

Searches in National Archives 13 Oct 2010

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/search-results.asp?CatID=29&searchType=quicksearch&pagenumber=1&query=%22william+barlow%22&first_date=&last_date=&=1&sortSpec=first_date+desc&pagetitle=

36 documents found relating to Poor Law correspondence between Bishops Stortford Union Workhouse and the Poor Law Commission. Some of these related to another William Barlow who was assistant overseer at Wolstanton and Burslem Poor Law Union. I have excluded these references from my document .

Date 5 Jan 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/182](#)

Folio 304. Letter from John Dobede Taylor, Clerk to the Guardians of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union, to the Poor Law Board. Taylor reports that the board of guardians has appointed John Barlow [William Barlow] and his wife, currently residing at the model prison, Pentonville, as master and matron of the union workhouse. Taylor requests that any communication regarding the appointment is dealt with promptly as there is presently no master or matron in the union workhouse. Annotated: send the form.

Paper Number: 18163/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 6 Jan 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/183](#)

Folio 305. Draft letter from the Poor Law Board to John Dobede Taylor, Clerk to the Guardians of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union, regarding the appointment of John Barlow [William Barlow] and his wife as master and matron of the union workhouse. Taylor is requested to provide details of the appointment on the appropriate form [not included].

Paper Number: 18163/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 10 Jan 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/187](#)

Folios 311-313. Letter from John Dobede Taylor, Clerk to the Guardians of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union, to the Poor Law Board, requesting approval of the appointment of William Barlow and his wife as master and matron of the Union Workhouse. Enclosed is the 'Appointment of Master and Matron' form for William Barlow, aged 45, and his wife Hannah Barlow aged 44, of 51 Grove, Holloway. The form states that Barlow and his wife have three children. Annotated: immediate. Sanction provisionally. Write to the governor of Pentonville Prison for his character.

Paper Number: 983/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 11 Jan 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/188](#)

Folio 314. Draft letter from the Poor Law Board to John Dobede Taylor, Clerk to the Guardians of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union, granting provisional sanction to the appointment of William Barlow and his wife Hannah Barlow as master and matron of the union workhouse.

Paper Number: 983/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 13 Jan 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/189](#)

Folio 315. Draft letter from the Poor Law Board to the governor of the Model Prison, Pentonville, relating to the appointment of William Barlow and his wife Hannah Barlow as master and matron of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse. The prison governor is requested to inform the Board of the general character and conduct of Barlow and the reason he left his situation as master weaver at the prison.

Paper Number: 983/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 15 Jan 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/193](#)

Folios 320-321. Letter from Robert Hosking, Governor of Pentonville Prison, to the Poor Law Board, relating to the appointment of William Barlow as master of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse. Hosking reports that he found Barlow to be sober, steady, industrious and attentive to his duties as master weaver. So far as business capabilities are concerned however Hosking describes Barlow as slow and apt to bestow too much consideration on unimportant details and to create difficulties where none existed. He further describes him as irritable, fidgety and self-willed. Hosking states that Barlow is leaving his situation as trade instructor to the weavers voluntarily, and not because of any misconduct or fault leading to dismissal.

Paper Number: 983/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 22 Jan 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/194](#)

Folios 322-323. Draft letter from the Poor Law Board to John Dobede Taylor, Clerk to the Guardians of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union, relating to the appointment of William Barlow and his wife Hannah Barlow as master and matron of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse. The letter states that the Board has received a reference from the governor of Pentonville Prison as to the way that Barlow had discharged his duties as master weaver in the prison. The reference describes Barlow as irritable and fidgety and the Board expresses concern that such a temperament would greatly interfere with the quiet and efficient execution of duties as master of the workhouse, which requires

calmness, firmness and decision. The Board requests the board of guardians to reconsider the election of Barlow to this office.

