

+ Case for the poor in the Parish of Harley (or the history of Ann Wall)
Source OP a/c 1793-1820

The Overseers of Harley had the duty to relieve the needs of the poor of the parish from the money which was collected by the poor rate. This was set each year as a pound rate on the rateable value of each property in the parish. The rate varied from year to year according to need and so the Overseers were mindful that any increase in the number of destitute people in the parish would result in an increase of the amount they would have to collect from their friends and neighbours.

Those in need included the elderly, the sick and the disabled but also widows and orphans who were unable to earn a living. The mothers of illegitimate children and their offspring were in special need of care, but some officials went to a great deal of trouble to discover the child's father and bring him to account. (3 journeys to Little Wenlock after William Beech).

From outside the parish boundary, the overseers granted aid to travellers who carried a pass to prove they were not vagrants. In 1798, a group of 13 sailors passed through Harley and were given assistance. Maybe they had left their ship in Liverpool and were on their way to Bristol to look for work. Money was also paid to two families in Bridgnorth whose husbands were serving in the supplement militia – large sums of £9.18s.4d and £6 17s 4d. on two occasions in 1799.

For the local people assistance took the form of weekly payments of about 1s 6d as well as occasional amounts. Sometimes they were given clothes and shoes, a part load of coal or a sack of potatoes.

The services of the doctor and midwife were also found. Those named are, Dr Boden, Dr Brooke and Dr Whitfield – the last receiving £7 3s 6d in 1810. The midwife's name might be Mrs Twifield.

Sometimes houses were repaired or thatched and on one occasion there is an entry for mending Mary Hill's wheel. William Witherton appears to have lost his leg in an accident because he is supplied with a wooden leg at the cost of 7s.0d.

To relieve pressure on local resources, some poor children were apprenticed out of the parish. This was the case of Richard Bill who was sent to Bridgnorth to learn the trade of ships carpenter under Edward Broadfield for 8 years.

Although many individuals appear in the accounts receiving assistance in many different ways including the final act of burial, there is one name which is to be found on almost every page.

That is the name of Ann Wall, which first appears in 1794 when William Langley is paid for attending a meeting concerning Ann and later she is called to attend the 11/4 sessions. No explanation is given but the Parish Register shows that on the 22nd June, William Wall was baptised the base son of Ann.

The accounts show that Anne Griffiths was paid for fetching the midwife who herself was paid 5s 0d. Both before and for the month after the birth Mary Hill was paid to look after Ann Wall.

In 1797 we find her lodging with Mary Hill, probably at the time when Mary's second child was born – 30th October 1797, and again in 1799 when Edward was born (1801). By 1802 Ann Davies is paid for her lodgings.

By 1800 the Overseers are not happy about Ann and they take her to Shrewsbury with a warrant andto appear before the Justice who writes her a "Commitymas". This doesn't seem to alter the situation – James is born in 1802, Elizabeth in 1805 and Francis in 1809. The Parish Register does name Josh Humphries as the father of Elizabeth. Ann still appears to be totally supported by the parish

Gradually over the years the children also look to the parish for clothes (1803 and 1804), Flannel, one and a half yards of Dowlas, a pot and bedclothes (1806) and shoes when Elizabeth & Francis are named (in 1814 and 1816).

In the records of 1808, Mr Adney is being paid for William who is now 14 years old and probably working for him.

Gradually Ann Wall begins to stand on her own feet. In 1812 she is paid for caring for Martha Sankey and in 1813 for washing a bed tick and bed clothes. In 1818 Ann is paid for spinning hemp and for boiling and winding it – a total of 15s 6d. Jno (?) Haynes for weaving at 4d per ell including warping and starching.

But the overseers still bear the cost of repairs to her house bySquire.

Their problems even continue with Elizabeth Wall who in 1823 gave birth to Frances who only lived a few days.

HARLEY O P A/C P126/L/2/1 1793

1793 Rake 10d/£1

William Witherton wooden leg. 7s.0d

....Morgan constable 42.0d

1794 William Langley for attending a meeting concerning Ann Wall. (went to sessions)

Sam Mullard when ill. 9s.0d

Ann Griffith fetching midwife. Mary Hill paid before & after her lying in (a month) 9s.6d. Midwife 5s.0d 27 weeks at 1s.0d.

1795 Marcha Ulrich – lying a month.

1796 Mary Hill for laying Witherton & his wife.

1797 Ann Wall again / Mary Hill lodging

1798 Relieved 13 sailors – travellers with pass.

3 journeys to Little Wenlock after William Beech

Clothing for Richard Bill, son of Francis Bill & putting him apprentice at

Bridgnorth to Edward Broadfield as ships carpenter for 8 years.

