

**Please Sir! Can I have some more**

The Poor Law Union Workhouses of  
Essex

# The Parish Vestry in session



# Does your Parish have a workhouse? How many inmates and how many in receipt of outdoor relief

PARISH	WORKHOUSE	NUMBER OF INMATES	NUMBER RECEIVING OUTDOOR RELIEF	PARISH	WORKHOUSE	NUMBER OF INMATES	NUMBER RECEIVING OUTDOOR RELIEF
Barking	Yes	120	297	Kelvedon	Yes	19	62
Boreham	Yes	17	80	Lawford	Yes	7	25
Braintree	Yes	18	473	Leyton	Yes	37	47
Castle Heddingham	No	0	138	Little Bardfield	No	0	0
Chelmsford	Yes	43	195	Little Waltham	Poorhouse	?	52
Chipping Ongar	Poorhouse	15	16	Loughton	No	0	81
Clavering	Yes	23	313	Maldon	Yes	0	45
Copford	Yes	16	60	Prittlewell	Yes	30	90
Finchingfield	Yes	?	0	Rayleigh	Yes	28	40
Fryerning	Yes	8	38	Rochford	Yes	?	30
Gestingthorpe	No	0	143	Romford	Yes	121	130
Great Baddow	Yes	17	52	Sible Heddingham	Yes	30	108
Great Coggeshall	Yes	30	250	Springfield	Yes	13	64
Great Dunmow	Yes	30	243	Stanstead Mountfichet	Yes	18	56
Great Henny	No	0	57	Stebbing	Yes	22	110
Great Tey	Yes	27	53	Stisted	Yes	11	76
Great Wakering	Yes	29	17	Stondon	Union	9	14
Great Waltham	Yes	32	200	Thaxted	Yes	19	180
Harlow	Yes	20	90	Walthamstow	Yes	80	70
Hatfield Peverel	Yes	8	300	Wickham Bishops	No	0	26
Ingatestone	Yes	9	35	Witham	Yes	14	43
				<b>Average</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>145</b>

# The Speenhamland (or allowance) Scale

<b>Price of Bread</b>	<b>Man</b>	<b>Wife</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Child</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Child</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Child</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Child</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Child</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Child</b>
<b>1s</b>	3s	1s 6d	1s 6d	1s 6d	1s 6d	1s 6d	1s 6d	1s 6d
<b>1s 1d</b>	3s 3d	1s 7d	1s 7d	1s 7d	1s 7d	1s 7d	1s 7d	1s 7d
<b>1s 2d</b>	3s 6d	1s 8d	1s 8d	1s 8d	1s 8d	1s 8d	1s 8d	1s 8d
<b>1s 3d</b>	3s 9d	1s 9d	1s 9d	1s 9d	1s 9d	1s 9d	1s 9d	1s 9d
<b>1s 4d</b>	4s	1s 10d	1s 10d	1s 10d	1s 10d	1s 10d	1s 10d	1s 10d
<b>1s 5d</b>	4s 3d	1s 11d	1s 11d	1s 11d	1s 11d	1s 11d	1s 11d	1s 11d
<b>1s 6d</b>	4s 6d	2s	2s	2s	2s	2s	2s	2s
<b>1s 7d</b>	4s 9d	2s 1d	2s 1d	2s 1d	2s 1d	2s 1d	2s 1d	2s 1d
<b>1s 8d</b>	5s	2s 2d	2s 2d	2s 2d	2s 2d	2s 2d	2s 2d	2s 2d
<b>1s 9d</b>	5s 3d	2s 3d	2s 3d	2s 3d	2s 3d	2s 3d	2s 3d	2s 3d
<b>1s 10d</b>	5s 6d	2s 4d	2s 4d	2s 4d	2s 4d	2s 4d	2s 4d	2s 4d
<b>1s 11d</b>	5s 9d	2s 5d	2s 5d	2s 5d	2s 5d	2s 5d	2s 5d	2s 5d
<b>2s</b>	6s	2s 6d	2s 6d	2s 6d	2s 6d	2s 6d	2s 6d	2s 6d

