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POOR LAW RECORDS: PARISH OF PORTSMOUTH

Overseers' Accounts

Four Overseers were appointed. A variable number of rates were raised each year and it appears that it was usual for each overseer, in turn, to administer expenditure under one rate: AB - 1st rate, CD - 2nd rate, EF - 3rd rate, GH - 4th rate, AB - 5th rate and so in rotation. From 1750 the accounts follow this order each year. Before that date the accounts for each overseer for the several periods during the year for which he was responsible are grouped together.

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| PL1/1 | 1741 | Account of James Littlefield only (paper covers) |
| 2 | 1742 | " " Jonathan Shepherd only (paper covers) |
| 3 | 1743 | " " Henry Halsey only (no covers) |
| 4 | 1748 - 49, 1749 - 50 (1 vol.) | containing also Inventory of Goods in the Workhouse. |
| 5 | 1750 - 51 (1 vol) | containing also Inventory of Beds and Bedding in the Workhouse 1751, List of People in the Workhouse 1751, Weekly Poor 1783 - 85. |
| 6 | 1751 - 52 (1 vol.) | |
| 7 | 1752 - 53 | " |
| 8 | 1753 - 54, 1756 - 57 (1 vol.) | |
| 9 | 1754 - 55, 1755 - 56 (1st - 6th rate) | (1 vol.) |
| 10 | 1755 - 56 (7th - 13th rate) | (1 vol.) |
| 11 | 1757 - 58 (1 vol.) | |
| 12 | 1758 - 59 | " |
| 13 | 1759 - 60 | " |
| 14 | 1760 - 61 | " |
| 15 | 1761 - 62 | " |
| 16 | 1762 - 63 | " |
| 17 | 1764 - 65 | " |
| 18 | 1765 - 66 | " |
| 19 | 1766 - 67 | " |
| 20 | 1767 - 68 | " |
| 21 | 1771 - 72, 1772 - 73, 1773, - 74 (1st - 3rd rate) | (1 vol.)
containing also Rate Assessment
List of Poor relieved weekly
1771 - 76 |

- PL1/ 22 1773 - 74 (4th - 11th rate), 1774 - 75, 1775 - 76,
1776 - 77 (1st - 2nd rate) (1 vol.)
- 23 1776 - 77 (3rd - 9th rate), 1777 - 78, 1778 - 79,
1779 - 80 (1st rate) (1 vol.)
- 24 1779 - 80 (2nd - 11th rate), 1780 - 81, 1781 - 82 (1 vol.)
- 25 1782 - 83 (1 vol.)
- 26 1783 - 84, 1784 - 85 (1 vol.)
- 27 1786 - 87, 1787 - 88, 1788 - 89 (1 vol.)
- 28 1789 - 90, 1790 - 91 (1 vol.)
- 29 1791 - 92, 1792 - 93, 1793 - 94 (1 vol.)
- 30 1797 - 98, 1798 - 99, 1799 - 1800 (1 vol.)
- 31 1805/6 - 1814/15 (1 vol.)
- 32 1815/6 - 1822/23 (1 vol.)

Weekly and Casual Poor

Lists giving names of recipients and amount of relief.

- PL2/ 1 Weekly Poor Relieved 1785 - 99
- 2 " " " 1799 - 1817
- (See also PL1/21 and PL1/5 above)
- PL3/ 1 Permanent Weekly Relief 1817 - 27
- 2 " " " 1827 - 33
- 3 " " " 1833 - 36
- PL4 Temporary Weekly Relief 1817 - 27
- PL5 Casual Poor 1824 - 27

Lists of Poor in the Workhouse: these include Musters made on a particular day and Open Lists to which the names of later admissions are appended. Both may give particulars of admission, discharge, age and from 1804 of employment and health.

(See also PL1/5, PL9, PL10, PL 11, PL12/5).

- PL6/ 1 1737 contains 2 musters, January and February.
- 2 1737 - 38 contains 8 musters, August? 1737 - April, 1738.
- 3 1752 Open List, contains admissions to May, 1752.

