



Highworth former parish workhouse, 2005. © Peter Higginbotham.

Workhouse & Hospital Newspaper Extracts

- 1837, - Notice of election of 21 Guardians. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 09-03-1837.*
- 1838, - Advert for Tenders to supply Bread and Flour. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 07-06-1838.*
- 1840 -Tenders for Medical Contracts, to include Midwifery at 10s 6d per case. *Wilts & Gloucester Standard 15-02-1840.*
 -Advert for Tenders to supply Bread and Flour, for 3 months from 24 June. *Wilts & Gloucester Standard 15-02-1840.*
 - Advert for Tenders to supply Bread and Flour, for 3 months from 25 March. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 04-06-1840.*
 -Advert for Tenders to supply Bread and Flour, for 3 months from 25 December. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 03-12-1840.*
- 1841, -Tenders for Bread, Flour, coal for period 29th Sept to 25th December, and Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, coals, fagots, shoes and clothing until 25th march next. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 26-08-1841.*
- 1842, - Tenders for Medical officers, Salary, Highworth area including Workhouse £100, Swindon/Stratton area £85, Bishopstone/Liddington area £70 plus 10s 6d for attending births. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 24-02-1842.*
 -Tenders for Bread, Flour, for period 25th March to 24th June, and meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, potatoes per cwt., coal for period 25th March until 29th September. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 24-02-1842.*
 -Advert for Tenders to supply Bread and Flour, for 3 months from 24 June. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 26-05-1842.*
 -Tenders for Bread, Flour, for period 24th Sept to 24th Dec, and meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, potatoes per cwt., coal up to 25th March 1843. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 08-09-1842.*
 -Tenders for Bread, Flour, coal for period 25th December to 25th March 1843. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 05-12-1842.,*

- 1843 -Tenders for Bread, Flour, coal for period 29th Sept to 25th December, and Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, for period 25th March up to 24th June, shoes and clothing until 23rd September next, and 12 ton of coal. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 23-02-1843.*
- Tenders for Medical officers, Salary, Highworth area including Workhouse £100, Swindon/Stratton area £85, Bishopstone/Liddington area £70 plus 10s 6d for attending births. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 07-03-1843.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, coal for period 29th Sept to 25th December, and Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, for period 24th June to 23rd Sept and with coal per ton. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 01-06-1843.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, coal for period 29th Sept to 25th December, and Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals per ton for period 23rd Sept to 23rd December, and with shoes and clothing to 24th March 1844. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 07-09-1843.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, coal for period 29th Sept to 25th December, and Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals per ton for period 23rd December to 24th March 1844. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 07-12-1843.*
- 1844 -Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, potatoes per cwt, coal for period 23rd March to 22nd June and shoes and clothing until 28th September next. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 07-04-1844.*
- Relieving Officer Wanted for District No.1. Salary will be £70 per annum, the person elected must enter into a bond, with two sureties. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 06-06-1844.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, coal for period 29th Sept to 25th December, and Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals per ton for period 22nd June to 28th September. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 06-06-1844.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Butchers Meat, ton of cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals per ton for period 28th September to 21st December, with shoes and clothing until 25th March 1845. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 29-08-1844.*
- 1845 -Tenders for Bread, Flour, Butchers Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals, per ton, for period 22nd March to 21st June, and shoes and clothing until 27th September next. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 07-04-1845.*
- J. L. SMITH one of the Overseers proved a summons on Mr. Christopher HILL, superintendent of The Great Western Railway Company's Swindon Station, for non-payment of Poor Rate, £84 4s 4½d. paid un duress. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 06-05-1845.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Butchers Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals, per ton, for period 21st June to 20th September. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 05-06-1845.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Butchers Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals, per ton, for period 27th September to 25th December, and shoes and clothing until 25th March 1846. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 09-09-1845.*
- 1846 -Tenders for Bread, Flour, Butchers Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals, per ton, for period 21st March to 20th June, and shoes and clothing until 26th September next, and with 16 2cwt sacks of potatoes. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 05-03-1846.*
- Advert for Medical Officers from 25th March, District 1 £65 + Highworth Workhouse £12 10s, District 2 £70 plus Workhouse at £15, District 3 £55, District 4 £65. In addition, there is a fee of 10s 6d for each midwifery case. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 05-03-1846.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Butchers Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals, per ton, for period 20th June to 19th September. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 02-06-1846*
- Advert for tenders for Provisions and Clothing, from 19th September. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 01-09-1846.*

- Advert for Schoolmistress, salary £16 per annum, with board and lodging. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 13-08-1846, The Times 02-09-1846.*
- Advert for Schoolmaster, salary £25 per annum, with board and lodging. *London Daily News 05-11-1846.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Butchers Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals, per ton, for period 19th December to 20th March 1847. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 03-12-1846.*

NEW WORKHOUSE

- 1847, -Jan 16 1st recorded death at new workhouse Solomon GILMORE, 26, buried at St Margaret's.
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Butchers Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals, per ton, for period 20th March to 19th June, and shoes and clothing until 25th September next. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 04-03-1847.*
 - John MANNING, Alfred WALKER, George WALKER & James WALKER for refusing work at Stratton Workhouse, 7 days each *Devizes Gaol. The Salisbury and Winchester Journal 01-05-1847.*
 - Owen DAVIS, of Liverpool, was charged with breaking 3 squares of glass at the Workhouse at Stratton. Committed to 21 days hard labour. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 18-05-1847.*
 - Tenders for Bread & flour (best seconds), Butchers' Meat (including joints for master's table), about ½ ton of cheese, Butter per lb, about 1½ cwt of Sugar, from 40 to 50lb of Tea, candles at per lb., a chest of soap, two bags of Patna Rice, and other Grocery, and Coals at per ton, for period 19th June to 25th September. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 03-06-1847.*
 - Tenders accepted for district, W G Litten for bread at 1/8d the 8lb loaf, and flour at 68s per sack, W Poole for beef without bone and mutton at 7½d per lb., C E Owen for grocery and E Puce for shaving and cutting hair at 1/- per head, all for 3 months. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette, 17-06-1847.*
 - Elizabeth LEWIS, pauper, charged by Mr. Robert Forshaw, master of Union Workhouse of leaving her bastard child at the cost of the Union after being discharged on 24th May. Committed to prison for 2 months. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 29-06-1847.*
 - Tenders for Bread & flour (best seconds), Butchers' Meat (including joints for master's table), cheese, butter, Sugar, tea, candles, soap, and other Grocery, and Coals at per ton, for period 25th September to 25th December, with shoes & clothing until 25th March 1848. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 09-09-1847.*
 - Jane SMITH, charged with absconding with clothing, the property of the Workhouse. Marlborough Prison for 14 days. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 21-09-1847.*
 - Samuel JONES of Stratton, charged by Ralph WILKINS of same place with cruelly and maliciously injuring a cow by kicking her in the udder. Fined 6s, 15s damages and 9s costs. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 28-09-1847.*
 - John WILLIAMS & Edward HARRINGTON, one month for misconduct in the Workhouse. *Wiltshire Independent 18-11-1847.*
 - Tenders for Bread, Flour, Butchers Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coals, per ton, for period 25th December & 25th March 1848. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 09-12-1847.*
- 1848 -Curate Wanted, and Chaplin to an Union Workhouse, in the Agricultural Parish of Stratton St. Margaret, near Swindon, Wilts; population between 1500 and 20000; Annual Stipend of Curacy 80 Guineas, of Chaplaincy 30. No title can be given, and there is no house for a family. Apply the resident vicar, stating principals, references, personal and domestic particulars. *Saint James's Chronicle 29-02-1848.*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, candles, soap, other grocery, and coal for period 25th March to 24th June, and shoes and clothing until 23rd September. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 07-03-1848.*

