had been constituted and that the Declaration of Trust by James Inglis dated 27 November 1918, along with a Minute of Acceptance on behalf of the House, dated 28 November 1918, had been registered in the Books of Council and Session on 7th December 1918. The Clerk further reported that the Disposition of the Superiority in Greenhead Drive and George Drive, Govan, in favour of the House had been executed on 27th December 1918 and was at that time being recorded in the Register of Sasines. The Deacon Convener “moved that the House record their cordial thanks to Mr. James Inglis, founder of this handsome addition to the Drapers’ Fund, and this was unanimously agreed to”.¹⁹

James Inglis had a bit of a hard time in late 1922 when he appeared in court in Glasgow for pushing two women out of his shop, after refusing to let them buy goods, being fined £1 for assault.²⁰

In December 1924, the House received a letter from James Inglis stating that he desired to convey to the House in trust, feu duties, ground annuals, and heritable properties, amounting in value to approximately £50,000, which would form an addition to the Adoption Portion of the Drapers’ Fund, subject to certain conditions:

After consideration, the Meeting, on the motion of the Deacon Convener, unanimously resolved that the House accept the trust proposed to be conferred upon it, subject to a Deed of Trust being adjusted between Mr. Inglis and the Clerk, revised and approved by a Committee consisting of the Platform and Ex-Deacon James Andrew, LL.D., and on being submitted to the House. duly considered and confirmed for acceptance.

The revised Adoptive Portion of the Drapers’ Fund was registered in the Books of Council and Session on 7th February, 1925 and accepted by the House on the 26th January 1925. The following table outlines James Inglis’s generosity:

**INVENTORY REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING
DECLARATION OF TRUST.**

(a) HERITABLE PROPERTIES.

1. 392/400 Argyle Street, Glasgow.
2. 14/26 Finnieston Street , Glasgow.
3. 46/50 Abbotsford Place and 44/ 52 Cumberland Street, Glasgow.
4. 118/24 Green Street and 153/59 Great Hamilton Street, Glasgow.
5. 16/18 Harvey Street, Glasgow.
(Assignment of Bond for £2,600.)
6. 19/23 Ruthven Street, Hillhead, Glasgow.
(Assignment of Bond for £4,200.)
7. 25 Ruthven Street and 61/65 Saltoun Street, Hillhead, Glasgow.
(Assignment of Bond for £4,500.)
8. 16/42 Cowcaddens, 23 Garscadden Street, 11/29 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow
9. 138/142 Stockwell Street, Glasgow.
10. 14/20 Moir Street, Glasgow.
(Assignment of Bond for £1,600.)
11. 14/20 Garscadden Street and 31/39 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow.
12. 98/122 London Road and 101/105 Oswald Street, Glasgow.
13. 132/140 London Road, Glasgow.

(b) FEU DUTIES AND GROUND ANNUALS.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 14. Feu-duty payable out of Stanley Reservoir, Paisley, | £167 4 2 |
| 15. 2 Feu-duties payable out of Subjects, West Bothwell Street | |

¹⁹ Trades House Minutes, 24 February 1919.

²⁰ Oxfordshire Weekly News, 6 September 1922.

