

# The truanting of MARY JANE AND MARIA LOUISA DIXON

## YORK CITY. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.

### Vol. 2. Minutes 1887-1889

#### Y/COU/5/3/6/2

**1 March 1888** Report on cases before the Magistrates on 29 February:- Order made on John Dixon, Bootham Row to send his children Mary Jane and Mary Louisa to school.

**27 August 1888** “Mrs Annie Dixon of 86/2 Lowther Street, Groves, attended before the Committee with reference to a complaint that she had not sent her children – Mary Jane, Maria Louisa, Lila and Ellen to school. The Clerk was instructed to apply to the Magistrates for the committal of her children Mary Jane and Maria Louisa to an Industrial School.”

**24 September 1888** Report on cases before the Magistrates on 29 August:- – Mary Jane and Maria Louisa, children of John Dixon, 86/2 Lowther Street.

[The case was adjourned until 3<sup>rd</sup> September, then both girls were sent to an Industrial School. [Hull Girls’ Industrial School, Cottingham]

It was resolved that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to examine and grant certificates as to the health of children sent to Industrial and Truant Schools.

On 14 March 1889, York School Board took over the Attendance Committee.

## YORK SCHOOL BOARD. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE

#### Y/COU/5/3/6/3

**4 Jan 1891** p. 130

Mary Jane Dixon – A letter from Mr O’Donoghue was read

“RE: Mary Jane Dixon - The clerk reported that since this child and her sister [Maria Louisa] were admitted, the mother had died and that the home had now improved. The girl being lame, the father wished her to remain at the school until her time was up.

Directions were given not to ask for this child to be sent back.”

**26 Nov 1891**, p. 165

“RE: Mary Jane Dixon - In pursuance of a recommendation from the Visiting Committee to Hull the clerk asked that he might request that this girl be allowed to return from the Hull Industrial School.”

**3 Mar 1892**, p. 173

“RE: Mary Jane Dixon - That this girl had returned from the Hull Industrial School and was living with her father. As she wore the Workhouse clothing on her admission, an outfit had to be provided for her on leaving the school, costing 23/-. The Committee considered that the father should return the clothes or pay for them. The clerk was requested to make enquiries and report to the next meeting.”

**Apr? 1892**, p. 176

Name: Mary Jane Dixon

School returned from: Hull Girls

Date: 5 Dec 1891

**7 Apr 1892**, p. 190

RE: Mary Jane Dixon- Directions were given that enquiries be made. [About the clothing possibly?]

**12 May 1892**, p. 198

RE: Mary Jane Dixon – “A letter from the Hull School Board suggesting that the sister [ie Maria Louisa] of the above girl should be sent home was read.

The committee did not consider it desirable that she should return.”

**26 May 1892**, p. 199

RE: Maria L. Dixon - That this girl would return from the Hull Industrial School on Friday 29th inst. Directions were given that an Officer be sent to bring her back

**2 June 1892**, p. 201

RE: Maria L. Dixon - That this girl was brought from the Hull Industrial School on the 27th May in the charge of Mr Thornton & payment to him of 14/6 railway fares and expenses

**25 Aug 1892**, p. 208

RE: Mary J. and Maria L. Dixon - That £1.10.2 was charged in the Hull Industrial School.

Maintenance for clothes supplied to these girls on leaving the school.

The clerk was asked to write to Mr O'Donoghue

## NOTES

The Dixon girls mentioned by the Attendance Committee are:

Mary Jane (Jenny) bapt. 9 Feb 1876; Maria Louisa (Louie) b. 12 Aug 1877; Lila b. 4 Apr 1880; and Ellen b. 1884.

Other children in the family: There were actually two other sisters, Annie Elizabeth (Nancy) bapt. 9 Feb 1876; and Ina b. 25 April 1874. Ina, Nancy, Jenny and Louie were all admitted to the York PLU Workhouse in November 1880 because they were sick (Workhouse Admissions Register) and/or because both parents had been imprisoned for theft (York Herald, 4 Dec 1880). Although the sentence was only for one month, the parents never claimed their children back and the PLU deemed them to have been deserted. Nancy and Ina were boarded out with William and Selina Clarkson. The parents were eventually tracked down, and Jenny and Louie were returned to them in March 1882.

They also had an older half brother Thomas (Tom) William Graves, b. 14 February 1870, who was admitted to York Industrial School in December 1880 after also being charged with theft.

Another brother, John, 1882 – 1883, died in infancy.

Lila's connection with the Attendance Committee: Lila went into service with William Thorpe, a School Attendance Officer (1901 Census). It was a successful placement, and when Lila married James Foster, it was William Thorpe who gave her away, not her father (Dixon family sources).