- Advert for Medical Officer for District 1, for one year from 25th March, at the salary £75, plus 10s 6d per midwifery case. *Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard 14-03-1848*.
- Inquest, Owen Turner, 60 years of age. The deceased, who was a stranger wandering about the country, had fallen down several times, it is feared through intoxication, in the street, where he became insensible and was taken to the Union, where he received every assistance and the attention of a medical gentleman, who stated that he died from concussion of the brain produced by a fall. Verdict accidental death. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 11-05-1848*.
- Maria SMITH for misconduct in the Workhouse, 21 days Marlborough Gaol. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 08-06-1848*
- Advert for schoolmaster £30 per year with board & lodging. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 15-06-1848*.
- Advert for porter, £16 per year, with board & lodging. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 22-06-1848*.
- Advert for nurse, £16 per year, with board & lodging. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 04/07/1850*
- Advert for nurse, £12 per year, with board & lodging. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 13-07-1848*.
- William Cole, for misconduct in the Workhouse, 14 days Devizes Gaol. *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal 26-08-1848*.
- Advert for Relieving Officer, £70 per annum and Master £25 per year with board & lodgings. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 02-11-1848*.
- Dec 23 – at their meeting yesterday, the guardians elected Mr. John Houghton, schoolmaster of the workhouse, Coventry, schoolmaster of this union workhouse.
- 1849, - Thomas WHALL for misconduct at the workhouse, one-month Devizes prison. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 10-05-1849*.
- John HOLLOCK for maliciously breaking a box, the property of the Workhouse, One-month Devizes gaol. *The Bath Chronicle 27-12-1849*.
- 1850, - Joshua COTTRELL for misconduct in the Workhouse. One-month Devizes prison. *The Bath Chronicle 07-03-1850*
- Ann HUMPHRIES for breaking 4 panes of Glass at the Workhouse. Six weeks Marlborough Gaol. *Oxford Gazette 03-08-1850*.
- At their meeting on Wednesday last, the following tenders were accepted – Mr. George SNOOK for bread at 3½d per 8lb loaf and flour at 29s per sack for Districts 1 & 2 and workhouse, Mr. Thomas HORTON for bread at 3½d per 8lb loaf for districts 3 & 4, Mr. POOLE for beef without bone and mutton at 5d per lb. for District 1 & 2 and workhouse, Mr. Edward SMITH for meat at 5d per lb. for Districts 3 & 4, Messrs. E & W KNAPP for grocery and Mr. Samuel JONES for coal, all for 3 months from 21st inst. At the same meeting, the guardians, on application from Rev. C. NESFIELD, resolved to allow inmates to partake in a dinner of roast beef and plumb pudding on Christmas day paid by voluntary contribution. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 19-12-1850*.
- 1851, - Thomas JACOBS & Henry HARVEY misconduct at the Workhouse, 3 weeks Devizes prison. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 30-01-1851*.
- John DAWS misconduct at the Workhouse, 14 days hard labour Devizes prison. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 30-01-1851*.
- Alfred GILES for assaulting and beating Thomas ELLIOT of Stratton. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 30-01-1851*.
- William COOK for 3 weeks and Charles PINNOCK for 14 days in Devizes prison, misconduct in Workhouse. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 13-02-1851*.
- Advert for Medical officer, salary £70 per annum plus £30 for Workhouse. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 20-02-1851*.

- 1852, Apr 29 – A Testimonial was held for the present chairman Mr. John Edwards who was Presented with a silver tea service, there were 143 subscribers to the gift.
- 1853, Advert for Vaccinator, 1s 6d each person, 2s 6d if outside 2-mile area. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette*. 08-12-1853.
- 1854, Nov 21 – William Fluister, labourer died aged 81
- Advert for Master & Matron, bond of £400 each, salary £80 per annum, with board and lodging in the house. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* 14-12-1854.
- 1855, - Mr. William C Golding, master.
- Advert for Schoolmaster & Schoolmistress, salary £30 per annum for schoolmaster and £20 per annum for schoolmistress with board and lodgings in house. *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* 05-01-1855. (Still advertising for schoolmaster in September and Mistress Mar 1856.) Advert, for Medical Officer, £65 per annum, plus 10s3d for each midwifery case. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 13-09-1855.
 - Four young women, Rose CARTER, Jane SAUNDERS, Ann EATWELL and Mary AVENALL, inmates at of Workhouse, were charged by the master with misconducting themselves, and creating a disturbance in the Workhouse. Jane SAUNDERS was reprimanded and dismissed, and the others were sentenced 21 days' imprisonment with hard labour. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 22-11-1855.
 - We understand that Mr. Hawley, The Inspector of the Poor Law Board, has named Tuesday next, at ten o'clock, at the Board room, Stratton St. Margaret, for holding the inquiry into the charges preferred by Mrs. Faulkner, the schoolmistress, against the master and matron of the Workhouse. *The Salisbury & Winchester Journal* 15-12-1855.
 - Advert for Labour Superintendent, £20 with board and lodging, and Laundry Woman, £12 per annum with board and lodging. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 20-12-1855.
- 1856 – Elizabeth Collier and Sarah ADAMS, for fourteen days each, Devizes Gaol, for misconduct at Workhouse, *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 17-01-1856.
- Advert for Female Nurse £18 per annum with board and lodging. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 28-02-1856. (still advertising in August)
- 1857– Thomas ARKELL elected as Governor for Stratton St. Margaret district. *Reading Mercury* 25-04-1857.
- David RODERICK, for 21 days Devizes Gaol, for wilful damage in the Union Workhouse, at Stratton. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 04-06-1857
 - Advert for Relieving Officer, population 7160. Salary £80 per annum. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 18-06-1857.
 - Advert for Porter & Nurse. Salary for porter £16 per annum, and Nurse £18 per annum both with board and lodging in the house. *Reading Mercury* 01-08-1857.
- 1858 - Advert – Schoolmaster, £30 per annum with board and lodging in the house. *Reading Mercury* 30-01-1858 & *Swindon Advertiser* 01-02-1858.
- The Guardians of the Union will, at their meeting to be held at the Workhouse, Stratton St. Margaret, on Wednesday the 3rd day of March next, be prepared to receive applications for the situation of Laundry Woman in the said Workhouse, to enter upon her duties forthwith. The salary will be £12 per annum with Board and Lodging in the House. The person appointed must be above 35 and under 50 years of age. Applications in writing, with testimonials, must be sent sealed on or before 2nd day of March, addressed to, "The Clerk of the Union, Swindon," and candidates must attend before the Board personally on the said 3rd day of March at 12 o'clock at noon. *The Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle* 22-02-1858.
 - To Grocers, Potato Dealers, and others. The Board of Guardians of this Union hereby give notice, that they will, at their Meeting to be held at the Workhouse at Stratton St. Margaret, on Wednesday, the 17th day of March instant, receive TENDERS from Persons willing to supply the Workhouse with the

undermentioned Grocery and Articles for the ensuing Quarter:- 13 Firkins Salt Butter (Cork 3rds), 10cwt Thin Cheese, 1/2cwt Thick Cheese, 50lbs Black Tea, 3cwt Raw Sugar, 1/2cwt Loaf Sugar, 13lbs Black Pepper Corns, 3cwt Treacle, Salt, Candles, 13lbs Coffee Berries, 1 Side Dry Bacon (about 70lbs), 2cwt Yellow Soap, and 2cwt Mottled Soap, 10lbs Starch and 3 tons good potatoes. All articles to be delivered at the Workhouse on the 23rd day of March, and to be paid for at the end of the quarter. Samples of each article, as far as practicable, must be produced at the meeting by Nine o'clock in the morning, but the Board do not bind themselves to receive lowest tender. No Tender will be received unless made in printed form adopted by the Guardians, and which may be obtained at my Office, or of the Master, and unless the same is sent (sealed) to my Office on or before Tuesday, the 16th day of March, at Seven o'clock in the Evening. The Tenders will be opened on the following morning. Signed, by Order of the Board J E G Bradford, Clerk of the Union Swindon, March 5th, 1858. *The Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 08-03-1858*

-Tenders for Bread, Flour, Beef, Mutton, Butter, Suet, joints of meat for master's table and coals & faggots for 26 June to 28 Sep. *Swindon Advertiser 31-05-1858.*

-Child of 10 weeks brought to Workhouse by Superintendent Hayes. The child had been left with a couple of young boys by the mother, who the disappeared. From information ascertained by the police she had arrived on a London train, saying she had come from London. She had originally asked the boys to escort her to Wootton Bassett but had left them with the child some time later, when she didn't return, they had taken it home where it was passed onto the police. Mother has not been found. *Swindon Advertiser 21-06-1858.*

-Tenders for Bread, Flour, Beef, Mutton, Butter, Suet, joints of meat for master's table and coals & faggots for 26 Dec to 24 Mar 1859. *Swindon Advertiser 13-12--1858.*

1859 - Advert for Porter, £16 per annum with board and lodging in the house. *Swindon Advertiser 14-02-1859 & Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 17-02-1859.*

- Thomas MAJOR, for twenty-one days, for misconduct in the Union Workhouse, at Stratton. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 24-02-1859.*

-Jun 27 - SUDDEN DEATH – An inquest was held on Tuesday last on the body of John Dunn, who has been for some years an inmate of the Workhouse? For a week or so previously he had complained of being ill and had received medical treatment; but on Friday last, he thought himself better, and on Saturday evening he ate a heartier supper than he had done for some time and was very cheerful. A very short time later he left his room and went into the yard, where he was found to have fallen down, and a few minutes after he expired. The jury returned a verdict that he had "Died by the Visitation of God". *Swindon Advertiser 27-06-1859.*

– John Houghton aged 33, master, died and was buried 26th August at St Margaret's.