# Essex Allowance Scale Trigger Points

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Scale Applied</u>	<u>Trigger Point</u>
Bocking	½ peck of flour per person & 10d	4 persons in family
Boreham	Cash scale	4th child
Braintree	½ peck of flour & 10d	2 persons
Bulmer	½ peck of flour & 6d per head	not specified
Castle Hedingham	½ peck loaf & 10d	3rd child
Chelmsford	1s 6d per head	2nd child
Clavering	3s 6d per week	4th child
Epping	2s per head	husband, wife & children
Fryerning	Cash scale	not specified
Gestingthorpe	½ peck of flour per head	not specified
Great Baddow	½ peck of flour	2nd child
Great Coggeshall	Cash scale	6 plus in family
Great Dunmow	½ peck flour, 6d for parents, 4d children	not specified
Great Henny	Flour scale	3rd child
Great Maplestead	½ peck of flour & 6d per head	not specified
Great Tey	1s 6d per head	4th child
Great Wakering	2s per head	4th child
Great Waltham	½ peck of flour & 5d per head	1st child
Harlow	½ peck loaf & 4d	5th child
Kelvedon	½ peck of flour & 4d to 10d	3rd child
Lawford	Flour scale	4th child
Leyton	Cash scale	not specified
Little Bardfield	½ peck flour, 6d parents, 4d children	3rd child
Little Waltham	Cash scale	3rd child
Prittlewell	2s per week	4th child
Rayleigh	Cash scale	3rd child
Rochford	1s 9d per head	not specified
Romford	10s per week	4th child
Sible Hedingham	Cash scale	3rd child
Springfield	½ peck of flour & fuel allowance	4th or 5th child
Stanstead	3d per week per head	4th child
Stebbing	½ peck of flour & 4d per child	4th child
Stisted	Cash scale	4th child
Thaxted	½ peck of flour*	4th child
Thorpe-le-Soken	Cash scale	2nd child
Walthamstow	Cash scale	3rd or 4th child
Wickham Bishop	Cash scale	4th child
Witham	Cash scale	6th child
	* when flour costs 8s per bushel	

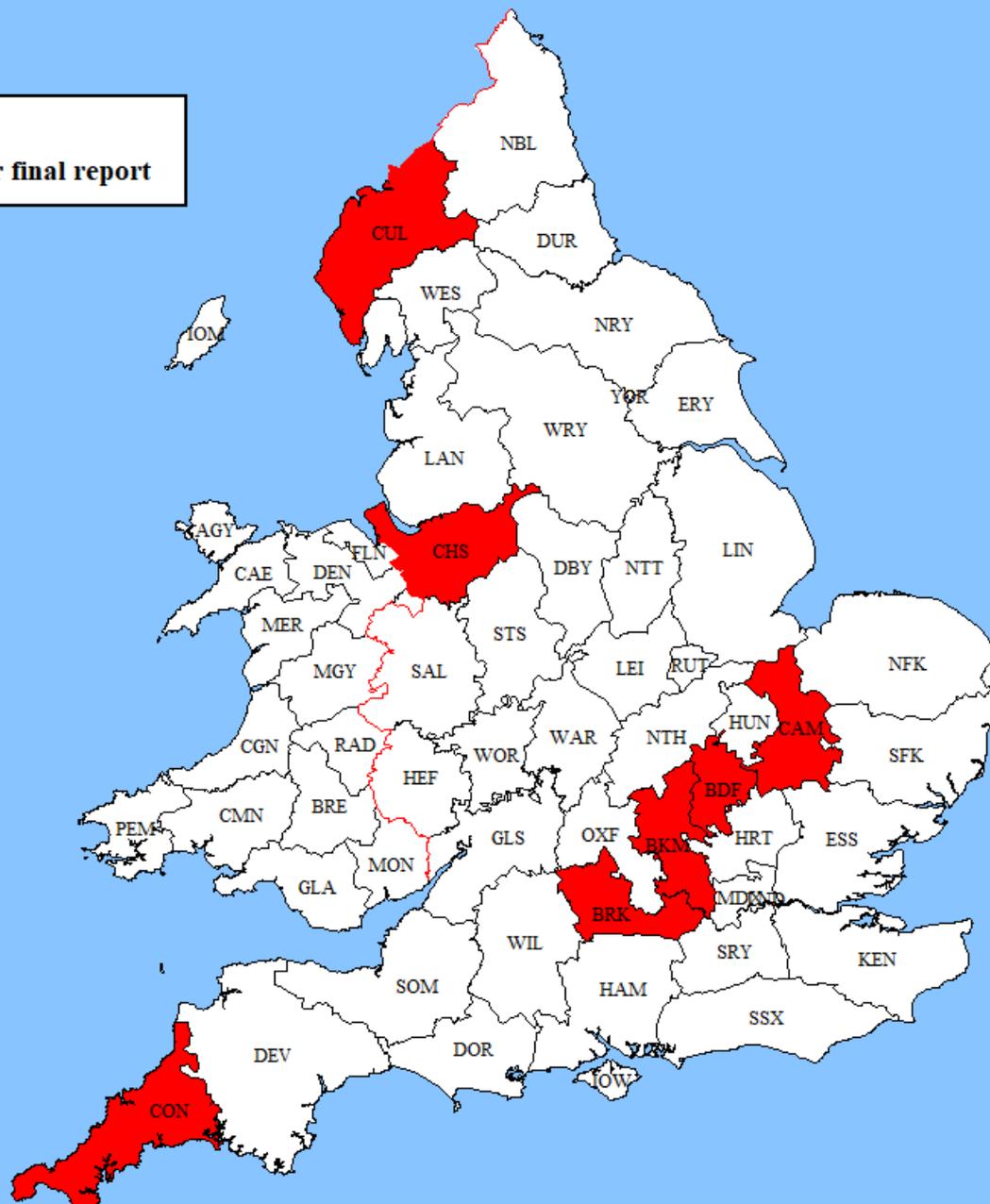
# Ratio of Poor Law Expenditure to price of wheat