Paper Number: 1597/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 27 Jan 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/197](#)

Folios 326-329. Letter from John Dobede Taylor, Clerk to the Guardians of the Bishop Stortford Poor Law Union, to the Poor Law Board, relating to the appointment of William Barlow and his wife Hannah Barlow as master and matron of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse. Taylor encloses copies of testimonials which were submitted to the board of guardians at the time of Barlow's appointment and states that the board has unanimously resolved to retain Barlow as master of the workhouse which duties he began on 26 January 1848. Enclosed is a letter from William Barlow presenting testimonials for his fitness for the office of governor of the new gaol at Leeds, Yorkshire. Barlow states that he served 21 years in the Royal Artillery. Barlow describes himself as having stable habits of discipline and order and, having held a responsible place in the manufacturing department of the prison for more than four years, a perfect knowledge of routine in all its features. Barlow also states that the last four testimonials were obtained for the post of a very large London union, but he did not become a candidate for that post because the salary was insufficient. A testimonial from I A Chalmer, Captain in the Royal Artillery, at Woolwich, dated 6 July 1826. Chalmer describes Barlow as a bombardier in the 6th Battalion of the Royal Artillery. A testimonial from Duncan Grant, Major in the Royal Artillery, at Gibraltar, dated 17 November 1834. Grant states that Sergeant William Barlow was in his company for nearly eight years and from 1828 was pay corporal and sergeant. Barlow was also Regimental schoolmaster and clerk to the military chapel. A testimonial from T Rogers, Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Artillery, at Woolwich, dated 11 March 1836. Barlow served under his command at Gibraltar from January 1829 to March 1834 as pay clerk and appointed by Rogers as schoolmaster of the Ordnance Corps. A testimonial from W M Smith, Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery at Woolwich, dated 4 August 1836. A testimonial from E J Wilcocks, Chaplain of the Scilly Isles, at St Mary's, Scilly, dated 7 April 1842. A testimonial from W L Blewitt, Ordnance Surgeon, at St Mary's, Scilly, dated 5 May 1842. A testimonial from Joseph Kingsmill, Chaplain at Pentonville Prison, dated 16 March 1847. A testimonial from J Jebb, Major [Royal Engineers] and Visiting Commissioner, at Somers Place, Hyde Park, dated 17 March 1847. A testimonial from Devon, Commissioner for the Government of Pentonville Prison, at 4 Bryanstone Square, dated 16 March 1847. A testimonial from Richmond, Commissioner of the Model Prison at Pentonville, at Goodwood, dated 3 April 1847.

Paper Number: 3002/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 31 Jan 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/198](#)

Folio 330. Draft letter from the Poor Law Board to John Dobede Taylor, Clerk to the Guardians of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union, relating to the appointment of William Barlow and his wife Hannah Barlow as master and matron of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse. The letter sanctions the appointments on trial until Lady Day. Taylor is requested to provide the Board with a report on the manner in which they have discharged their duties at the end of the trial period.

Paper Number: 3002/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 30 Mar 1848 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/199](#)

Folio 331. Draft letter from the Poor Law Board to John Dobede Taylor, Clerk to the Guardians of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union, relating to the appointment of William Barlow and his wife Hannah Barlow as master and matron of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse. Taylor is requested to provide the Board with a report on the manner in which they have discharged their duties at the end of the trial period.

Paper Number: 3002/A/1848. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 18 June 1849 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/345](#)

Folios 563-566. Poor Law Inspector's Report from John Walsham, Poor Law Inspector. Subjects included in the report are the size and arrangements of the workhouse, care of the sick, the workhouse school, vagrant wards, the number of inmates and workhouse officers. The building alterations and additions alluded to in his last report have not been completed. He suggests that the detached infirmary would not be found adequate in case of serious epidemic. Mr Tufnell inspected the school on 17 February but left no record of his opinion, and the chaplain does not report on the progress or condition of the children. There are fewer vagrants than before but many more are admitted to his workhouse than the neighbouring unions owing to the non-appointment of an assistant relieving officer from the police. He notes that the resignation of the porter and his wife, the laundress, have not been reported. The workhouse was unusually full of able-bodied men and women during the spring, though numbers have since declined. Attached is a report on the recent building works at the workhouse and improved discipline from the master [William Barlow] who was away from the workhouse on the day of inspection. He also reports that the children of the workhouse have successfully painted portions of the house and do their own glazing, activities which he believes instil 'habits of industry'. Annotated to write regarding the new fixed number of inmates following the building of increased accommodation.