Aug 22 – Sidney Puzley, of 87 Redcliffe Street, Swindon, died.

-Advert for Tenders – 9 firkins salt butter 3rds, 6-cwt thin cheese, ½ cwt thick cheese, 50lbs black tea, 3cwt sugar, ½cwt loaf sugar, 10lbs pepper corns, 3cwt treacle, 2cwt salt, 1 side dry bacon, 2cwt mottled & 3cwt yellow soap, 2cwr soda, 10lbs starch, Candles & rushlights for next quarter. *Swindon Advertiser 05-09-1859.*

-Advert, Tenders for Boneless Beef & Mutton, also Coals for period Dec 26 to March 24. *Swindon Advertiser 05-12-1859 & 12-12-1859.*

-Advert for Schoolmaster & mistress, £30 per annum each with board and lodging in house. *Jackson's Oxford Journal 19-11-1859.*

-Advert, Tenders for Boneless Beef & Mutton, also Coals for period Sep 24 to Dec 25. *Swindon Advertiser 12-09-1859 & 19-09-1859*

-Advert for Tenders – 9 firkins salt butter 3rds, 6-cwt thin cheese, ½ cwt thick cheese, 50lbs black tea, 3cwt sugar, ½cwt loaf sugar, 10lbs pepper corns, 3cwt treacle, 2cwt salt, 1 side dry bacon, 2cwt mottled & 3cwt yellow soap, 2cwr soda, 10lbs starch, Candles & rushlights for next quarter. *Swindon Advertiser 05-12-1859.*

- 1860 - Advert for Nurse £25 per annum with board & lodgings in the house. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 26-01-1859.*
- Advert for Tenders – 11 firkins cork butter no.2, 2-cwt thin cheese, 1cwt Oatmeal, ½ cwt thick cheese, 20lbs black tea, 2cwt rice, 3cwt raw sugar, ½cwt loaf sugar, 20lbs pepper corns, 6lbs arrowroot, 10lbs mustard, 3cwt treacle in jars, 2cwt salt, 6 sides dry bacon, 2cwt mottled & 3cwt yellow soap, 2cwr soda, 12lbs Candles, 12lbs starch, 2lbs stone blue and 20 sacks of potatoes for planting for next quarter. *Swindon Advertiser 05-03-1860.*
- Advert for Tenders- To supply Household Bread of best seconds flour in 4lb loaves less than 36 hours baked, for 3 months from 24th March. Also 20 sacks of seed potatoes. *Swindon Advertiser 19-03-1860.*
- Guardian – Thomas Arkell. *Reading Mercury 21-04-1860.*
- Death – John Thorne, farmer of Wanborough. *Swindon Advertiser 01-08-1860*
- Advert for Tenders- To supply Bread & flour best seconds, Beef without bone, Mutton, fresh Butter, Suet, joints of meat for master's table and coals & faggots, for 3 months from 29th September, also Stationery, Shoes, Clothing, hair cutting & shaving, and unskimmed milk. *Swindon Advertiser 17-09-1860.*
- Meeting 22 Sept. Following Tenders were accepted.
 District 1 – Bread John Wakefield, Highworth 6½d, Meat Jane Harris, Highworth 7d,
 District 2 – Bread John Washbourne, Wroughton 6½d, Meat Charles Smith, Swindon 7½d,
 Workhouse - Grocery Harris & Seymour, Highworth, ^ Mason & Co, Swindon, Coals Samuel Jones, Stratton at 18s ton, Clothing John Chandler, Swindon, Stationery Miss Ann, Swindon, Shaving & hair cutting Mr. Williams, Stratton, Milk Ralph Wilkins, Stratton. *Swindon Advertiser 24-09-1860.*
- The Guardians appointed Mr. William James COLLETT as Collector of Poor Rates to replace Mr. T Arkell, junior who has resigned.
- 1861 -Guardians appoint Inspectors of Nuisances. District 1 Mr. Paul Morse of Highworth, District 2 Mr Edward Frances AVENALL of Wroughton. *Swindon Advertiser 07-01-1861.*
- Advert, Tender to supply 14 or 15 sacks of good potatoes, free delivery. *Swindon Advertiser 04-03-1861.*
- Advert for Tenders – 10 firkins salt butter cork 3rds, 4-cwt cheese, 40lbs black tea, 3-cwt raw sugar, 56lbs loaf sugar, 2-cwt rice, 3-cwt treacle, 2-cwt salt, 10lbs coffee berries, 1 large side green bacon, 4-cwt yellow soap, 3-cwt soda, 10lbs starch, 4 dozen lbs. Candles & 1 dozen lbs. rushlights for next quarter. *Swindon Advertiser 18-03-1861*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Beef, Mutton, Butter, Suet, joints of meat for master's table and coals & faggots for 26 June to 28 Sep. *Swindon Advertiser 18-03-1861*
- Guardians accepted the following tenders. District 1 – Bread James Moore of Kingsdown at 6¼d, Meat Mrs. Jane Harris of Highworth at 7d, District 2 Bread John Washbourne of Wroughton, meat John Blackford of Swindon. Workhouse, bread J Moore of Kingsdown, meat John Young of Faringdon, Coal Samuel Jones of Stratton, Grocery Knapp & Co and Mason & Co of Swindon and Harris & Co of Highworth, Clothing Packman, Bowly & Chandler of Swindon, Shoes Mr. Clack of Stratton and shaving & hair cutting Mr. Abel of Shrivenham. *Swindon Advertiser 25-03-1861.*
- Guardians for 1861. – W DORE, N ATHERTON, Rev. J HUNTER, A BADEN, W B CANNING, A LOUSLEY, W PEDLEY, J EDMONDS, C EDMONDS, R CHILLINGWORTH, A WILLIS, J GIBBS, J NASH, W BRIND, W AKERS, H TUCKER, T ARKELL, G REYNOLDS, E SHEPPARD, Rev. H G BAILEY, J DEACON, J EDMONDS & J BUTLER. *Swindon Advertiser 01-04-1861.*
- Apr 15, the wife of Mr. Thomas East, Master of union, a son. *Jacksons Oxford Journal 20-04-1861.*