YEAR	Poor Law Expenditure in million £s	Wheat price for the previous year in shillings shillings
1818	7.8	94s
1819	7.4	83s 8d
1820	7.3	72s 3d
1821	6.9	65s 10d
1822	6.3	54s 5d
1823	5.6	43s 3d
1824	5.7	51s 9d
1825	5.8	62s
1826	5.9	66s 6d
1827	6.4	56s 11d
1828	6.2	56s 9d
1829	6.3	60s 5d
1830	8.8	66s 3d
1831	6.7	64s 3d
1832	7	66s 4d
1833	6.7	58s 8d
1834	6.3	52s 11d
1835	5.5	46s 2d

## Rural Queries Questions used in the final poor law report

- A: Population 1831
- C: Per Capita Poor Law Expenditure 1831
- 4. Number of labourers sufficient for the proper cultivation of the land?
- 5. Number of agricultural labourers in your parish?
- 7. How many non-parishioners have you in general, distinguishing Scotch and Irish?
- 24. Have you any, and how many, able bodied labourers in the employment of individuals, receiving allowance or regular relief from your parish on their own account, or on that of their families, at what number of children does it begin?
- 25. Is relief or allowance given to any and at what scale?
- 29. Whether any distinction is made in wages paid by employers to married and single men employed by individuals? Is there any and what is the difference between wages paid by the employer to the married and unmarried men when employed by individuals?
- 37. Is the industry of labourers in your neighbourhood increasing or diminishing, that is are your labourers supposed to be better or worse workmen than they formerly were?
- 38. Do labourers in your neighbourhood change their services more frequently than formerly, and how do you account for that circumstance?
- 53. Can you suggest any causes for the recent spate of agricultural rioting?

**Rural Queries**  
**Counties used for final report**



# SETTLEMENT QUALIFICATION PRE- 1834

- Place of Birth
- Completed an apprenticeship
- Completed one year's continuous service with one master
- Held Parish Office
- Paid Local Taxes i.e. parish rates
- Rented a tenement for an annual rental of £10+
- Children assumed their father's settlement
- Wife took her husband's settlement
- Bastard children settled in parish of birth
- Foundlings settled in the parish where they were found in receipt of long-term poor relief
- Owned an estate

# SETTLEMENT POST 1834

- That the settlement by hiring and service, apprenticeship, purchasing or renting a tenement, estate, paying rates, or serving an office, be abolished
- That the settlement of every legitimate child born after the passing of the intended Act follow that of their parent or surviving parent until such child shall attain the age of sixteen, or on the death of its surviving parent, such child shall be considered settled in the place in which it was born.
- That whenever there shall be any question regarding the settlement by birth of a person whether legitimate or illegitimate, and whether born before or after the passing of the intended Act, the place where such person shall have been first existed, shall be presumed to have been the place of birth until the contrary is proved.
- That every illegitimate child born after the passing of the Act shall, until it attain the age of sixteen, follow its mother's settlement.