and Greenhill Street, Glasgow,	£40 5 8
16. 4 Ground Annuals payable out of Subjects in Queen Street, Govan,	£60 0 0
17. 7 Ground Annuals payable out of Subjects in William and Elderslie Streets and Richard Street, Anderston,	£112 0 0½
18. Ground Annual payable out of Subjects in Barloch Street, Possilpark,	£23 11 4
19. Ground Annual payable out of Subjects in Laurel Street, Partick,	£15 9 1
20. (a) Ground Annual payable from 16/ 26 Bedford Street and 41 Warwick Street, Glasgow,	£22 10 0
(b) Ground Annual payable from 30/46 Portugal Street and 21/27 Portugal Lane, Glasgow,	£20 0 0
(c) Ground Annual payable from 55/77 and 99/101 Portugal Street, Glasgow,	£36 0 0
(d) Feu-duty payable from 2/2A Warwick Street, 71/75A Norfolk Street, and I Norfolk Court, Glasgow,	£36 0 0
(e) Feu-duty payable from 22 Warwick Street and 35 Norfolk Lane, Glasgow,	£16 14 0
(f) Feu-duty payable from 4/10 Warwick Street and 6/9 Norfolk Court, Glasgow,	£22 0 0
(g) Feu-duty payable from 1/5 Apsley Place, 17 Bedford Street, and 4 Surrey Lane, Glasgow,	£38 0 4
(h) Feu-duty payable from 95/117 Coburg Street, Glasgow.	£65 0 0
(i) Feu-duty payable from 13/17 Apsley Place, Glasgow,	20 18 5½
(j) Feu-duty payable from 19/23 Apsley Place, Glasgow,	£20 2 2½
(k) Feu-duty payable from 25/29 Apsley Place, Glasgow,	<u>£28 12 4½</u>
Total:	<u>£325 17 4½</u>
Less prior feu-duty:	£64 1 0
	<u>£261 16 4½</u>
21. Ground Annual payable out of 30 William Street, Anderston.	£14 15 0
22. Feu-duties payable out of Lands of Gorbals,	£12 12 0
	£2 16 6
23. Feu-duty payable out of Subjects, Moir Street, Gallowgate, Glasgow,	<u>£86 0 0</u>
	<u>£797 0 2</u> ²¹

The Deacon Convener proposed that Messrs. Archd. Speirs and James Cunningham to be the first members of the Committee to administer, along with Mr. James Inglis, the New Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund, to act for three years as from Martinmas, 1924. This was unanimously agreed.²²

As part of the system of reportage to the Trades House, a report was produced each year outlining the main points that had taken place during the year concerning the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion.

The 1924-25 report noted that £1,950 had been made in July 1925 with over 2,000 applications for grants being made with about half of them coming from England. The report stated that considerable labour had been involved in weeding the applicants, but by a gradual process 52 of the most suitable cases had been selected, and a number were reserved for a later distribution.²³

The 1925-26 report on the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion noted that they were beginning to get clear of an enormous mass of unsuitable and ineligible applicants. The applications received up to this period had amounted to 2,253, of which 1,623

²¹ Trades House Minutes, 26th January 1925.

²² Trades House Minutes, 25th February 1925.

²³ Trades House Minutes, Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion, 1924-25

were from persons resident in Glasgow who under the Deed of Trust had a preference, and the Committee decided to confine their attention meantime to these cases.

The report stated that there had been strong evidence that a great many children had been adopted into most unsuitable homes, and greater penalties, or precautions, were required to protect babies being handed over for upbringing in some of the worst slums in the City, and by people who in many cases undertook the responsibility without any thought of what was expected of them. It was felt that far too many unmarried mothers have only one desire – to get rid of the child. Great care was being taken to ensure the fund was not expended on such cases, and that many deserving cases had been found among the labouring classes where the care and burden bestowed on the “little strangers” had well merited the assistance they were able to give. There had been comparatively few applicants from among the “middle or even well-to-do classes”, but a few of even these were found well worthy of the grant. After investigation, grants were awarded to 113 cases which were considered to be the most deserving, the amount distributed being £3,925. In a number of cases the grants were made payable by instalments for the ultimate benefit of the recipients. The total grants awarded since the inception of the Trust now amounted to 217, the amount paid out being £7,775.²⁴

The 1926-27 report by the directors of the Drapers Fund, New Adoption Portion reiterated some of the points from the previous year including the need for greater control over those who were permitted to adopt children. Many cases had been found during the course of interviews where most unsuitable guardians were bringing up children in miserable surroundings. It was suggested that a national adoption system be employed. However, the report also states that there were many cases where maternal love had been the prime motive and that there was evidence of self-denial being exercised in the bringing up of adopted children. It was noted that a large majority of adopted children were not orphans but illegitimate and it was possible to dispose of them too easily. The applications received for this year numbered 2,367. During the year £2,731 10s. was distributed among 86 recipients - 28 in grants of one sum of £50 and the remainder in instalment grants in sums of £10 to £25. A report concerning considerable damage to the property at 44-52 Cumberland Street due to a severe gale at the end of January was included. Several chimney heads were blown down, one of which fell through the roof and in its fall carried away the whole stair. The cost of the necessary repairs, part of which, amounting to £633 5s. 5d., had been paid out of the current year's income, reduced the amount available for grants.²⁵