- Advert, Tenders for 10 sacks of good potatoes. *Swindon Advertiser 15-04-1861.*
- Nurse Wanted for Sick & Lying-in beds. Salary £25 per annum, with Board and Lodging and Washing in the House. *Swindon Advertiser 20-05-1861.*
- Advert for Tenders – 10 firkins salt butter cork 3rds, 5-cwt cheese, 40lbs black tea, 3-cwt raw sugar, 56lbs loaf sugar, 2-cwt rice, 2-cwt treacle, 2-cwt salt, 10lbs coffee, 2 sides green bacon, 3-cwt yellow soap, 2-cwt soda, 10lbs starch, 6lbs snuff, 5lbs blue, 3 dozen scrubbers, 1 dozen mops & 2 dozen hair brooms for next quarter. *Swindon Advertiser 10-06-1861*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Beef, Mutton, Butter, Suet, joints of meat for master's table and coals & faggots for 26 June to 28 Sep. *Swindon Advertiser 10-06-1861*
- Advert for Schoolmaster £30 per annum with board & lodgings in the house *Reading Mercury 22-06-1861.*
- ENQUIRY - Mr. W. H. R. Hawley, one of the inspectors of the Poor Law Board, held an enquiry at the Workhouse, Stratton, on Friday, into certain charges preferred against Mr. Charles SMITH, of Highworth, medical officer of the first district of the Union. Evidence having been taken in support of the charges, namely, neglect of duty and inattention to the poor, and Mr. SMITH having tendered a statement in defense, the Inspector said the depositions, &c., would be forwarded to the Poor Law Board, with whom the decision rested, and the result would be made known in a few days. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 04-07-1861.*
- Mr. Charles MORSE appointed to replace Mr. John TILLEY, who resigned, as Workhouse schoolmaster. Mrs. Elizabeth WALKER of Clack has been appointed to replace Mrs. Elizabeth HAINES as nurse in the room. Mr. Charles SMITH, surgeon of Highworth, to go before the Board charged with neglect of duty. *Swindon Advertiser 29-07-1861.*
- Advert for Schoolmaster at annual salary of £30 with Board, Lodging, Washing an furnished apartment. *Swindon Advertiser 02-09-1861.*
- Adverts for tenders – Grocers, Provision Dealers and for Butchers, Bakers, Drapers, Shoemakers, Stationers for 6 months until 25-03-1862.
- George TOLSON, for two months Devizes prison, for leaving his family chargeable to the parish of Stratton. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 14-11-1861.*
- James BAUGHN charged with breaking 7 panes of glass at the Workhouse, when he was refused entry. Committed to 1 month's hard labour. *Swindon Advertiser 18-11-1861.*
- Advert for Tenders – 10 firkins salt butter cork 3rds, 5-cwt cheese, 60lbs black tea, 3-cwt raw sugar, 56lbs loaf sugar, 10lbs pepper corns, 4-cwt treacle, 2-cwt salt, 10lbs coffee, 1 side green bacon, 6lbs mustard, 4-cwt yellow soap, 2-cwt soda, 10lbs starch, 5lbs blue, 12 dozen rushlights, 6lbs snuff, 1 doz mop heads, 1 doz scrubbers, and 1 doz birch brooms for next quarter. *Swindon Advertiser 09-12-1861*
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Beef, Mutton, Butter, Suet, joints of meat for master's table and coals & faggots to 25th March next. *Swindon Advertiser 09-12-1861*

- 1862 - Advert for Nurse £25 per annum with board & lodgings in the house. *Reading Mercury 31-05-1862*
- Joseph THOMPSON, boilersmith, summonsed by Relieving Officer for allowing wife and child to become chargeable to the parish. *Swindon Advertiser 25-08-1862.*
 - Thomas GARRETT, for fourteen days in Devizes prison, for absconding from the Workhouse with a suit of the Union clothing, and a further twenty-one days for assaulting a police officer at Stratton. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 30-10-1862.*
 - Christmas at the Workhouse, the 211 inmates of the workhouse were regaled with roast-beef and plumb=pudding on Christmas day together with a pint of beer each at the expense of the Guardians. All old men were given 1oz of tobacco and the old women a goat, the children were also given a present each of silver, copper, or sweetmeats.

At their meeting on the 17th the Guardians issued the contracts for the next quarter. *Swindon Advertiser* 29-12-1862.

- 1863 - Harriett GODWIN and Ann Farr, for three months each, and Fanny FORD for fourteen days in Devizes prison, for misconduct in the Workhouse at Stratton. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 12-03-1863.
- Thomas East, master. Mrs. Mary East, matron
, May 10, death at Stratton, Thomas William, son of Mr. Thomas, East, master of the Highworth & Swindon Union Workhouse aged two years. *Jackson's Oxford Journal* 16-05-1863.
- Hester LAURENCE, for six weeks Devizes prison, for maliciously breaking twenty-four panes of glass in the Union Workhouse at Stratton. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 2-7-1863.
, Sept 14, at Stratton, the wife of Mr. Thomas EAST, master of the Workhouse, a daughter. *Jackson's Oxford Journal* 19-09-1863.
- 1864 --Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 24 Sep. *Swindon Advertiser* 07-03-1864.
- Keziah TOLSON, for twenty-one days Devizes prison, for misconduct in the Workhouse at Stratton. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* 24-03-1864.
- Contracts issued – Mr. John Warefield of Highworth at 4d per loaf, Meat, Mrs. Maria Young of Faringdon at 5d & suet at 4d a lb., Hair cutting & shaving, Mr. Pruce of Highworth at 3/4 d & 1/2 d. Coal, Mr. Toomer of Swindon at 15s 6d per ton., Grocery, Messrs. Harris & Co of Highworth. At the same meeting the following were elected as Guardians, William Dore, Samuel Whatley, John Archer, Francis Walker, John Woolford, Thomas Arkell, Ambrose Willis, William Pedley, Charles Edmonds, Richard Chillingworth, Michael Smith, Thomas Anger, John Nash, William Braid, Robert Harding, Henry Reynolds, Jesse Whiteman, Rev. Henry George Baily, George Reynolds, Edward Sheppard, George Wirdnam, Jas. Bevan, Thomas Harris Redman. *Swindon Advertiser* 04-04-1864.
- Death - Matilda, daughter of Mr. T. H. EAST, Master of Workhouse, 8 months. *Berkshire Chronicle* 28-05-1864.
- Advert for Porter £20 per annum with board, lodgings and washing in the house. *Reading Mercury* 04-06-1864.
- Board of Guardians accepted tenders for the next period. *Swindon Advertiser* 19-09-1864.
- Sept – Thos WHALL, committed to Devizes Prison, 1 month, misconduct in Workhouse, *Salisbury & Winchester Gazette*, 01-10-1864
, Dec 5, at Stratton, the wife of Mr. Thomas EAST, master of the Workhouse, a son. *Jackson's Oxford Journal* 10-12-1864.
- 1865 --Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 24 Jun. *Swindon Advertiser* 07-03-1865.
- Public Enquiry instituted by Mr. T H Hawley, Poor-Law Inspector, on charges of neglect upon pauper Charles SELWOOD by medical officer, Mr. Kennard. After a lengthy examination of facts and witness statements the Inspector closed the enquiry with promise to send results to the Board. *Swindon Advertiser* 27-03-1865.
- Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 25 Sept. *Swindon Advertiser* 12-06-1865
- Tenders were selected on 30th Sept. Workhouse Bread, G B Washbourn, Wroughton 4¼d, flour Mr. West, Swindon, Meat & Suet, Messrs. J & J Smith, Cricklade, Shoes, Mr. Clack, Stratton, Grocery, various., Hair Cutting, Mr. Tame, Stratton. *Swindon Advertiser* 02-10-1865.

--Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 31 March next. *Swindon Advertiser 04-12-1865*

