

Ms
Coll.
00191A

Rastrick Workhouse Papers

Rastrick Workhouse Papers

Dates: 1742-1891

Extent: 3 boxes (30 cm)

Administrative History:

Rastrick is a small village in the riding of West Yorkshire in the vicinity of Brighouse. The Overseer of the Poor of Rastrick was a yearly appointed and unpaid position, usually a landowner or church warden, who was tasked with assisting the poor of the parish. This included estimating how much poor relief was required and setting the poor rate accordingly, as well as collecting the tax levied on land and business owners, distributing relief to needy individuals and supervising the poor house. Prior to 1837, the Overseer at Rastrick facilitated the treatment of the poor through the provisions set by the Gilbert Act (1782). Under this act, only the elderly, sick and orphaned were removed to the workhouse, all able-bodied poor were eligible for 'out-relief,' which included monetary assistance for food, clothing, schooling and housing. In 1834, the Poor Law Amendment Act emphasized that out-relief should cease and instead that assistance only be given inside the workhouse. The roll-out of this new amendment was not put into effect in Lancashire and Yorkshire (including Rastrick) until 1837. The Outdoor Labour Test Order of 1842 did reinstate out-relief to some capacity for the able-bodied.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains material generated by the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick primarily prior to enactment of the Poor Law Amendment Act roll-out in 1837. Accordingly, these papers are largely representative of the extent of out-relief in early nineteenth-century Yorkshire. As the poor rate and relief was based on the needs of the community, there was much discussion and correspondence with neighboring Overseers regarding individuals and families who may fall outside their jurisdiction. This came in the form of settlement examinations, as well as invoices pertaining to services rendered for individuals outside their designated settlement area. The collection contains personal details and histories of individuals being served by the Parish of Rastrick. Two families, William Brook and his wife, Elizabeth, and Adam Stephenson and his family, are discussed extensively. This includes correspondence with overseers, physicians and landlords, but also letters written by the individuals themselves. Also of especial note are the oaths and examinations of Joshua Aspinall, Abraham Dyson and Richard Platt, in which during the course of their settlement statements, they provide their complete life histories. Other records come in the form of certificates from surgeons and physicals, which detail physical and mental reasons for individuals who have been deemed unable to work. The bulk of the collection is correspondence addressed to the Overseers of Rastrick and largely concerns individuals who have applied or been identified for poor

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relief. These letters often include an outline of the person's background and circumstances, their children and spouses and the amount of poor relief they have been provided. The collection contains some financial records, including invoices and orders of payment. Of note are the attorney bills generated by Rastrick after the enactment of the Poor Law Amendment Act, which details removals to the workhouses. These records outline the legal procedure and monetary cost of removals, and in most cases, also identifies the individuals being assigned to the workhouse.

Custodial History: By purchase, 1992.

BOX: FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
	Records Regarding Settlement of Individuals	
Box 1 Folder 1	Record of oath of Joshua [Iredall] with record of his living history to determine settlement	23 June 1742
1:2	Record of oath of Joshua Aspinall with record of his living history and residency in Rastrick	26 June 1742
1:3	Certificate transferring John and Rebekah Atkinson from the Township of Aspley and Bentley to Rastrick	17 April 1759
1:4	Examination of Abraham Dyson with a record of his settlements, apprenticeship and jobs (2 drafts)	19 May 1790
1:5	Certificate acknowledging that Frances Shaw and her child[ren] are now legally settled in the Township of Lindley	1 June 1815
1:6	Statement of Richard Platt regarding his father and owned property	12 May 1831
1:7	Certificate acknowledging that Betty Barker and her child[ren] are now legally settled in the Township of Huddersfield	9 July 1833
	Society Assistance Certificates	
1:8	Certificate acknowledging that Benjamin Wade is being assisted by the Friendly Society of Rastrick and Brighouse	22 March 1800
1:9	Certificate acknowledging that Jane Iredale is being assisted by the Female Society	30 October 1819
1:10	Certificate acknowledging that William Spencer is being assisted by a friendly society overseen by Joshua Pinder	8 March 1820
	Health Certification Notes	

