



Recording the Poor - From Parish to Workhouse and beyond

Course Book List

Students often ask us for suggested additional reading for our courses. For most of our courses any additional reading is up to you. For our Intermediate and Advanced Certificate courses, students generally attain higher marks when demonstrating evidence of additional reading and there are some compulsory texts for our Advanced Certificate courses.

Here is some optional further reading for this course, in the form of books that you may want to source before your course starts. There may be additional reading material referenced in the course notes. Note that some of these publications may no longer be in print, but can sometimes be found available from second hand book sellers online, or available to borrow from public libraries.

Using the records

- Simon Fowler, *Poor Law Records for Family Historians* (Family History Partnership, 2005)
- Stuart Raymond, *Tracing your Ancestors in the Poor Law* (Pen & Sword, 2020)

Useful introductions to many of the records were published in Kate Thompson, *Short Guides to Records* (Historical Association, 1997), particularly No 5 *Guardians' Minute Books*; No 23 *Quarter Sessions' Order Books*, No 27 *Overseers' Accounts*; No 28 *Settlement Papers*; and, No 37 *Assistant Poor Law Commissioners Correspondence*.

Old Poor Law

- Anne Cole, *Poor Law Documents before 1834* (2nd ed, FFHS, 2000)
- Jeremy Gibson, *Quarter Session Records for Family Historians* (4th ed, FFHS, 1995)
- Ruth Paley, *My Ancestor was a Bastard* (Society of Genealogists, 2011)

New Poor Law

- Paul Carter and Natalie Whistance, *Living the Poor Life: A Guide to the Poor Law Union Correspondence c1834 to 1871* (British Association for Local History, 2011)
- Kathy Chater, *My Ancestor was a Lunatic* (Society of Genealogists, 2014)
- Simon Fowler, *The Workhouse: the people, the places, life behind doors* (Pen & Sword, 2014)
- Jeremy Gibson, Colin Rogers and Cliff Webb, *Poor Law Union Records* (2nd ed, 4 vols, FFHS, 2000)
- Norman Longmate, *The Workhouse* (Temple Smith, 1974)
- Mark Stevens, *Life in the Victorian Asylum* (Pen & Sword, 2014)

Peter Higginbotham has also written a number of books about workhouses

Background reading

- Beryl Hurley, *The Handy Book of Parish Law* (Wiltshire Family History Society, 1995)
- Norman Longmate, *The Workhouse* (Temple Smith, 1974)
- Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor* (Penguin, 1985)
- W E Tate, *The Parish Chest* (Philimore, 1983)