1799 Paid Soosy Hammonds for Ann Walls child. Ann Walls lodging at Mary Hill.

1799 Militia mandrawn for Abbey – now resident in HA(?) £9 18s 4d & £6 17s 4d

Ann Wall lying in month

Ann Wall child – lodging etc. £3 9s 4d

1800 Mary Hill for Ann Wall's lodging Journey to Wenlock with Ann Wall.

Mrs Twifield for coming to Ann Wall

Journey to Salop with AW – warrent & home. Justice for writing her commitymas.

Ann Wall 10 weeks pay 15s.0d

Mending Mary Hills wheel.

1801 Ann Wall. 26 weeks at 1s.6d - £1 19s.0d

Relieved Ann Wall 1s.0d & again.

Doctor, coals, flannel shirt, coat, mending houses, half cwt potatoes, peck of Potatoes.

1802 Still Ann Wall and her child. 10th May clothes for Ann Wall. Ann Davies when she took AW's child. 5s.0d.

Ann Wall's child ill. 4s.0d

1803 Ann Wall's child 2 shirts

1804 Ann Wall's child also clothesfor AW's lodging

Hills for AW's lodging

Flannel for AW.

1805 AW 26 weeks at 1s.6d. Relieved 7s.6d.

1806 Dowlas one & a half yards – A.Ws. child

26 weeks £3.18.0. (3/-?)

Lodging 1/6

- roi 2/-
 Bed cloth 1/6
 1807 Shoes for A.W's child
 Coals for A.W.
 26 weeks at 3/-
 A.W. boy 5/-
 1808 A.W's child 26 weeks at 1/6
 Mr Adney with Ann Wall's boy 23 weeks. £1.14.6
 A.W. 3 weeks at 4/6
 A.W. 26 weeks at 1/6. £1.19.0.
 Coals for A.W. & Mary H.
 1809 26 weeks at 1/6
 1810 26 weeks at 3/6 - £4.11.0
 Dr Brookes £2.15.0
 Dr Whitfield £7.3.6.
 1811 Pay & cloth & again
 1812 Pay & cotton
 Allowed A.W. for care of Martha Sankey
 1813 Paid again.
 Shoes for Ann Wall's children
 Bedgown for A.W's child.
 Washing bed tick and bed clothes 3/3
 A.W. in distress 3/-
 1814 Shoes for Elizabeth Wall
 1815 Shoes for Francis Wall
 1816 26 weeks at 2/-
 Shoes for Francis Wall
 A.W's child 4/-
 A.W. at different times. (William Jones, Shifnal)
 1818 A.W. - again
 A.W. Pair of shoes 2/3. For spinning hemp, boiling & winding - 15/6
 (J...Hamer for weaving it. 4d/ell)
 Repairing AWs warping & starching house account.

6/B/1/2 Harley Church wardens account

- 1788 Church Wardens William Bradley
 Jno Corfield
 Jos Reynolds
 Jno Newton
 Thos. Cotton
 Richard Peck
 Richard Woof
 George Adney
 Richard Cartwright
 Jos. Pinkney
 Jno Crowther

- 1788 Ringers - King's Coronation and Gunpowder Plot (Crown Day)
 1813 Psalm Singers £2.2s.0d Ale for Ringers 4s.6d. New Clock

- 1847 £50 from George Harnage Bart. In recompense for reclaiming about 1 acre of land
 Which had been given to the church for consideration of a pew and vault in Harley
 Church. Money to be used to rebuild th Windows (glazier) Blacksmith

