



REPORT.

The Guardians of the Warrington Union, taking into consideration that the Ratepayers in the Country Townships have not, under the present system the same ready means of becoming acquainted with the parochial accounts as existed formerly, think it advisable to publish an annual Report of their expenditure.

In presenting this their first Report, showing the expenditure of the Union for the year ending the 25th March last, the Guardians regret the necessity of referring to the depressed state of trade during the past year. The paupers belonging to the different Townships of the Union, whether resident therein, or in other Unions, are principally engaged in the manufacture of fustian, silk, cotton, glass, and pins, which trades have each suffered severely in consequence of the late pressure. The above cause has led to a considerable increased expenditure in each of the Townships of the Union, and this has been aggravated by the want of adequate Workhouse accommodation.

The crowded state of the Warrington Workhouse, and the nature of the building itself, have prevented the Guardians from resorting to a proper classification of the inmates, and have rendered it impossible to make arrangements for setting the paupers to work, so as to render the house a proper test of destitution for able-bodied labourers.

Under these circumstances the Guardians have been compelled to give relief to able-bodied paupers with large families in order to help out their wages; a system confessedly erroneous in principle, but which has been rendered necessary from the causes above stated.

Hopes are entertained that the Newton Workhouse will be conceded to the Guardians in the course of the present year; in that event, it would probably be appropriated for the reception of a portion of the aged, and all the children under sixteen; and by this means the Guardians would be enabled to adopt measures for setting the able-bodied and middle-aged paupers to some laborious employment in the Warrington Workhouse in order to render the House the test of destitution.

The following is a copy of the dietary at present used in the Warrington Workhouse:—

	BREAKFAST.				DINNER.				SUPPER.			
	Bread.	Milk Porridge.	Bread.	Cooked Beef.	Cooked Bacon.	Boiled Potatoes.	Pow. Soup.	Pottage Hash.	Bread & Yarrow.	Bread.	Cheese.	Oatmeal Porridge.
	oz.	pints.	oz.	oz.	oz.	lbs.	pints.	lbs.	pints.	oz.	oz.	lbs.
Sunday	5	1 1/2	4	2	2	1 1/2	6	2	2	2	2	2
Monday	5	1 1/2	4	2	2	1 1/2	6	2	2	2	2	2
Tuesday	5	1 1/2	4	2	2	1 1/2	6	2	2	2	2	2
Wednesday	5	1 1/2	4	2	2	1 1/2	6	2	2	2	2	2
Thursday	5	1 1/2	4	2	2	1 1/2	6	2	2	2	2	2
Friday	5	1 1/2	4	2	2	1 1/2	6	2	2	2	2	2
Saturday	5	1 1/2	4	2	2	1 1/2	6	2	2	2	2	2

Old people of 60 years of age and upwards are allowed 1 oz. Tea, 5 oz. Butter, and 7 oz. of Sugar, weekly, together with 3 1/2 oz. of Bread at each meal in lieu of Milk breakfast and Oatmeal supper. The sick are dieted as directed by the Medical Officers.

All the pauper children in the House under the age of fourteen, are sent daily to the National School from the hour of Nine to Twelve, and from One to Four; and they are employed during the remainder of the day in heading pins.

The Guardians have divided the Union into four districts, for the administration of medical relief; the Warrington district consists of the Township of Warrington only; the Sankey district comprises the Townships of Sankey, Penketh, Cuesley, and Burtonwood; the Newton district the Townships of Newton, Haydock, Golborne, and Kenyon; and the Rixton district the Townships of Woolston-with-Martinscroft, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Southworth-with-Croft, Houghton Middleton and Arbury, and Rixton-with-Glazebrook. The united salaries of the medical officers amount to the annual sum of £165; and the Guardians have pleasure in referring to the satisfaction evinced by the sick paupers in the different districts, at the general care and attention displayed in their treatment.

In conclusion the Guardians venture to hope that such an amelioration may take place in the general state of trade and manufactures, during the present year, as will enable their successors to prepare at the end of the parochial year a more favourable report of the Union expenditure.

Signed on behalf of the Board,

JOSEPH PERRIN,

CHAIRMAN.

WILLIAM WAGSTAFF, CLERK.

WARRINGTON,

June 3rd, 1840.

Report about Warrington Workhouse conditions

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

This is a report of the Guardians of the Warrington Union from 1840. The Guardians were responsible for the organisation and running of the workhouse and its inmates. The report mentions the crowded state of the Warrington Workhouse and about the daily routine of its inmates. Pin-making was a trade for which Warrington was famous. Pins were made by hand until the 1870s and because pins were so tiny child labour was used, children having small & nimble fingers. Children were particularly used to "head" the pin shafts.

Source: Warrington Library, Museum and Archives Service, Ref: BSW 339 1840 Union (1)