- 1866 --Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 29 Jun. *Swindon Advertiser 12-03-1866*.
-Enquiry into charge against Dr. Griffiths, a Union Medical Officer, for refusing to attend a patient in her own home. After lengthy submissions the chair, T H Hawley, will make a report to the Poor Law Board. *Swindon Advertiser 28-05-1866*.
- Tenders required to Take off Roof and raise walls of Hospital & wards, also to dig and make a rainwater tank in Drying Yard. *Swindon Advertiser 18-06-1866*
--Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 29 Sept. *Swindon Advertiser 18-06-1866*.
--Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 30 Mar 1867 *Swindon Advertiser 10-09-1866*.
-Jane NEW & Lucy DAVIS, two young girls, charged with tearing up and stealing a calico sheet property of the workhouse. New had been previously convicted so given on month, Davis given 14 days. *Swindon Advertiser 12-11-1866*.
- 1867 --Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 29 Jun. *Swindon Advertiser 11-03-1867*.
-James DODD, for one month, for misconduct in the Workhouse. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 07-03-1867*
- Advert for Matron £40 per annum with board, lodgings and washing in the house. *Reading Mercury 16-03-1867*.
-Lucy DAVIS for stealing a calico sheet from the Workhouse. Prisoner having been previously charged with felony was given 14 days solitary confinement. Also, Lucy COX was charged with stealing a pair of boots, 1 month's imprisonment. *Swindon Advertiser 08-04-1867*.
-John BARRETT, for six weeks, for misconduct at the Workhouse. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 18-04-1867*.
--Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 28 Sept. *Swindon Advertiser 17-06-1867*.
--Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 28th March 1868. *Swindon Advertiser 09-09-1867*.
- 1868 -On Christmas day the inmates had their annual treat of roast beef & plumb pudding. In addition the vicar gave all the elderly residents with tobacco, snuff, or money, with sweetmeats and oranges for the children. *Swindon Advertiser 06-01-1868*.
-A Black pauper dies at Workhouse and causes issues over who should bury him (full story here) *Swindon Advertiser 02-03-1868*
-Meeting 25 April. The meeting began with a resolution by Mr. Morris, to allow press to report the meeting of the Board, after a lengthy discussion the motion was passed. The Master, Mr. East was questioned on quantity of coal and milk used, he explained that milk was often used in place of oatmeal as at other Unions, coal was monitored and only used as necessary. Committees of Board for coming year were elected. Estimate cost for coming year was £4925. Report – 142 inmates, Out-door relief 736 at £83 11s 10d. *Swindon Advertiser 27-04-1868*.
--Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Suet, coals & other items used in the Workhouse for period to 26 Sept. *Swindon Advertiser 16-03-1868*.

-Meeting 16 May. Letter from County Treasurer requesting following payments, £316 11s 4d for County Rate, £226 2s 2d for General Purposes & £90 9s 2d for County Asylum. Case of James CRIPPS of Bishopstone sent to Poor Law Board, refused. There was currently one case of Smallpox in Highworth. Report – 136 in house, 756 out-door poor at cost of £88 3s 11d. *Swindon Advertiser 18-05-1868.*

-Advert for Porter at £20 with board lodging and washing in the house. *Swindon Advertiser 15-06-1868.*

-Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Grocery & Ironmongery, for 3 months to 26th September. *Swindon Advertiser 15-06-1868.*

-Advert for Master at £60 & Matron at £40 per year. Two sureties of £200 will be required. Also, to Superintend 6 acres of land. Average inmates at 200. 27-07-1868. *Swindon Advertiser 1868.*

-Advert for Tenders, to supply Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Grocery & Ironmongery, for 3 months to 26th December, also Printing, shoes, clothing, hair cutting, shaving, and unskimmed milk for six months to 26-03-1869. *Swindon Advertiser 07-09-1868.*

-Oct 5th, the wife of Mr. Thomas Pritchard, Master, of a son. *Swindon Advertiser 26-10-1868.*

1869- Election of Guardians. Swindon, Mr. F Smith, farmer, Mr. W Morris, newspaper proprietor, Mr. S Spiers, dairyman, Highworth, Mr. J Hall, Mr. J Edmonds, Mr. W Smith. Correspondence was received from Mr. Self of Faringdon, refusing to supply any mutton other than necks and breasts, clerk asked to contact and seek resolution., Poor Law Board had refused Union's request to enhance payments in certain circumstances. *Swindon Advertiser 12-04-1869.*

-Meeting 14 April. A request was made by a young respectable woman with young child to enter the house, her husband had left her and taken all their food and money, agreed. A request was made on behalf of Charles FERRIS, who had been sick for a long time and a member of The Forrester's Society, agreed for two weeks for investigation. A further request was made by an aged woman from Swindon, who had been previously supported by her son who now had to support a sick wife, 1s 6d per week outdoor relief agreed. There was then much discussion on the size of bills for beer, spirits & milk. The master asked for permission to order sacks of potatoes for planting, told to get tenders. *Swindon Advertiser 19-04-1869.*

-Meeting 12 May. James made his usual appearance asking to be admitted, as a known troublemaker the request was turned down, but he was given 1s 6d out-door poor aid. Widow of Swindon was given 1s 6d out-door aid. A well-dressed woman asked for aid for her children, as she was running a beerhouse it was refused. *Swindon Advertiser 17-05-1869*

-Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Salt, Butter, Suet, Grocery, coals, beer & porter for 3 months to 25th September. *Swindon Advertiser 14-06-1869.*

-Advert for Relieving officer for District 2. £90 per annum plus an additional £10 as Inspector of Nuisances. *Swindon Advertiser 06-09-1869.*

-Tenders for Bread, Flour, Meat, Salt, Butter, Suet, Grocery, coals, beer & porter for 3 months from 25th September and for Shoes, Clothing, hair-cutting & skimmed milk for 6 months until 26th March 1870. *Swindon Advertiser 06-09-1869*

1870, Feb 19 - Inquest – An inquest was held by Mr. Whitmarsh, coroner, on Thursday last, at the Workhouse, on the body of Edwin, Infant son of Roseanna Nash, a single woman. The facts of the case were very simple but afford another instance of the regard persons have for each other after cohabiting together. The woman Nash has been living with James Archer, a chimney sweep, of Faringdon, by whom she had the child, the deceased. On Monday after a quarrel, Archer turned his partner out onto the street, and both mother and infant slept on the floor at the house of a neighbour. The next morning, she started for Highworth, and procured an order for the workhouse, where she arrived in the afternoon. At six o'clock, both mother and infant retired to rest, but on awakening about one o'clock the next morning, she found the child dead by her side. Mr. J Campbell McLean, one

of the Medical officers of the Union, stated that having examined the child, there was lividity on the body indicating suffocation, when the returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'. *Wiltshire Independent*

-Feb 20 Meeting. Board asked Master & Clerk to look into finding space for a proper maternity ward. There were several letters regarding better representation for Swindon which had continued to grow and the continued rising cost of the Union. To be discussed at next meeting. *Swindon Advertiser 22-02-1869*.

1871, - Thomas Pritchard, master and his wife Selina, matron.

- ADVERT – Moules Patent Earth System – Sir, Your Earth Closets are all that can be desired, and give every satisfaction, no less than ten being in use in this house. – The Workhouse, Stratton. *The Standard 22-07-1871*. All mod cons then.

- Advert for Schoolmaster £30 per annum with board & lodgings and washing in the house, also, for a Female Industrial Teacher £25per annum with board & lodgings and washing in the house. *Jackson's Oxford Journal 23-09-1871*.

- County Court – W. J. MORSE, one of the relieving officers sought to recover money from William LOVEDAY of Stratton, for his maintenance whilst an inmate, due to a bad foot. He had 12s a week at the time with only his wife to keep, so guardians decided he must pay his keep during his stay. He had agreed but to date had not paid. Mr. TOOMBS, employed by Rev. H. P. Cheshire, appeared for defendant raising two objections. First, relief could not be recovered if given in any form other than money, second, the complaint should have been in the name of the Guardians not the officer. The Judge non-suited the plaintiff. *The Western Daily Press 10-11-1871*.

1872, Jun 12 - It was resolved that Thomas MORSE of Stratton St Margaret be requested to contribute the sum of 1/6d per week towards the maintenance of his mother Phyllis Morse.

Jan 21 – died – Mr. James Higgins ex. Landlord, The Fishes, Highworth aged 76.

Jul 17 - Harriet Summers the wife of Edward Summers of Bishopstone had been removed to the asylum by Mr. Paul Morse on behalf of the Board of this Union.

- Advert for Female Nurse £25 per annum with board, lodgings and washing in the house. Unsuccessful candidates allowed third class rail fare. *The Bristol Mercury 12-10-1872*.

1873 – Nominated Guardians – Henry Elborough, Samuel Colborne, Jesse Whiteman and William Morris. *The Western Daily Press 03-04-1873*.

1874 - Death of daughter to Master & Matron – *Swindon Advertiser*

1875 -Meeting of Board 11 June. Application by 2 sons of Wanborough pauper, who after an accident and spell in Workhouse Hospital had been sent home on Outdoor-Poor support, to which the sons had to pay 1s er week. The sons stated that father was not poor and did not need the support, and so they no longer needed to pay the support. The Board agreed and offered the man relief in the house. The master reported on a man, Thomas Wheeler of Draycot who had left the house for employ had been found dead in a cow shed at Kingsdown. Two inmates of the old men's ward had died of apoplexy. The following tenders were accepted, A Matthews to supply Bread & flour, R S Williams; meat & suet, Thomas Turner; coal, and various others to supply groceries etc. *Swindon Advertiser 14-06-1875*.
-June 22nd, the wife of Mr. Pritchard, master, a son. *Swindon Advertiser 05-07-1875*.