1:11	Notes to certify Sarah Farrar weak in mind and body and unable to support herself	28 April 1829 5 August 1830
1:12	Note from W. Carr, Surgeon, regarding James Brook's accident and his charge	25 May 1831
1:13	Note to certify that John Farrar and his wife are dangerously ill from dysentery and exceedingly indigent	4 September 1833
1:14	Note to certify that five of William Bentley's children are ill with typhus and unable to work	12 February 1833
1:15	Note to certify that Job Briggs is an out-patient at the General Infirmary at Leeds	29 October 1833
1:16	Note to certify that Thomas Singleton is an out-patient at the General Infirmary at Leeds and requiring support	11 February 1834
1:17	Note to certify MaryAnn Denham not in a fit state of mind from Wakefield Asylum	11 August 1834
1:18	Note to certify Thomas Robertslaw of unsound mind	18 May 183[6]
1:19	Note to certify that Thomas Collins is in infirm and unable to support himself	2 January 1837
1:20	Note to certify that Joseph Binns is ill and unable to work	2 January 1837
1:21	Note to certify that two children of Elizabeth Carver are dangerously ill and unable to work	27 February 1837
1:22	Note to certify that Robert Binns is very dangerously ill	30 October 1837
	Case of Elizabeth and William Brook	
1:23	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Elizabeth Brook regarding the employment of William Brook	13 March 1833

1:24-25	Letters to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from James Priestley, Elizabeth Brook's land lord, regarding her overdue rent	24 June 1833 25 June 1833
1:26	Agreement between William Brook and Joseph Lister for the let of a cottage house	27 June 1833
1:27	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from the Overseer of Shelf regarding the incarceration of William Brook and the destitution of his wife and children	4 October 1833
1:28	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Joseph Lister regarding Elizabeth Brook's rent arrears	3 March 1834
1:29	Letter to the Overseas of the Poor of Rastrick from Joseph Lister, landlord, regarding the state and back rent of Betty Brook	12 May 1834
1:30	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Elizabeth Brook regarding her husband William Brook	6 November 1834
	Case of Adam Stephenson and Family	
1:31	Letter from Asst. Overseer of Rastrick regarding Adam Stephenson's suspended removal order	29 October 1834
1:32	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from J.R Hodgson summarizing interaction with Adam Stephenson	31 October 1834
1:33	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Susannah Stephenson regarding overdue rent and her circumstances	19 May 1837
1:34	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from the Overseers of the Poor of Wortley regarding relief given to the family of Adam Stephenson	13 June 1837
1:35	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Adam Stephenson regarding his circumstances	16 June 1837
1:36	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from the Overseers of the Poor of Wortley regarding Adam Stephenson's bad conduct. Includes response from Rastrick urging incarceration.	26 August 1837
1:37	Draft of a letter regarding Adam Stephenson's wife and children and questions of their settlement	n.d

	Correspondence with the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick regarding Poor Relief	
Box 2 Folder 1	Certificate to receive Harriet Gledhill and her child(ren) from Dewsbury to Rastrick	23 February 1825
2:2	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from the Sculcoates Workhouse regarding payment for Mary Richardson	11 October 1830
2:3	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Joseph Gledhill, [Vesby] Clerk regarding Thomas Verrity's dangerous character	20 November 1830
2:4	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from the Overseers of the Poor of Macclesfield regarding the location of Mercy Innan, with response from James Marshall, Overseer	14 March 1831
2:5	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from James Marsden regarding assistance for a boy	4 April 1831
2:6	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from the High Constable, Bradford, regarding meeting at the Shakespeare Tavern to receive the population schedule	21 April 1831
2:7	Letter from James Marshall, Overseer of the Poor of Rastrick, to Overseers of the Poor of Macclesfield regarding the account and death of Mercy Innan	16 May 1831
2:8	Letter from James Dixon to James Marshall, Overseer at Rastrick, regarding payment for Samuel Stake	25 May 1831
2:9	Letter from Benjamin Moore to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick regarding James Brook who had a serious accident and cannot support his family	30 May 1831
2:10	Letter from G.W Harrison to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick regarding death and funeral expenses of James Goodair	11 June 1831
2:11	Letter to Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick regarding the expenses of Mary Innan.	1 August 1831
2:12	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Sculcoates Workhouse regarding the account of Mary Ritchinson and child	19 December 1831
2:13	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor Rastrick from Overseer of the Poor, Thornton regarding relief paid to Rebecca Marshall	29 December 1831