In October 1927, James Inglis again offered to augment the Drapers' Fund with the addition of property at 12-16 Milton Street. A letter of thanks was sent to him from the House for his “most generous and thoughtful gift”.²⁶

In recognition of James Inglis's generosity over many years, Late-Convener Dallas suggested in May 1928 that he be presented with his portrait in oils, the painting to be hung in the Large Hall and the cost to be borne by the current representatives of the House. The suggestion was unanimously agreed and the Deacon Convener and the Late Convener were asked to approach James Inglis for his views. The Deacon Convener reported that Mr. Inglis had paid a visit to the Hall, and after

²⁴ Trades House Minutes, Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion 1925-26.

²⁵ Trades House Minutes, Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion 1926-27.

²⁶ Trades House Minutes, 12th October 1927.

viewing the portraits there, had written to say that for his portrait to be put among them was “an honour far beyond anything he had attained by personal achievement, but while asking that the matter be reconsidered, he left himself entirely in their hands”. The Platform were charged with selecting a suitable artist and making all other necessary arrangements.²⁷

Just over three weeks later, the Platform Committee met to consider the choice of artist to paint James Inglis’s portrait, and it was agreed that Mr. H. J. Gunn of London should be asked to undertake the work.²⁸ The portrait was officially unveiled and presented to the House on Thursday 6th September 1928 during a visit of the British Association to Glasgow. It was hung in the Large Hall where it remains to this day.²⁹

About one month after the official unveiling of his painting, James Inglis made another augmentation to the Drapers’ Fund in the form of a property at 9 Crescent Street, Greenock. Again, the Deacon Convener moved his cordial thanks of the House be conveyed to Mr. Inglis for this “further proof of his benevolence”.³⁰

The 1928-29 Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion provides further insight into adoption in this period. It was the experience of the visitor that there were more applicants from the “poorer almost slum classes” than in previous years. The visitor was quite damning of this group where he states:

... and this seems to me a class to be, discouraged, as children brought up under such conditions have less chance to develop into useful citizens than those under the care of the Parish Council where healthy food and surroundings are ensured with careful supervision until such children are able to earn a living for themselves.

The visitor also noted that there were many cases where there was evidence of “good care and sensible upbringing” and that there were “many cases of childless couples who bestowed unstinted love on the little adopted one”. However, there were other cases where adoption should not have been permitted. There had been 2,652 applications to date and, during the previous year, £4,696 had been distributed among 179 recipients, 82 being new cases and the remainder cases where the grant had been made payable in instalments.³¹

By 1930, the cost of administering the Drapers’ Fund had risen above the £105 set as the maximum by James Inglis. The House therefore voted a grant of £105 from the funds of the House to augment the cost of administering the fund.³²

The 1929-30 report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion once again comments on the lack of control over children being adopted into the most unsuitable homes and the “need for more restrictions before adoption is permitted”. It was felt that the grants given had improved the educational achievement of the children and had been of great assistance where the adoptive parents had fallen onto difficult times. £3,950 had been distributed among 194 recipients, 84 of these being new cases, and in the remaining cases, grants had been made payable by instalments. Every applicant, where allocation was made, was visited in their own homes, and judged “according to their several merits”.³³

²⁷ Trades House Minutes, 7th May 1928.

²⁸ Platform Committee of the Trades House, 24th May, 1928.

²⁹ Trades House Minutes, 27th September 1928.

³⁰ Trades House Minutes, 10th October 1928.

³¹ Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion 1928-29.

³² Finance Committee Minutes, 16th June 1930.

³³ Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion 1929-30.

By May 1931, James Inglis's health was beginning to fail and he suggested that Miss Flora Mackinnon should act in his place on the Committee of the New Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund. The House agreed to this suggestion.³⁴

The 1930-31 Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion noted that the income from the properties were rather less than usual, but the number of applications received were as great as ever. The visitor reported that he had the following reservations:

I have still great doubts if this fund is to any large extent doing good work. Too many of the applicants are on the border line of poverty, and without a much more efficient supervision you cannot be sure that the children are getting any real benefit.