1876 – PAUPER CHILDREN – The Guardians have for some time wished to follow the plan adopted by other Unions of sending the children to the parochial school, but the school managers have objected. There are now only about a dozen children and to save the expense of keeping teachers

another application has been made. The boarding-out system, under the ladies committee has been successfully adopted. *The Western Daily Press 7-11-1876.*

1877 – An order was made for the removal of John WHITEHOUSE, an inmate to Langport, Somerset, his home parish. *The Western Daily Press 27-01-1877.*

- ASSAULT IN THE WORKHOUSE. – Elizabeth Ann DODSON, a young woman, late an inmate of the Highworth and Swindon Union, was brought up on remand charged with a violent assault on another inmate, names Elizabeth BRIDGES. The prisoner was remanded from the last Court in the consequence of its being stated the injured woman was likely to die from the result of the injuries inflicted on her. – The complainant now attended, and from her statement it appears that on the 18th inst. She went to bed, not feeling very well. About an hour after the prisoner entered the room and opened the window. Complainant asked her several times to close it. Prisoner refused to do so, and used bad language, on which she threatened to report her to Mr. Pritchard. Prisoner, using very bad language, said she did not care. On the complainant getting out of bed to close the window herself prisoner kicked her violently in her stomach with her nailed boots, causing her great pain. – The complainants statement was corroborated by Fanny ADAMS and Harriett ROWLEY, two other inmates, but the prisoner denied that she kicked at all. She only pushed complainant with her shoe on the bed. – The Bench committed prisoner for one-month hard labour, which she imprudently remarked she would sooner do than go back to the workhouse. *Swindon Advertiser 21-04-1877.*

- William MILLARD, a tramp, was charged with tearing up his own clothes whilst an inmate of the casual ward, on Sunday. Committed for six weeks hard labour. *The Western Daily Press 21-12-1877.*

1878, Feb 23 – Destructive Tramp – John Williams a tramp was charged with tearing up his clothes whilst an inmate of the Highworth & District Union Workhouse. This offence is now becoming almost a daily occurrence and the bench committed prisoner for six weeks hard labour.

- Advert for Master & Matron £80 and £40 per annum with board & lodgings and washing in the house, Bond of £200 required. Average inmates 180. *The Bristol Mercury 11-05-1878.*

- Advert - The Board of Guardians of this Union hereby give Notice, that they will, at their meeting, to be held at the Workhouse, at Stratton St. Margaret, on Wednesday, the 5th day of June next, receive Tenders from persons willing to supply the Workhouse, and the Poor of the Union, with Bread and Flour, Meat, Fresh Butter, Suet, Grocery, Coals, Beer and Porter, and 28 gallons of Port Wine, and other Articles used in the Workhouses, for three months, from the 30th day of June next, up to the 5th day of October next, both days inclusive. *Swindon Advertiser 01-06-1878.*

1879– Tenders from persons willing to supply the Workhouse, and the Poor of the Union, with Bread and Flour, Meat, Fresh Butter, Suet, Grocery, Coals, Beer and Porter, and 28 gallons of Port Wine, and other Articles used in the Workhouses, for three months, from the 6th day of October next, up to the 27th day of December next, both days inclusive. And with Clothing, Hair-cutting, shaving and unskimmed milk for 6 months to 27th day of March next. *Swindon Advertiser 20-09-1879.*

-Elizabeth Ann DAVIS, inmate, was brought up in custody charged with misbehavior in the house by fighting, and also with committing violent assault on Fanny ADAMS, another inmate, on the 25th inst. It was stated that the woman ADAMS was too ill to leave hospital, consequent to the prisoner's free use of a broom on her head. One month's hard labour. *The Western Daily Press 01-11-1879.*

1881 – Edward James STEPHENS was master; his wife Elizabeth was matron.

– Guardians advertising for 3 months provisions tenders. 4000 loaves 4lb bread, 4 sacks flour, 21 cwt meat, 5cwt good quality meat, suet 130lbs, salt butter 5cwt. Fresh butter 3½ lbs week, bacon 12 sides, cocoa 3cwt, cheese 4cwt, beer 5 barrels, porter 2 barrels, coal 30 tons, paraffin 40 gals, plumbs 28lbs, rice 2cwt, sugar raw 4cwt, sugar loaf 40lbs, soda 3cwt, starch 28lbs, soap mottled 2cwt, soap yellow 2cwt, tea good black 60lbs, treacle 2½ cwt, peas 2 sacks. Six months contracts for check linen 40yds, apron flax 60 yds, welsh flannel, 80 yds house flannel 100 yds, grey calico 240 yds,

- towelling 60 yds, tacking 50 yds, lindsey 100 yds, blue striped cotton 96 yds, drabbet 30 yds, derry 40 yds & white calico 96 yds. All tenders by 10 o'clock 21st September. *Swindon Advertiser 12-09-1881*
- 1883 – Mr. A. Barnes appointed assistant overseer. *The Bristol Mercury 28-09-1883.*
- 1889 - Rev. Septimus Isaac Crawhall m.a., chaplain; James Fernie, medical officer; Edwin James Stephens, master; Mrs. Elizabeth Stephens, matron.
- 1891, Jan 24 – John Thompson aged 10 and Frank Thompson aged 8 were charged with indecently assaulting Laura Jobbins aged 10, daughter of Ezra Jobbins a mason of Stratton on Jan 16th. The two lads had been in the Workhouse for several months after being abandoned by their father.
- David Muir M.B., C.M. Glasgow is recorded as Workhouse Medical officer.
- 1892 – Young BOURTON, labourer, of Stratton, was charged with absconding from the workhouse more than two years ago, and with assaulting the porter, Henry Stepney. 14 day's hard labour. *Citizen 16-04-1892.*
- 1893 – PETTY SESSIONS – At the insistence of the School Board, for who Mr. A. W. Boodle appeared, fines were inflicted upon John HAMBRIDGE, George PULLEN, and William ILES, all of Stratton. *Citizen 17-03-1893.*
- Election of Guardians – T. Butler upholsterer, 1,772; H. J. Deacon, jeweller, 1489; H. C. Cook, painter & decorator, 1,246; and C. Matthews, insurance agent, 315. Messers. Butler and Deacon were elected. *Citizen 18-07-1893.*
- Albert BARBNES, inmate of Workhouse, charged with assaulting Henry STEPNEY, porter at the Workhouse. Six weeks hard labour. *Citizen 08-09-1893.*
- 1894 – Caroline FULLER, 18, charged with willfully smashing 30 panes of glass at Workhouse, 21 days hard labour. She had been brought to workhouse on Tuesday, had tried to escape on Wednesday and was returned to the female tramp ward, where she smashed the windows with a broom handle. *The Bristol Mercury 07-04-1894.*
-Meeting 26 July. Report on visit to County Asylum, there were currently 72 patients chargeable to the Union. Children of the Union were invited to the Annual Juvenile Fete on August 11th, accepted with thanks. Local Government Board Inspector was generally happy with the Workhouse and recent improvements but recommended an assistant for the matron, a decision was deferred. There were currently 185 inmates and 60 tramps had been relieved. *Swindon Advertiser 28-07-1894.*
- Oct 17 Annie Teal aged 14 was sent from Workhouse to Village on errand. About 150 yards from Workhouse she collapsed and died soon after of a weak heart.
- 1895, Jan 18, Miss SPITTLE appointed head nurse, the three nurses to be given time off two days a week, 3 to 9p.m. Currently 184 inmates down 20 on last year, of which 75 were children. 37 tramps had received relief over past fortnight. *Swindon Advertiser 21-01-1895.*
-Meeting 25 July. County Rate will be paid in two portions £963 then balance to £1,444 later, meaning Union will possible be short of cash. Mechanic's Institute invitation for children to go to annual fete accepted. Miss Kate WEBB, assistant nurse applied for salary increase from existing £20, to be raised at next meeting. Masters Report, 178 inmates, and 74 tramps had been relieved. There had also been 2 deaths. It was proposed and carried that children of the Union put into situations should be visited once a month to ensure their wellbeing. There had been 3 cases of patients removed to Asylum's. Ladies committee recommended purchase of some bed tables, bed rests and a sewing machine for the matron, accepted. *Swindon Advertiser 27-07-1895.*
- 1896 the medical officer was paid £77 per year, plus £45 for covering the workhouse.
- 787 vagrants had been given relief, 863 males and 104 women. There were 89 inmates in the asylum, 48 males and 41 females. The women's committee reported a problem with the butter being inedible, butter to be returned to supplier. Dr Muir had requested an increase in salary, and £20 was agreed. There were currently 239 inmates. Including 53 children., 113 tramps had received relief. The Christmas meal had been a success and several people had supplied presents for the inmates.

