

DOCUMENTS UNDER
CONSIDERATION

1) — Copy of a Letter from the Clerk of the Union , and a Report from Mr. Hall the Assistant Commissioner , on the same Subject :

2) — Copy of Correspondence between the Poor Law Commissioners and the Guardians of the Bridgwater Union and others respecting the Insufficiency of the Dietary in the Bridgwater Union Workhouse , and respecting any alleged improper Conduct upon the Part of the Guardians or Surgeons of that Union in the Treatment of the Poor thereof.

3) — Copy of the Weekly Medical Return for the Bridgwater Workhouse, 29th September 1836 to 28th April 1837.

4) — Copy of the Weekly Medical Return for the North Petherton Workhouse. from 29th September 1836 to 28th April 1837.

5) — Copies of the Dietaries used in the Bridgwater and North Petherton Workhouses previous to 28th April 1837.

6) — Copies of Dietaries adopted since 28th April 1837, specifying when first adopted, and when sanctioned by the Poor Law Commissioners.

7) — List of Paupers removed from the Bridgwater to the North Petherton Workhouse, stating the State of Health, and if sick, the Disease of each when removed.

8) — A Return of the largest Number of Pauper Inmates in the Bridgwater Workhouse in each Week, from the Formation of the Bridgwater Union to the Time of Removal to the new Workhouse.

9) — Copy of any Report made by the Medical Officer of the Bridgwater Workhouse that the House was crowded or too full, or that the Dietary was improper or insufficient and ought to be changed; together with any Resolutions adopted by the Board of Guardians in consequence of such Report, specifying the Dates

10) — Copy of the Medical Weekly Return for the Bridgwater Work house from 1st January to 30th April 1838, specifying the Ages and Nature of the Diseases of each Pauper respectively.

11) — Names and Descriptions of Persons applying for Relief to the Board of Guardians of the Bridgwater Union between 12th January and 2d March 1838, to whom Outdoor Relief was ordered, specifying the Relief ordered in each particular Case.

12) — Copy of any Rule relative to Pauper Funerals adopted by the Board of Guardians of the Bridgwater Union on 25th August 1836: And to whom were referred State of Health , and Date of Admission of each.

Whether any of these documents are still to be found in the House of Lords Record Office is not known.



The records of the Bridgwater Poor Law Union in the archive of the Somerset Heritage Centre, Taunton, (Ref: D/G/bw) are extensive, but an examination of the catalogue shows the greater part relate to the Northgate workhouse later in the 19th and well into the 20th centuries.

Only the minutes of the Guardians' meetings, (D/G/bw/8a/1 and D/G/bw/8a/2) and a General Ledger (D/G/bw/9a/1) cover the time investigated by the Committee.

However, the printed inquiry evidence quotes much documentation and statistics, which would otherwise have been lost. These include committee minutes, and a series of affidavits and letters. These may be traced in the comprehensive index published with the Committee report and on this web site.

John Weale, the Assistant Poor Law commissioner responsible, published a series of statistical tables:

Day 5, p 700, A list of parishes and their assessments, midsummer 1837

Day 10, p 888, A comprehensive table listing the numbers of paupers in the workhouse from the Quarter to the end of

Bridgwater Poor Law Union documents placed before the Lords Enquiry of 1838
into the working the Poor Law Amendmemnt act of 1834
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1837 to the end of June 1838. This would be at Northgate.

Day 19, pp 1293-1297. Lists of paupers in the 7 medical districts, who had been treated for Diarrhoea since the start of the Union and June 1837

John Bowen, Day 8, p 802, published a statistical ststement about the 40 parishes making up the Union, p 805 – 6, a list of the Bridgwater Poorhouse inmates, 1830-31, and p 807, a table of workhouse costs 1829-1835.

The names in these tables will doubtless interest family historians.