He noted that "The middle class are not to be found to any extent among last year's applications". 655 applications had been received with £2,960 being distributed among 174 recipients in grants ranging from £5 to £10. Concern was expressed over the upkeep of the properties handed over by James Inglis which were rather old and which it was important to maintain. It was suggested that a reserve fund for extraordinary repairs be set up as "sooner or later [repairs] will require to be undertaken". It was noted that due to houses being built over the past few years by the Corporation and private contractors, there was a smaller demand for the type of houses owned by the Draper' Fund. This had meant that the Committee had had to provide hot water and modern conveniences in a number of dwellings. A further concern was the amount of arrears of rents which had been written off by the factors as irrecoverable. This had been caused partially by the large number of unemployed tenants.³⁵

The House considered the question the factorship of the properties connected to the New Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund in November 1931. A letter had been received from Mr. Inglis, the founder of the Fund, recommending new factors to be appointed by the House.³⁶

The 1931-32, Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion again continued with the theme of the condition of the properties belonging to the Fund. The Committee reported that they had examined all of the properties and a separate report had been prepared. The question of inappropriate adoptions was again highlighted with the visitor reporting:

Several calls made in November, particularly in the Port Dundas area, were most unsatisfactory, and in one case the conditions were positively appalling. Why people so degraded are permitted to adopt children, and why ministers or priests or doctors support these applications is a matter which requires explanation. Grants in such cases could never be of benefit to the children and even less to the foster parents.

In other cases the conditions left much to be desired, and one had hesitation in recommending even a minimum grant, owing to the doubt that whatever was given would not be used in the interests of the children.

There were a number of most respectable applications living under normal conditions who even in their poverty were clean and tidy and to all appearances thrifty.

The visitor noted the fact that poverty was caused by so many of the heads of households being unemployed. Applications received for consideration numbered

³⁴ Trades House Minutes, 22nd May 1931.

³⁵ Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion 1930-31.

³⁶ Trades House Minutes, 3rd November 1931.

483. £3,177 was distributed amongst 211 recipients in grants varying from £10 to £50.³⁷

The report of the following year 1932-33, Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion followed the now predictable concerns about the suitability of many of the applications. The view was expressed that:

One found that some foster parents and the adopted children living in squalid conditions, as often as not in single apartments at the back of a tenement, the rooms being neither safe nor fit to enter. It is sad, but true, that poverty was only too evident and probably some of the applicants had lost heart; but why should these people, incapable of looking after themselves decently, be allowed to adopt children?

The system whereby the children were adopted was also given vent, the visitor expressing the view that the majority of the children were illegitimate, and frequently it was through a newspaper advertisement that mother and adopter were brought together:

but it does seem a shame, no matter the parentage, that these "unwanted bairns" should in after life, in many cases, be further handicapped by being brought up under the worst possible city conditions.

Again, there was a plea for a better system to safeguard the child in adoption. In the course of the year the sum of £2,509 had been expended among 211 cases. The issue of the age of the properties was again raised and it was noted that the reserve fund now amounted to £2,500. It was also felt that the increase of 1/6d in the £ on local rates would decrease the income from the properties.³⁸

Mr James Inglis, (Draper Master) died at 7pm on the 24th of December 1933 at his home in 12 Millbrae Crescent, Glasgow. He had suffered for about a year with left hemiplegia [paralysis on the left side of the body, probably due to a stroke] and myocardial degeneration [heart failure].³⁹ His estate was valued as £34,533 0s 7d.⁴⁰

In the past it was normal to report the death of an ex-Deacon or other persons important to the Trades House and in January 1934, at a meeting of the Trades House the following comments were made:

Since we last met, our Guildry is the poorer by the loss of one of most outstanding citizens, Mr. James Inglis, founder of the Drapers' Fund.

Mr. Inglis, who belonged to an old Glasgow family, carried on a long established drapery business in the city. Born in Glasgow in 1858, he succeeded his father in the business, which under his able management became most successful. While taking little active part in public affairs, Mr. Inglis always maintained a deep interest in the welfare of the community.