# Relieving Officer for Finchingfield & Wethersfield Mr.

## Barnard

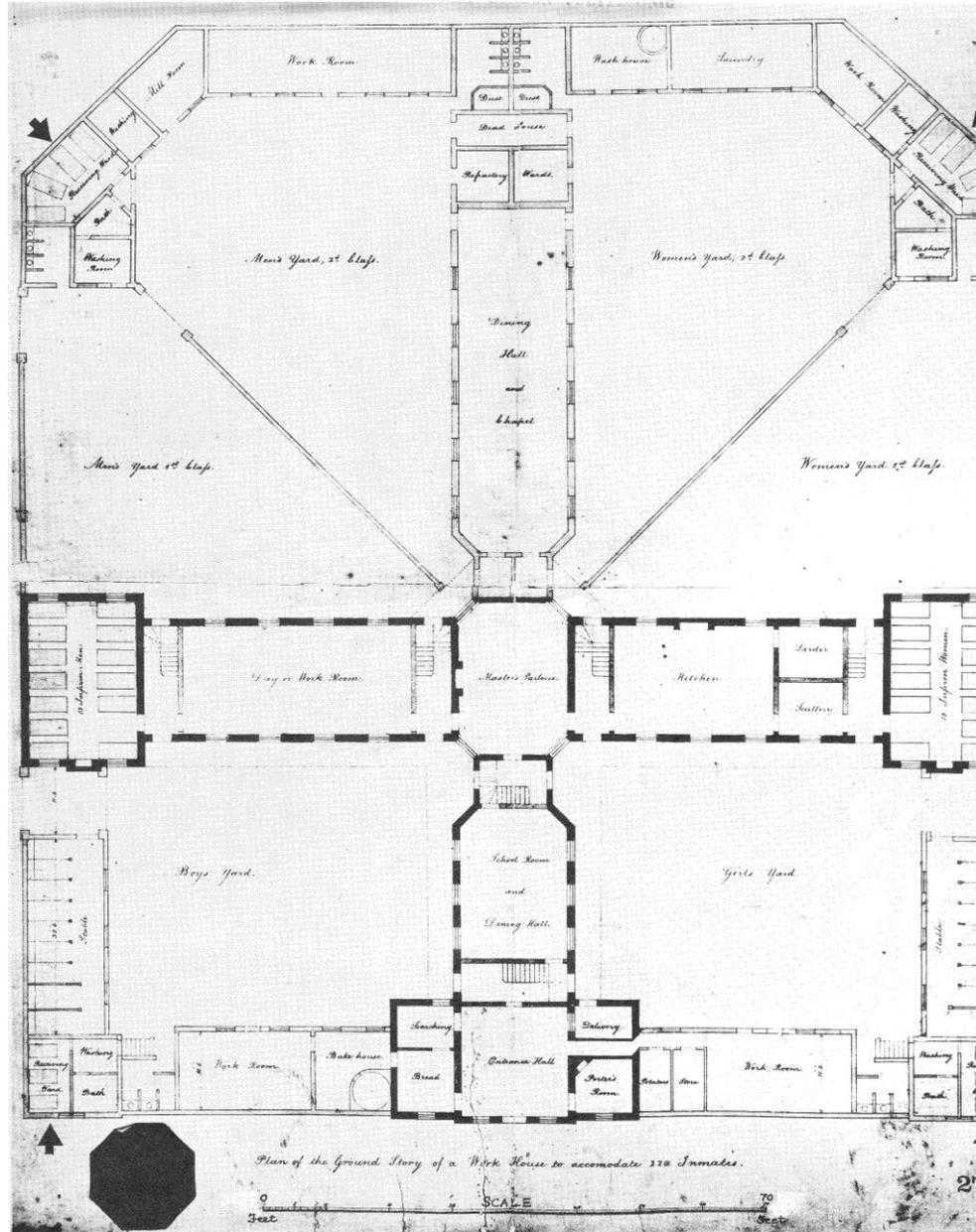
### Tickets issued in lieu of bread:

Date	Parish	loaves	total cost	unit cost
28/8/1837	Finchingfield	247	£7 4s 1d	7d
	Wethersfield	151	£4 8s 1d	7d
4/9/1837	Finchingfield	245	£7 2s 11d	7d
	Wethersfield	165	£4 16 3d	7d
11/9/1837	Finchingfield	229	£6 13s 7d	7d
	Wethersfield	171	£4 19s 9d	7d
18/9/1837	Finchingfield	235	£6 17s 1d	7d
	Wethersfield	170	£4 19s 2d	7d
25/9/1837	Finchingfield	237	£6 18s 3d	7d
	Wethersfield	170	£4 19s 2d	7d
2/10/1837	Finchingfield	239	£6 19s 5d	7d
	Wethersfield	178	£5 3s 10d	7d
9/10/1837	Finchingfield	249	£7 5s 3d	7d
	Wethersfield	175	£5 2s 1d	7d
16/10/1837	Finchingfield	251	£7 6s 5d	7d
	Wethersfield	184	£5 7s 6d	7d
23/10/1837	Finchingfield	252	£7 7s 0d	7d
	Wethersfield	186	£5 8s 6d	7d
30/10/1837	Finchingfield	257	£7 9s 11d	7d
	Wethersfield	185	£5 7s 11d	7d
6/11/1837	Finchingfield	256	£7 9s 4d	7d
	Wethersfield	185	£5 7s 11d	7d
13/11/1837	Finchingfield	253	£7 7s 7d	7d
	Wethersfield	184	£5 7s 4d	7d
20/11/1837	Finchingfield	248	£7 4s 8d	7d
	Wethersfield	183	£5 6s 4d	7d
27/11/1837	Finchingfield	257	£7 9s 11d	7d
	Wethersfield	183	£5 6s 9d	7d
4/12/1837	Finchingfield	262	£7 12s 10d	7d
	Wethersfield	176	£5 2s 8d	7d
11/12/1837	Finchingfield	249	£7 5s 3d	7d
	Wethersfield	174	£5 1s 6d	7d
18/12/1837	Finchingfield	239	£6 19s 5d	7d
	Wethersfield	169	£4 18s 7d	7d
23/12/1837	Finchingfield	249	£7 5s 3d	7d
	Wethersfield	179	£5 4s 5d	7d

