

Second Ayton School History, page 56:

'Cleveland Lodge also benefited by the change to gas and, within a couple of months, eight applicants from the village applied for the same favour. Their pleas did not avail for "the minute respecting gas in the village" was "discharged for the present". Six years passed before the committee agreed that "Jeremiah Thistlethwaite be supplied with gas at the usual Stokesley price".'

This is an example of the Quaker network in operation, helping other Quakers, but perhaps not to the point where the donor might suffer. Cleveland Lodge, built by the very wealthy Thomas Richardson, had a small gas works which also supplied the Quaker School (which was built at Thomas Richardson's expense). Villagers would have dearly liked to be connected to this gas supply, but capacity was limited. When it was decided that additional customers could be supplied, Quakers came first.

Victoria County History, 1923 (pages 225-231)

'In 1678 William Young, by will, devised a rent-charge of £6 annually to be applied as to one moiety for buying clothes for the poor, and the other moiety for putting a poor man's child apprentice. The payment is made by Mr J Thistlethwaite and applied in the distribution of calico and flannel, and in clothes for an apprentice.'