- PL6/ 4 1752 Open List, contains admissions to September, 1752.
 5 1753 'Open List' contains admissions to April, 1754.
 6 1754 'Open List' contains admissions to January, 1755.
 7 1755 'Open List' contains admissions to September, 1755.
 8 1755 'Open List' contains admissions to May, 1756.
 9 1756 'Open List' contains admissions to November, 1757.
 10 1760 - 81 Register of admissions and discharges. Cover inscribed "Open List 1760". Contains also Musters (room by room) 1777 & 1779.
 11 1781 - 87 Register of admissions and discharges. (lacks cover and pages at both ends; mutilated)
 12 1804 "Muster Book" (room by room)
 13 1805 Muster (room by room)
 14 1808 "Muster Book" (room by room)
 15 1813 Muster (room by room)
 16 1815? "Muster Book" (poor condition)

PL7 Weekly Account of People in the House 1765 - 69. Gives totals of men, women, boys and girls for each week. At the end, record of Births and Christenings 1765 - 66.

Journals (variously titled on covers and spine): daily occurrence books for the Workhouse containing chiefly notes of admissions and discharges and of daily total of persons in the House.

- PL8/ 1 1790 - 1805
 2 1805 - 1811
 3 1811 - 1817
 4 1817 - 1829
 5 1837 - 1840 includes references to meetings of the Board of Guardians, visitors, receipt of supplies.

PL9 Volume containing at the beginning

Register of Persons examined relating to Settlement
 Register of Persons producing Settlement Certificates
 Register of Persons who have undertaken to indemnify the Parish
 Register of Apprentices

(all the above kept irregularly - see not on flyleaf; entries chiefly for 1730s, 1750s and 1760s)

cont.

also contains Muster Table of Poor in the House (weekly totals) 1751 - 52; Muster lists, admission, discharges etc. 1751, - 52, 1789 - 93, 1797 - 99; Inventory of Furniture in the House c. 1793?, and List of Paupers in each room c. 1793.

PL10

PL10 Volume containing roughly written accounts relating to the poor 1815 - 29; at other end, a few pages of accounts 1825 - 26 struck through, a list of persons in the House n.d. and list of 5 persons sent to Winchester Hospital 1817.

PL11

Volume inscribed on cover 'Examination of Paupers in and out of the House' containing alphabetical lists of persons in receipt of permanent weekly or casual relief with particulars of age, family circumstances, grounds of settlement etc., and lists of persons in the House giving age, date of admission, discharge, employment etc., 1826 - 36.

Day Books: daily record of food and other goods purchased for the Workhouse with name of suppliers and prices.

PL12/

- 1 1751 - 57 containing also: Inventories of goods in Workhouse, 1751, 1754; account of amount of flour baked and loaves made therefrom 1751 - 57; contracts with master and mistress, surgeon and apothecary.
- 2 1757 - 60 containing also: account of flour baked and loaves made therefrom 1757 - 60; contracts with master, surgeon etc.
- 3 1760 - 63
- 4 1763 - 65 containing also Contracts with master, surgeon etc.
- 5 1765 - 68 containing also List of persons in workhouse 1749.
- 6 1768 - 71 containing also Contracts with Master, surgeon etc., for supply of goods, to bury dead.
- 7 1771 - 75 containing also Contracts (as previous vol.)
- 8 1780 - 84
- 9 1791 - 1805
- 10 1805 - 13
- 11 1821 - 29
- 12 1830 - 36

PL13

Bill Books: accounts for goods supplied and work done for workhouse 1762 - 65.

Clothing Books : record of distribution of clothing to
the poor

PL 14/1 1790 - 94

2 1799 - 1817

Committee Minutes

A Committee composed of the overseers, churchwardens and others concerning both in and out poor, including instructions to the surgeon to visit out sick, orders relating to admissions to the House, diet, punishments, etc.

PL 15/1 Aug.1785 - Sep.1786 at end, Contracts for supply of provisions, etc.

2 Oct.1786 - Apr.1787

3 Apr.1787 - June 1787 at end, Contracts

4 June 1787 - July 1788 at end, Contracts