Paper Number: 18676/1849. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 20 June 1849 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/348](#)

Folios 569-570. Letter from William Barlow, Master of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse, to the Poor Law Board with reference to the Board's letter of 16 June (17716/1849) regarding the master's books. The inventory book has never been kept in the workhouse and with book-keeping already heavy, he did not start it. He states that the clothing register book is very difficult to keep as there are constant changes to be made with frequent repairs, replacements and exchanges of garments caused by the growth of children. He states that it is too much work for one man to run a large workhouse and keep up to date with the various books. Such an arrangement would not exist in the military or any private establishment where additional staff would be employed. He asks the Board to recommend a clerk or assistant master to help. Annotated that Barlow is a very just master and that owing to the building alterations at the workhouse over the last eight to nine months, his attention has been so taken up with this that the Board may overlook the omissions. The inventory and clothing register should be better kept in future, as they are by other masters.

Paper Number: 18793/1849. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 28 June 1849 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/349](#)

Folio 571. Draft letter from the Poor Law Board to William Barlow, Master of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse acknowledging receipt of his letter of 20 June regarding the keeping of the inventory and clothing register book. In the future the Board expect him to comply with the provisions of the General Accounts Order and keep those and all other books in accordance with the order.

Paper Number: 18793/1849. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 16 July 1849 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/365](#)

Folios 593-596. Letter from John Walsham [Poor Law Inspector] to the Poor Law Board forwarding a letter he has received from the master of the Bishops Stortford workhouse, with a copy of his reply. Enclosed is a letter from William Barlow, Master of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse to John Walsham dated 12 July regarding an order from the board of guardians to him which has caused mischief and disquiet in the management of the workhouse. Despite their heavy duties and the presence of a paid nurse, the master and matron are ordered to be present whilst the medical officer visits the sick, at any time, except dinner hour. The medical officer has reported the master did not attend at one of his visits to the sick. Attached is a copy of the resolution of the board of guardians dated 1 November 1849 regarding the master's duties in relation to paupers seeking medical attention in the workhouse. The master should be present with the medical officer while he visits the sick, as long as it does not interfere with the dinner hour. The matron or schoolmistress will perform the same duties for the female paupers. Also attached is a copy of Walsham's answer to Barlow in which he states that

the guardians' instructions to the master and matron as to medical care do seem unusual, but that he must assume that the guardians had good reasons. He advises Barlow to comply with the guardians' order and if after a time he can prove that these additional duties are interfering with the discharge of his other duties, he is advised to say as much to the chairman or vice-chairman of the board and solicit their opinion. Annotated that Walsham's answer seems very judicious but the guardians' resolution that the master should attend the medical officer in his examination of the sick seems unnecessary and calculated to interfere with the discharge of his duties.

Paper Number: 21284/1849. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 5 Dec 1849 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4539/408](#)

Folios 651-657. Workhouse Inspection Report Form from John Walsham, Poor Law Inspector, to the Poor Law Board reporting his inspections of the Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union Workhouse on 30 November 1849 and 5 December 1849; includes details of medical provision, management of the school, the vagrant wards, numbers of inmates. He notes that there are no less than 70 able-bodied young men in the workhouse and he understands many more will shortly become unemployed. In some parishes wages have fallen to 7/- week and generally range 8/- a week, however the excess of able bodied men compared with last year is not very large. Attached is a report by William Barlow, Workhouse Master, providing a report of the comparative number of different classes of paupers in the workhouse comparing 1848 and 1849. Attached is a report by the Reverend Godfrey Goodman Workhouse Chaplain as to the standards of the schools and recommended improvements which would be beneficial to the children. He makes reference to the reading standard of a tall girl called Eliza Jones aged 14. He suggests the school master and mistress be given further training and encouragement to improve their skills; also infers that a problem exists between them and the governor.