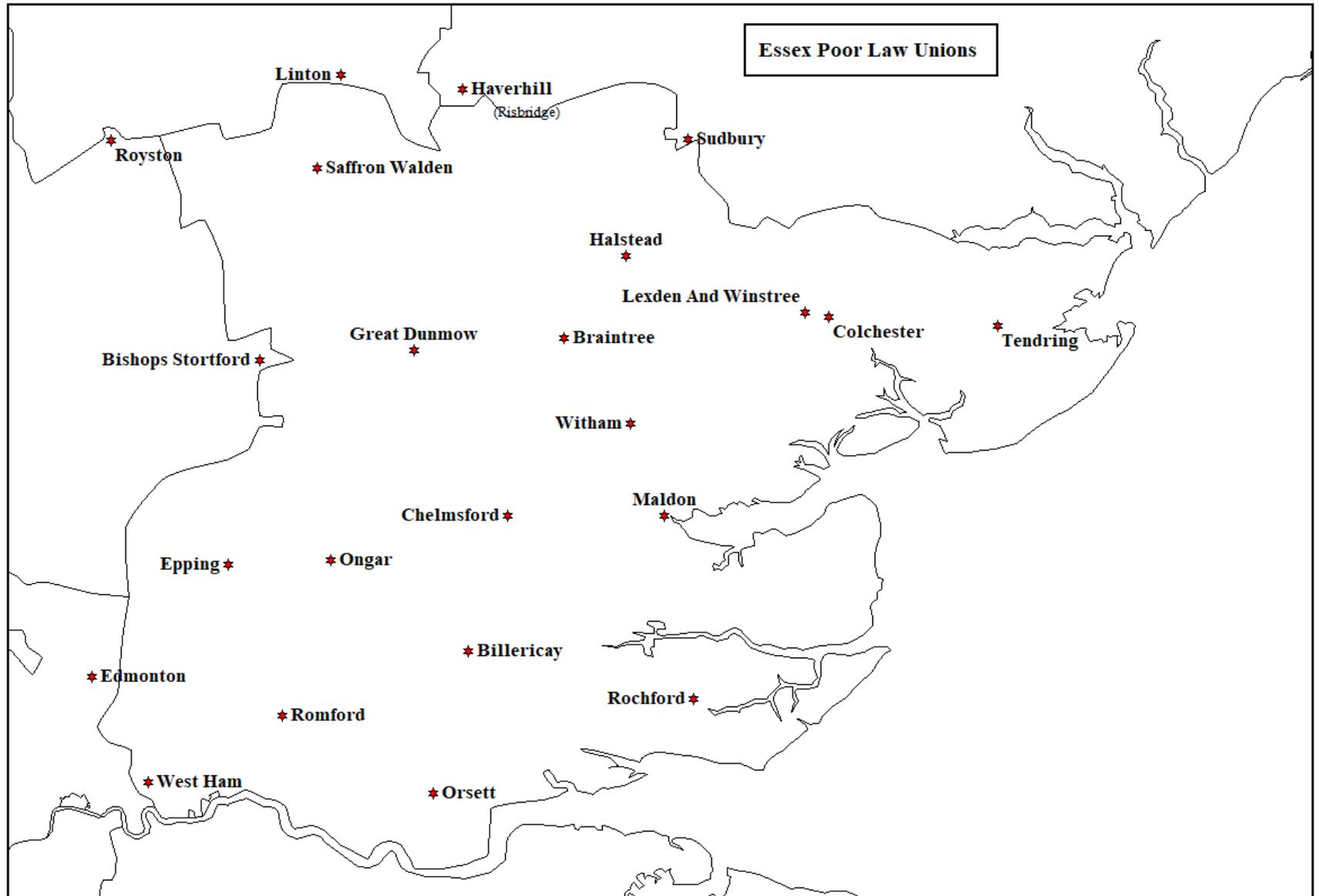
# New Poor Law Rules

- No relief shall be given in money except in cases or accident to any able-bodied male Pauper who is in employment (the same may not be parish work) and in receipt of earnings, nor any member of his family who shall be dependent on him, or for whose relief or maintenance he shall be liable.
- If any able-bodied Pauper shall apply to be set work by the parish, one half at least of the relief afforded to him or his family shall be in kind.
- One half, at least, of relief afforded to widows or single women not being aged or infirm shall be in kind.
- No relief shall be given to any able-bodied male Pauper by payment or payments of, for, or on account of the rent of his house or lodgings or for the house or lodging of any part of his family who shall be dependent upon him, and for relief of maintenance he shall be liable for, or by allowance towards such rent.
- Except in cases of sickness or accident, or other urgent necessity, no relief shall be afforded from the poor rates of any parish or place comprised in the said union, to any Pauper between the ages of sixteen and sixty years belonging to any parish or place comprised in the said union, who shall not be resident therein: provided always that this regulation shall not be extended to any person between the ages of sixteen and sixty years, who shall on the day herein appointed for the first meeting of the guardians, be in receipt of relief from any parish or place comprised in the said union, although not resident in any such parish or place, and although such person shall continue as non-resident; but in every case due inquiry shall be made as to the propriety of such relief being continued.
- RELIEF BY WAY OF LOAN. - Any relief, or the cost price thereof, which the Board of Guardians shall after due consideration of the circumstances of the case, think it fit to give by way of loan, to or on account of any able-bodied male Pauper between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years, or to or on account of his wife or any part of his family under the age of sixteen years, shall be considered as a loan to such paupers, and shall be recoverable as such under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