2:14	Letter from James Marshall, Overseer of the Poor of Rastrick to the Overseers of the Poor of Macclesfield regarding account of Mercy Innan	8 February 1832
2:15	Notes from James Marshall, Overseer of the Poor of Rastrick, to the Overseers of Bradford regarding the relief of Joseph Laycock with note from surgeon regarding Laycock's attack of spasmodic cholera.	August 1832
2:16	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from John Pickford, Overseer of Bunnington, regarding William Bentley's application for relief	12 February 1833
2:17	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from J. Halton regarding the death of Thomas Baynes with response on verso	25 March 1833 3 April 1833
2:18	Letter from James Marshall, Overseer of the Poor of Rastrick, to Reuben Gooder regarding the maintenance of his family	3 May 1833
2:19	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from George Goodare regarding his sister Emma Percival and her child	27 May 1833
2:20	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Overseer of the Poor of Thornton regarding payment of account of Rebecca Marshall	2 September 1833
2:21	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from F.B Smith, Stockport, regarding the decrease of pay to Sarah Bairns	9 September 1833
2:22	Letter from the Overseer of the Poor of Rastrick paying five pounds to the creditors of Widow Baynes	30 October 1833
2:23	Letter from George Higham to John Schofield, Rastrick, regarding the examination of Susanna Pearsons	13 December 1833
2:24	Letter to James Marshall, Overseer at Rastrick, from Wakefield Asylum regarding vacancy for a female patient.	28 February 1834
2:25	Letter to the Sculcoates Workhouse from the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick regarding the account of Mary Richardson, with response from Sculcoates on verso	24 March 1834 8 May 1834
2:26	Letter from the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick regarding reducing the pay for Widow Baynes	1 May 1834
2:27	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Mary Ritchinson regarding the inability to maintain daughter	5 June 1834

2:28	Letter from the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick requesting information on MaryAnn Denham's state of mind	29 September 1834
2:29	Invoice for relief given to Widow Baynes by the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick to the Overseers of Stockport	September 1834
2:30	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from Joseph Tweedall regarding insufficient funds for Widow Rayner	9 March 1835
2:31	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick regarding the destitution of Charles Stanley	20 May 1836
2:32	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick from the Overseers of the Poor of Liverpool regarding Ellen Thornton	16 January 1837
2:33	Letter regarding the rate of wages of Hannah, Martha and Judith Binns	6 February 1837
2:34	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick regarding George Singleton's application for relief	20 October 18[3]7
2:35	Letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Pontefract from the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick regarding assistance for Sarah Carter and her child	30 January 1838
2:36	Note appointing George Scholefield and Joseph Jowett Fryer as Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick	25 March 1840
2:37	Promissory slip and receipt allowing the Overseers of Rastrick to draw money towards the relief of the poor	26 July 1840
2:38	Invoice from Surgeon H.W Swallow for examining and giving a certificate of the state of mind of Chas. Thornton	18 January 1841
2:39	Letters to the Clerk to the Local Board, Rastrick from T.W Helliwell regarding voting	March 1890 – April 1891
	Order of Removals	
Box 3 Folder 1	Order of removal for John (now deceased), Mary Ann, Thomas, Ruth, Fergus and Samuel Bentley	9 March 1846

	Invoices and Payment Orders	
3:2	List of receipts and disbursements incurred by the Overseer of the Poor of Rastrick	4 April 1833
3:3	Orders for payment from the Overseers of Rastrick to the High Constable of the West Riding of Yorkshire	18 August 1840 10 February 1851
3:4	Invoices from Joseph Hartley, bookseller, printer, stationer and binder, for stationary	1840-1847
3:5	Notice and receipt of payment from the Overseers of the Poor of Rastrick to the High Constable	1, 27 March 1841
3:6	Acknowledgement of payment of nine shillings	1 May 1841
3:7	Invoice for expenses in taking James Clegg to the asylum at Wakefield	25 January 1842
3:8	Order for the payment to the Parish Constable of Rastrick	12 April 1843
3:9	Listing of expenses incurred by Rastrick (five sheets)	1846-1847
3:10	Invoice to the Overseers of Claverley for the order of removal of Thomas Clarkson	February 1847
3:11	Invoice for the payment to the Parish Constables	25 March 1847
3:12	Invoices from William Nicholson, printer, bookseller, stationer and binder, for stationary	1851, 1859
3:13	Order for payment from the Overseers of Rastrick to the Clerk of Justices for magistrate expenses	1 April 1858
3:14	Invoices for Birds Royd improvement	1891

	Attorney Bills	
3:15	Invoice from George Higham, Attorney, for preparation and examination of removal orders, appeals, briefs	9 November 1838
3:16	Note from James Suthers of Brighthouse acknowledging payment of 7 pounds by the Overseers of Rastrick for case against the Manchester and Leeds Railway Company	27 January 1842
3:17	Invoice from J. Barber, Attorney, for costs inferred in settlement of John Bentley and family	September 1846
3:18	Invoice from J. Barber, Attorney, for costs inferred for the removal order of Harriet Hirst; case against the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company	13 February 1851
3:19	Invoice from William Lancaster, Attorney, for costs inferred in settlement of Fanny Yales, widow; the chargeability of Mrs. Tubb, widow of Joshua Tubb; settlement of Mary Stephenson; re: M. Barker; re: Abraham Longbottom and wife	March 1859
3:20	Invoice from William Lancaster, Attorney, for costs inferred in settlement of Richard Lawson and family	4 March 1859