In 1918 he founded the Drapers' Fund by conveying to the House for charitable purposes a property worth £5,000. Some months later he conveyed to the House feu duties yielding £158 per annum to found a further trust, the Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund. The success of

³⁷ Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion 1931-32.

³⁸ Report from the Drapers Fund New Adoption Portion 1932-33.

³⁹ 1933 James Inglis (Statutory Registers Deaths 644/24 1125)

⁴⁰ https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/60558/images/40884_b206841-00370?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&queryId=258e90202ba8548b1f154df00b638289&usePUB=true&phsrc=MdR307&phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&ga=2.36228704.1349030901.1611937403-608231327.1606668256&pid=374153

these Funds prompted Mr. Inglis in 1925 to add to his benefactions another gift to form a new Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund. This consisted of heritable properties of very considerable value. The total value of these gifts amounts to over £65,000, a sum which took our predecessors nearly two and a half centuries to accumulate. Mr. Inglis' benefactions form the greatest gift which any individual has ever made to the House during its existence of three hundred and twenty-nine years. And they are not mere donations. Each gift has been made in the form of a well thought out scheme and is in many respects unique and complete in its operation, proving conclusively the vision and foresight of the donor.

It is with satisfaction that we recall that the portrait of Mr. Inglis, painted by one of our leading artists who is also a craftsman, and presented to the House by the members, was unveiled on the occasion of the visit to Glasgow of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and at the unveiling ceremony we had present some of the most distinguished scientists of our age.

I move that we record our deep sense of the loss sustained by our Guildry and our city through the death of so remarkable a citizen and that an excerpt from the Minutes of the day be sent to Miss Inglis, conveying to her our deep sympathy with her in her bereavement.⁴¹

To understand the changes in adoption within Scotland and how the Trades House altered the New Adoption Portion of the Drapers' Fund to meet these changes, it is necessary to look at one more minute of the Trades House. The following extract from the Public Business Minutes of the Trades House, 19th January 1934, illustrates the changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee, after careful consideration, make the following recommendation to the House:-

- 1) That in all cases a preference should be given to those applicants who have legally adopted the child by obtaining an Adoption Order from the Court;
- 2) That the Committee should not insist in every case on the applicant obtaining an Adoption Order before being eligible for a grant as there may be suitable cases where a grant is desirable, although an Adoption Order could not be obtained. (For example, the Act of 1930 provides that the applicant must not be less than twenty-one years older than the child adopted.

Such a provision should not exclude a grant from the Fund where the other circumstances render it desirable);

- 3) That where a second grant is made from the Fund to the same individual, that applicant should, as a condition of the grant, be asked to apply to the Court for an Adoption Order;
- 4) That the Print of Instructions and Form issued to applicants should ask the applicant whether he or she has ever applied to the Court to have the adoption legalised by means of an Adoption Order and if so when and with what results. If no application has been made the applicant should be asked to state why no application has been made to legalise the adoption.
(The Act of 1930 makes it more easy for foster-parents to legalise an adoption where there has been a de facto adoption and where the adopter has had the actual custody of the child for two years prior to 1930;
- 5) That the Committee should draw the attention of the Public Assistance Department to any cases where it appears that the child adopted is in an unhealthy environment and not being given fair treatment, and
- 6) That the printed form of Instructions and form of application which the Committee have revised, and which are appended to this report should be used.

⁴¹ Trades House Minutes, 19th January 1934.

REPORTED TO THE HOUSE BY
JAMES GILCHRIST, Late Convener,
Manager.
A. B. ALLAN.
ARCHD. SPEIR
W. C. FAULD
R. M. SMITH.⁴²

The Trades House considered and unanimously approved of the exhaustive report in February 1935.⁴³

The Trades House still administers the Drapers Fund and being selected by the Deacon Convener to be the Manager of the Fund is considered a high honour and much charitable good being delivered to this day.

⁴² Trades House, Public Business Minutes, 10th January 1935.

⁴³ Trades House Minutes, 15th February 1935.