# Plan of a Workhouse



# Essex Poor Law Unions



# Poor Law Union Officials

	<b>POST</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
<b>UNION</b>	Board of Guardians	Oversee operation & business of the Union
	Clerk	Organise meetings, take minutes, organise elections, submit reports etc to the Commissioners
	Treasurer	Handle finances; produce accounts; arrange audits
	Relieving Officer	Evaluate the case of all persons applying for relief or medical care; authorise emergency relief or admission to the workhouse
	District Medical Officer	Attend sick paupers; provide advice and reports on treatment of the sick
<b>WORKHOUSE</b>	Master	Oversee the management of the workhouse & its inmates; register all workhouse births and deaths
	Matron	Deputise for the Master; oversee female inmates & children; oversee domestic duties
	Chaplain	Conduct services; visit the sick; oversee children's religious education
	School-master/mistress	Instruct and supervise children in and out of school
	Workhouse Medical Officer	Attend the sick in the workhouse; examine new inmates; oversee diets; report on sanitary conditions
	Nurse	Supervise sick-wards & patients under the Medical Officer
	Porter	Monitor all persons and goods entering or leaving the workhouse
<b>PARISH</b>	Overseer	Administer collection of local poor rates plus other local duties
	Assistant Overseer	Interrogating claimants prior to receiving admission ticket

# Picking Oakum



The following persons to be ordered to the mill at Braintree Union workhouse for employment,

- Mathias Keys to work from 7am to 5pm
- Francis Martin to work from 8am to 4pm
- John Cornell to work from 7am to 5pm
- Joseph Wyatt to work from 7am to 4pm
- Joseph Cook to work from 7am to 5pm
- John Bright to work from 7am to 5pm
- Joseph Taylor to work from 7am to 5pm
- Joseph Ambrose to work from 7am to 5pm
- Each man is to have one hour for lunch

# Straw Plaiting



# A Typical Workhouse Dietary of circa 1835

BREAKFAST			DINNER				SUPPER				
Day	Bread	Gruel	Bread	Meat	Potato	Broth	Suet	Bread	Cheese	Gruel	Tea/Broth
Sunday	6oz	1½ pint	3oz	4oz	12oz			6oz	1oz	1 pint	
Monday	6oz	1½ pint	4 oz			1½ pint		6oz			1 pint
Tuesday	6oz	1½ pint	3oz	4oz	12oz			6oz	1oz	1 pint	
Wednesday	6oz	1½ pint	4oz			1½ pint		6oz	1oz		1 pint
Thursday	6oz	1½ pint	3oz	4oz	12oz			6oz	1oz	1 pint	
Friday	6oz	1½ pint	4oz			1½ pint		6oz	1oz		1 pint
Saturday	6oz	1½ pint					14oz	6oz	1oz		1 pint
Women receive one ounce less bread than men and two ounces less suet											
The aged and infirm one ounce less meat											

# A typical tender to supply provisions etc.

Provisions	Price	Quantity
Raw Milk (full)	8d to 5d	per Gallon
Flat Milk (skimmed)	5d	per Gallon
Beef	5s 6d	per Stone
Mutton & Suet	6s 5d	per Stone
Irish butter	96s	per cwt
Flat Dutch Cheese	48s	per cwt
Strong tea	4s	per lb
Plantation coffee	1s 9d to 2s	per lb
Jamaican sugar	66s	per cwt
Salt	1s 3d	per bushel
Black pepper (whole)	1s 8d	per lb
Good rice	24s	per cwt
<b>Other</b>		
Candles	5s 6d	per dozen lbs
Yellow soap	48s	per cwt

# Typical Workhouse school timetable

	Boys' School		Girls' School
6.00-7.00	Rise, make beds, prayers, clean shoes and wash.	6.00-8.00	Rise, make beds, prayers, clean shoes, wash. Prayers and religious instruction.
7.00-7.45	Gymnastics exercises (Saturdays excepted)		
7.45-9.00	Prayers. Breakfast. Play.	8.00-9.00	Breakfast. Recreation.
9.00-10.00	Historical reading, with explanations.	9.00-11.30	Reading, spelling, tables, arithmetic.
10.00-11.00	General and mental arithmetic, tables, use of clock dial for learning the time of day.		
11.00-12.00	Grammar, Parsing and Dictation.	11.30-12.30	Working in copy books. Dictation.
12.00-2.00	Dinner. Recreation.	12.30-2.00	Dinner. Recreation.
2.00-3.00	Writing in copy books & arithmetic.	2.00-5.00	Needlework, knitting and domestic employment.
3.00-4.00	Reading with explanations.		
4.00-5.00	Geography, with maps.	5.00-6.00	Supper. Recreation.
6	Supper	6.00-8.00	Needlework, knitting & domestic employment.
8	Prayers. retire to bed.	8	Prayers. retire to bed.