About 80 elderly and the children attended a V.W.H. pantomime 'Dick Whittington' at the Corn Exchange. A group from the GWR gave a small concert. *Swindon Advertiser 11-01-1896*

- Entertainment at the Workhouse. - On Saturday 15th August, the inmates of Stratton Workhouse had their usual midsummer tea and entertainment, provided for the funds collected for the purpose. A working committee, consisting of Mr and Mrs Hy. Morris, Mr and Mrs Russell, Mr Chariton, Mrs Hy. Hayward. The Misses Nichols, assisted by Master Crother, under the direction of Mr Geo. House, the president, arrived at the house about three o'clock. A good band, under the direction of Mr Harding, and including violin, Mr C. Davis; piccolo, Mr W. Nash, cornet, Mr Appleford, cello, Mr G. Harding, kindly gave their services, as did also

Messrs Chivers and Prior, banjoists, &c, and their services were much appreciated by all. Mr F. Garrett sang several good comic songs, to the thorough amusement of the inmates. Gifts were presented to every inmate, and consisted of pipes, tobacco, snuff, apples, biscuits, sweets and a sixpence each in money. After tea had been served, games, racing, &c, commenced and lasted till nearly dark. Messrs Chivers and Prior causing roars of laughter and fun, with their funny songs and antics during the evening. Through the thoughtfulness of Miss House, one of the guardians, some of the girls who are about leaving the institution for service, were given useful presents such as workboxes, &c. Hearty cheers were given to the Swindon friends who kindly contributed to the funds. The Rev. Mr & Mrs Scott, Miss Muir and others graced the company by their presence.

- Meeting held on 16-09-1896. Master reported 184 inmates, 37 vagrants relieved. Miss Clarkin, Industrial Trainer, salary to be increased from £18 to £20. Half yearly provision tenders were submitted to be approved next meeting. *Swindon Advertiser 19-09-1896.*

1897 shopping list - Carbolic Oil, Methylated Spirit, Cordy's Liquid, Calmits Card Acid, Camphor, Hays Strapping, Bella Plaster, Fullers Earth, Vaseline, Lint & Fly paper.

Highworth and Swindon Union.
Aug 12th 1897
Mr. J. Green, T. Son.
Please supply—
12 doz Carbolic oil. 1/40.
12 doz Methylated Spirit
12 doz Cordy's Liquid
1 doz Carbolic Acid Calverts. 2/0 4.
1/2 lb Camphor
3 yds Hospital ~~Wadding~~ Strapping
3 yds. Bulladown. Plaster
1/2 lb Fullers Earth Powder
4 lb Lint Vaseline
Signature W.C. Staunton
for Master

(copy of original - Paul Wilkins)

- 1897 – George YATES, a tramp, was brought up in custody charged with refusing to do his allocated task whilst an inmate of the Workhouse, on October 1st, He was given 4lb of oakum to pick, but only completed 20 ounces. 14 day's hard labour. *Swindon Advertiser 09-10-1897.*
- Emily BRITAIN, a married woman, an inmate of the Workhouse, was brought up in custody charged with bad conduct on Saturday last. She was found using bad language by the Matron, Mrs Kilby, in the schoolhouse. Put on two months' probation. *Swindon Advertiser 09-10-1897.*
 - James SEAGER, aged 48, labourer, indicted for illegally knowing Mary HARPER, imbecile, inmate at Union Workhouse, Stratton. 4 months hard labour. *Swindon Advertiser 30-10-1897.*
 - Meeting on 10-11-1897 in the Board Room. Master gave report, they had sold 14 pigs for £48 15s 7d at a profit of £26 8s 7d. Total no in workhouse was 211, vagrants relieved 174. Mr Davis had become relieving officer. It was agreed to arrange to build a chapel for the inmates, funded by private subscription. *Swindon Advertiser 13-11-1897.*
- 1901 -16 Jan Meeting, Mr H Raggett presiding. Masters Report 211 in house, 176 vagrants receiving relief, 835 receiving poor relief at cost of £102 0s 1d. Doctor was granted two weeks leave. Guardians to contact possible homes to take boarded out children. There were currently 76 males and 77 females in County Asylum paid for by Union. Audit had been taken and all found correct. *Swindon Advertiser 18-01-1901.*
- 13 Feb meeting, Master gave a report on numbers in the house and receiving relief. Ten children had been sent to isolation hospital with scarlet fever, making 12 so far. There seems to be an increase in number of tramps in current period. Char & vice char to attend Poor Law Conference at The Guild Hall on 26 & 27 Feb. Miss Grimble, assistant nurse, has resigned, need for Board to look at nurses welfare to stop this continued loss. *Swindon Advertiser 15-01-1901*
 - Usual tender to supply Workhouse for next period. *Swindon Advertiser 22-01-1901*
 - Meeting of 28-01-1901. Meeting started with note of condolences to be sent to palace on loss of Queen. Master reported sale of 10 pigs to Messrs Haynes for £40 at a profit of £21 14s. It was decided to review the case of George SEARLE who was boarded out with Mrs Bathe, as he had recently been ill. 8th Feb to be official day of mourning. Board to send representatives to two upcoming conferences Poor Law & Diet. Relief granted to family where man had been injured at work and employer not paying correct cover. Tender from Messrs Astill & Son for printing accepted. *Swindon Advertiser 01-02-1901.*
 - Request for Tenders – Clothing & drapery, Bread and flour, meat, butter, grocery, coals, ironmongery, etc. *Swindon Advertiser 15-02-1901.*
 - Meeting 27-02-1901 – Mr H Raggett chairman, Mr J R Kirby clerk. Apologies from Mr J Davis, a relieving officer, who had been thrown from his trap. Report: 61 inmates, 218 vagrants relieved and 881 poor receiving relief at £107 3s 9d. Another case of scarlet fever had been removed to the infections hospital. House Committee to look at repairs to front drive. Master instructed to obtain quotes for lavatory accommodation for Lady Staff. Eleven tenders had been received for the New Infirmary each in two parts, hospital, and admin blocks. Tenders varied between £13,334 and £18,133. Tenders to go to Extension Committee to review and recommend. Clerk presented half year estimates amounting to £7,750, receipts due £2,017. Total income with rates £10,988. Miss Maud Lewis of Monmouth to be appointed as nurse. *Swindon Advertiser 01-03-1901.*
 - Advertising for Clerk of Works, to supervise building of New Infirmary. Salary £3 3s per week. Applications stating age, experience, and two testimonials. By order John F. Perry, clerk to Guardians. *The Western Daily Press 21-03-1901*
 - Meeting Apr 24, Masters Report, 210 in house, 148 vagrants relieved in last fortnight, 906 payments of relief to community, at a cost of £110 2s 4d. Mr Hussey-Freke was voted chairman. Master reported a profit of £27 2s 2d on sale of pigs. Relieving Officer reported the death of John Burton, 70, a local musician in the house. Concern over hearse being seen trotting when the funeral was for one of the poor. Miss Clara Edith Armitage of Wallington had been engaged as a nurse. *Swindon Advertiser 26-04-1901.*