Linen (washing Clock Ringers

Bell Ropes Pews - Wm Seale Carpenter) Clerke

Bread & Wine	Lock	Land Tax
Oil	Stone	Gaol Tax
Mending Surplice	Timber 6d. Nails etc	Mason
Ale (mason & carpenters)	Bricks	
(5/- psalm singers 1793)	Lime	
Forms of prayer	Straw	
3 locks for church gates		
Besom brush & mop	Church wicket	
Repairing surplice (Mrs Bailey)	Strike of hare (? Hair) (for plaster)	
New Surplice	Whitening	
Rebinding Bible	Bell wheel	
New prayer & Book	Lead, lime, gravel, stone.	
Mary Jones (cleaning church)	Thatching Rods (ie spars)	
Mr Wheeler (clock & oil)	Parish Ber....repairs	
Jno Langford (clerk)	Bells	
Clune lathe @ 6d.		
Jos Cox - mending window/measuring the church		
Wm Soale - Lath and nails (? Wenlock)		
Jn Squire -		
Jno Mapp - bell wheel		
Wm Woodcock - work cleaning church		
Mr Blakeway - mend clock - cleaning also Richard Mapp		
Wm Brayshire - work		
Wm Hill - work - anvil, vice and bellows		
Mr Reynolds - stone		
Richard Aquire		
Jno Davies - work		
Elmer - glazing		
Richard Pope - lime		
Wm Clumes - timber		
Mr Cartwright		
Mr Carline (stone)		
Mr Shepherd for bricks		
J Instone		
Mr Parr - stone		
Richards - gate		
Thos. Smith - hauling and working timber & Wm Smith thatching rods.		
Mrs Langley for stone	George Edwards	
Thos. Reeve		
Crompton - making accounts		
Mr Ward - church gates		
Skett - planting trees		
Shakeshaft		
Jeffrey Hill - cutting ivy		
1802/3	Paid for ale on Holy Thursday when going the parish boundary	
1807	Rent for church land. Mr Peck £12 10s.0d) and others	
	" " " " R. Venables £2.15s.0d)	
	(Timber sold to Mr Corfield £4.14s. 6d	
	(Bark sold at Wenlock £3.12s.0d.	
	Repairing the poor house (Mapp) (& in 1816)	
1898	Rent as abve W. Parr	
1816	For bricks at long wood.	

- 1819 For the chest
- 1820 Opening the chest
- 1822 Paid for opening the iron chest £1. 1s. 0d
Ale for Jos Morris on rent day.
- 1828 Pew no. 3 from reading desk to the use of Windmill House. (Mr Allen leaving lands
Only consented to relinquish it.
- 1830 Notice for the confirmation.
- 1832 Edwards for felling 2 elm stress. 2s.6d
- 1833 Gravel for church walk.
- 1834 New cushion for pulpit. 6s.0d. Making (Reeves) 2.8d.
- 1837 Coal for Sunday school
- 1838 £3 to be spent on Ann Parrs house.
- 1841 Birch of Prince of Wales. 9th November
Coal for Sunday school
- 1845 Rebuild nave etc. £550. (donations & money from timber)
- 1846 Coal for church.

Church Records taken from ----- in church chest, including Glebe Terriers & CW a/C.

The Terrier listed all the property of the church/i.e. Rector in 1759. It describes the parsonage house with all its outbuildings, orchard and garden (1 acre) and also names several fields which the rectors to either farm himself or sublet to a tenant.

The rest of his income is received in the form of tithes which were due from all farms in Harley. Almost all were payable "in kind" -- the 10th sheaf of wheat, load of hay, and 10th lamb and goose. The only concession seems to have been in the payment for calves. The terrier states that as the dairies are small they should pay 6d. per calf and a penny for every milking cow.

He also receives the Easter offering of 2d/head as well as payment for special services (marriages, birth, churching).

The church warden's accounts were a record of all the money spent in the upkeep of the church and its services throughout the year. The repair and cleaning of the building with the bells and heating were an on-going concern -- timber, nails, bricks, stone and lime, hair, straw and thatching rods, for the services i.e. vestments, books and rebinding the bible. But by in 1845, they decided the repair work was getting out of hand so they rebuilt the nave at a cost of £550.

Psalm Singers and bell-ringers were paid and on a few occasions supplied with beer. And on Holy

Thursday, those who 'beat the bounds' of the parish were given ale at a cost of 5s.0d.

One of the church wardens was Peter Cartwright who farmed at Rowley.(census & note book).

Harley Terrier 1959 (with B Ts)

A copy of the Terrier of the Glebe Lands of the parish of Harley.

First of all the dwelling house containing about 4 bays of building and the barn and out houses containing about 9 bays also land adjoining to the parsonage house and out houses, gardens, orchards, fields containing about 15 acres. Also the Sandybrook Leasow containing about 15 acres bounded on the East and Wouth side with the Ground called the Furlong on the West with Lord Newport's Park and on the North with Shrewsbury Road. Also a piece of land containing about 11 acres. Also the Harp(?) containing about 12 acres. Also the Scutters Meadow Furlong containing about 3 acres.

All manner of tythes are due to the Rector in kind. He receives no calves because the dairies are small, but he has 6d per calf and a penny for every cow that gives milk. He receives wool and lamb in kind with allowance for the wasting numer and the like for thewithout the same, only making abatement in case of the poverty of the married persons for churching he hath 6d for a burying 6d for a funeral sermon, 10s for each communicant at Easter. 2d and over and above for such tradesmans hand and men servans. 4d for a maid servant. 2d. For the profits of a Corn Mill. 2s. for Garden and From each home 2d.

The Clerks wages are paid by the Church Wardens.

Witness James Dewhurst Rector
George Edwards, Church Warden