# Return of Tramps applying for relief (1906)

RETURN OF TRAMPS applying for Relief at					Police Station.						
No.	Date.	Name.	Trade or Occupation.	Where going.	Where come from.	Age.	Height.	Complexion.	Hair.	Eyes.	Whiskers.
1626	19 <sup>th</sup> July	Charles Symes	Bricklayer	Ipswich	Braintree	63	5.5	fresh	gray	blue	gray
1627		Arthur Walker	Assistant	Languard Fort	"	22	5.4	fresh	brown	gray	
1628		Charles Belcher	Mat Maker	Ipswich	"	48	5.6	dark	gray	dark	
1629		William Poper	Pope Maker	Chelmsford	Ipswich	69	5.5	fresh	gray	blue	gray
1630	20 <sup>th</sup> July	Richard Chappenden	Lab	Chelmsford	Barham	46	5 9/16	dark	brown	hazel	
1631		Elizabeth Chappenden	Wife	"	"	36	5.5	fair	brown	blue	
1632		Charles Duff	Lab	Maldon	Ipswich	39	5.7	fresh	dark	gray	
1633		Ada Cousins	Pea Picker	Braintree	Tattingstone	25	5.2	fair	light	blue	
1634		Charles Cousins	Child	"	"	6 months					
1635		Rose Cousins	Child	"	"	2 yrs					
1636		Robert Wilson	Clark	Ipswich	Chelmsford	63	5.3	dark	gray	brown	gray
1637	21 <sup>st</sup> July	William Harris	Lab	Chelmsford	Tattingstone	53	5.5		gray	gray	gray
1638		Robert Parsons	"	"	Ipswich	67	5.1		gray	brown	gray
1639		James Ward	Tanner	"	Ipswich	65	5 3/16		"	"	"
1640		Robert Anderson	Printer	"	"	64	5 1/2	fresh	gray	blue	gray
1641		Charles Washington	Lab	Ipswich	Braintree	50	5.4 1/2		"	"	"
1642		George Martin	Fitter	Chelmsford	Ipswich	47	5.6 1/2		brown	gray	
1643		Walter Turner	Lab	Ipswich	Witham	41	5.7		"	brown	gray
1644		John Kelly	"	"	Billyricky	40	5.6 1/2	dark	"	dark	
1645		Eberze Kniffen	Lab	Stop in town	Maldon	38	5.4	fresh	dark	gray	

# The last meeting of the Halstead Board



# Fear of the Workhouse



*The death of Mike*

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HOWD me up a little, Martha, so as I can look around;  
Lor, I feel that coud an' weak, jes' wrap my showders in your  
gownd.

I'm a dyin', ent I, Martha? I don't scarcely recollect'  
Who I be or where I bin to—I'm a dyin' I expect'.

Guess I bin a dreamin', Martha, what I min I thought jes now  
I were in the Warkus, wond'rin when I got in there an' how.  
Oo, that wor a laonesome feelin', wonnerful good news that seem  
When I know tha's all onreal—that were nahthin but a dream.

'Lord, I präy look arter Martha, till from this ere warld she gao,  
Don't I carn see who's to help her, poor owd gal, when I'm läid  
laow,  
'Less it be the rev'rent Johnson; Lord, Thou knaowest him, I  
guess—  
Him what maide me leave the drinkin', an' give Martha that owd  
dress.

'Lord, I dew believe in him who died upon the cross for we,  
Which I thank'm, God! A'mighty; tell him säo, I präy from me,  
I carn säy n' more, I fare to feel as pow'rless as a mouse,  
But look arter poor owd Martha, don't she'll goo 'ithin the House.'