Paper Number: 35472/1849. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 5 Feb 1850 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4540/14](#)

Folios 27-30. Letter from William Barlow, Master of the Bishops Stortford workhouse, to John Walsham, Poor Law Inspector. He wishes to make a report about the two years he has been at the workhouse and the progress he feels he has made. He mentions the schoolmaster and schoolmistress and feels that they are not as strict as he would like. He mentions the boys have done painting and other jobs which has saved the workhouse money. The girls do domestic duties. He lists the clothes the women have made for the workhouse. He also lists the amount spent on food fuel and clothing.

Paper Number: 7039/1850. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 8 Feb 1850 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4540/15](#)

Folios 31-33. Letter from William Barlow, Master of the Bishops Stortford workhouse to Sir John Walsham, Poor Law Inspector. He appeals for help as he feels he is not getting support for his disciplining of the workhouse. He states that before he came the workhouse was in confusion and he has had a lot of interference when he has tried to instil discipline. Draft reply from Sir John Walsham, Poor Law Inspector, to William Barlow, Workhouse Master, Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union. He replies to his letter and asks who he feels interferes with the discipline of the workhouse. Although the master has ability and excellent qualities he also feels he has a quick temper.

Paper Number: 7039/1850. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 9 Feb 1850 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4540/16](#)

Folios 33-34. Letter from William Barlow, Workhouse Master, Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union, to Sir John Walsham, Poor Law Inspector. He sends a copy of the report he sent to the guardians [not included]. He states that he feels the board of guardians does not appreciate his report. Annotated: that Mr Barlow's comments were displeasing to the guardians although his report of the inmates is encouraging.

Paper Number: 7039/1850. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 16 Feb 1850 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4540/17](#)

Folios 35-36. Letter from William Barlow, Master of the Bishops Stortford workhouse to Sir John Walsham. He is surprised that his report may have been displeasing to the board of guardians.

Paper Number: 7039/1850. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 22 Feb 1850 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4540/18](#)

Folio 37. Draft letter from the Poor Law Board to Sir John Walsham. They thank him for forwarding the correspondence he received from William Barlow, Workhouse Master, Bishops Stortford Poor Law Union.

Paper Number: 7039/50 Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

Date 27 Nov 1850 Catalogue reference [MH 12/4540/102](#)

Folios 159-161. Letter from John D Taylor, Clerk to the Guardians of Bishop's Stortford Poor Law Union, to the Poor Law Board, in response to 54057/1850. He encloses for approval the appointment form for William Willson, as Workhouse Master, and Emma Willson, as Workhouse Matron. The form shows Willson, married with three children aged 13, 7 and 5 years, now from Hertford, was a farmer and maltster, formally Governor of the County Gaol of Hertford. The salary to be £60 per annum for the master, and £30 per annum for the matron. The post became vacant due to the resignation of William Barlow and his wife, who had been appointed Master and Matron of St Mary-le-bone Workhouse, London. Isaac Kimpton Walker, Maltster, of Ware, and Caleb Hitch, Maltster, of Ware, acted as sureties. H A Phipps signed the letter on behalf of Taylor. Annotated: sanction provisionally, until Lady Day, so Willson's health can be monitored. He had to relinquish the post of Governor of the County Gaol many years ago due to ill health. Sanction accordingly.

Paper Number: 55502/1850. Poor Law Union Number 167. Counties: Hertfordshire and Essex.