-Meeting 10-05-1901 Masters Report, 199 in house, 112 vagrants relieved in last fortnight, 899 payments of relief to community, at a cost of £106 11s. A four-month-old baby had been handed into workhouse after being abandoned in Swindon. Workhouse extension tenders were opened, Mr J Williams for £1,140 was accepted, and that boilers were to be installed by Manchester Steam Users Association. *Swindon Advertiser 10-05-1901.*

-Meeting June 5th. Mr A J Colborne has formally been given the contract for the New Infirmary. The Auditor has stated that Relief must be given for fixed periods, and then reviewed, not left open. Masters Report, 185 in house, 76 vagrants relieved in last fortnight, 895 payments of relief to community, at a cost of £117 3s 7d, he also reported the well was becoming well and made application for officers annual leave of absence. J A ANN, aged 50, had died on 21st May. Due to low water there were concerns over fire safety and house committee were asked to look into alternative prevention measures. A Committee was set up to review the treatment of imbeciles. *Swindon Advertiser 07-06-1901.*

-Meeting 19 Jun, Masters Report, 193 in house, 104 vagrants relieved in last fortnight, 911 payments of relief to community, at a cost of £104 7s 6d. Mr Kirby, the clerk, had presented the boys with a cricket set. Mrs Matthews raised the issue of the boarded-out children's allowance, currently the foster parents ordered the clothes and bill was paid by master. The current method was per Auditors rules. Westbury Union had offered to take harmless imbeciles at 7s per week. House committee to look at fire extinguishers and a rainwater tank. Messer. J. Williams and Co, of Cardiff tender was accepted for supply of engineering materials for new infirmary. *Swindon Advertiser 21-06-1901.*

-Meeting July 2nd. Masters Report, 194 in house, 48 vagrants relieved in last fortnight, 895 payments of relief to community, at a cost of £115 4s 8d. Mary Swatton who had left house at own accord had had to be re-admitted due to being found rough sleeping at Chisledon. Agreed to support option for people receiving relief to be able to vote. *Swindon Advertiser 05-07-1901.*

-Meeting 31 July. Masters Report, 195 in house, 61 vagrants relieved in last fortnight, 911 payments of relief to community, at a cost of £110 3s 5d. Mr E B Wethered, Local Government Board Inspector had visited and found everything satisfactory. Mr George House had given a croquet set for the girls. Assistant Nurse Armitage was re-appointed. Visit to Wilts County Lunatic Asylum, 906 inmates, 149 from this union, all seemed well cared for. *Swindon Advertiser 02-08-1901.*

-Meeting 14 Aug. Masters Report, 193 in house, 53 vagrants relieved in last fortnight, 904 payments of relief to community, at a cost of £108 0s 6d. It was agreed to purchase four Sinclair Fire Extinguishers and two Merryweather portable pumps for fire protection. House Committee to look at deepening of well. *Swindon Advertiser 16-08-1901.*

-Meeting 28 Aug. Masters Report, 193 in house, 53 vagrants relieved in last fortnight, 905 payments of relief to community, at a cost of £105 17s 6d. The GWR Mechanical Institute had given their annual treat last Saturday. It was agreed to purchase a perambulator so that infants could get some fresh air. Mr A J Colbourne's quote for £885 to build the new infirmary was accepted, the Architect was paid £150 on account. *Swindon Advertiser 30-08-1901.*

-Advert for tenders from Drapers, Bakers, Butchers, Grocers, Chemists, Coal Merchants, and others to provide materials and services to Workhouse for six month from 1st October and coals for year from 1st October. *Swindon Advertiser 30-08-1901.*

-Regular request for tenders for Workhouse supplies. *Swindon Advertiser 06-09-1901.*

- Meeting Sept 09 – V H Vowles, Relieving officer was granted two weeks leave. Clerk presented half yearly costs ending Lady-day, £11,311 to be raised from Rates to cover costs. 900 people were receiving out relief at cost of £103 17s 2d in last week. A new 60ft well to be sunk to cover greater current need. A J Colborne was currently building the new infirmary. Parish contributions for next year estimated at £11,311. *Swindon Advertiser 13-09-1901.*

-Meeting 25 Sept, Masters Report, 190 in house, 90 vagrants relieved in last fortnight, 897 payments of relief to community, at a cost of £112 17s 8d. * pigs had been sold at a profit of £18 14s. Mr Richard Kemble of Goddard Avenue had sent a small cart for use of the children. Mr H W

Jeans of Hinton Manor was offering a treat for residents at his house next Saturday, accepted with thanks. Mr O Kimber was instructed to asphalt the yard for £10 and that tenders be obtained to paint the engine house boilers. Wilts County Asylum is increasing rates to 9s 11d per week, an addition cost of £113 per half year. *Swindon Advertiser*

27-09-1901.

-Advert for Tenders to point & repair chimney stack, clean & paint outside metal & woodwork. *Swindon Advertiser* 27-09-1901.

- Board of Guardians – At the fortnightly meeting of this board, the Master reported that there were 229 inmates in the house, as compared with 204 for the corresponding period last year. During the fortnight he had relieved 117 tramps, as compared with 94 for the corresponding fortnight of last year. He asked for instructions as to the provision of the Christmas dinner, and, as usual, this gave rise to considerable discussion as to whether beer should be given or not. In the end it was decided by 16 votes to 12 to allow the inmates who wished it one-pint of beer with their Christmas dinner. The master was instructed to provide the usual Christmas fare, and to give those who preferred it cocoa, tea or coffee in the place of beer. *The Western Daily Press* 23-11-1901.

-Request for tenders for Meat, Raisins, and currents for Christmas dinner by 4th Dec, *Swindon Advertiser* 22-11-1901.

-George THOMPSON a tramp was charged with refractory conduct at the Workhouse, given fourteen days. Also, Job JOHNSEY a Swindon labourer was to be given a second chance to do his allocated work for his stay at the workhouse. *Swindon Advertiser* 27-12-1901.

1902, -There was entertainment last Saturday, organised by a collection mainly from the GWR, originally organised by George House, who is now 80. Starting at 3pm they toured the wards giving out gifts according to age and choice. A banjo and guitar went round with the party along with some fooling around much to inmates delight. *Swindon Advertiser* 17-01-1902.

-Meeting Feb 12. Master's Report, 246 inmates, 222 vagrants receiving relief and 957 poor receiving relief at cost of £113 15s. Mr King & Mr Jones to attend this years Poor Law Conference in London. It was agreed to provide cotton uniforms to assistant nurses at £2 10s each per year. The master announced the sad loss of Mr William Morris, 91, a former member of the board. *Swindon Advertiser* 14-02-1902.

-Advert for tenders from Drapers, Bakers, Butchers, Grocers, Chemists, Coal Merchants and Others, Residing within the Union, to provide materials and services to Workhouse for six month from 31st March. *Swindon Advertiser* 14-02-1902.

-Meeting Feb 26. Master's Report, 248 inmates, 233 vagrants receiving relief and 977 poor receiving relief at cost of £120 2s 4d. An elderly man aged 82 on 5s a week from the Friendly Society was granted 2s a week relief. The RAOB offered their annual treat to the house for April 19th, accepted. Contribution for next half year, equivalent to an 8p rate will be £11,963. Dr Muir was brought before Board to explain while he had failed to make a formal half-year report, and not all cases had been followed up. Dr Muir's comments were forwarded to Medical Board. *Swindon Advertiser* 28-02-1902.

-Meeting 12 March, Mr George Reeves, builder of Wroughton, replaces Mr H J Handcock as a Board member. Master's Report, 244 inmates, 201 vagrants receiving relief and 967 poor receiving relief at cost of £115 6s 6d. Following review of 82-year-old's request from last meeting it was agreed to increase this to 3s per week. Since last meeting there had been 7 illegitimate children born at a cost of £80 year each. Dr Cressy, Wroughton, was ill and had supplied a locum. *Swindon Advertiser* 14-03-1902.

-Mar 13, Death, John Titchener, 73, of Rodbourne Cheney. *Swindon Advertiser* 28-03-1902.

-March 16 Death, John Caswell, 83, of Swindon. *Swindon Advertiser* 28-03-1902.

-March 23, Death, John Williams, 92, of Hodson. *Swindon Advertiser* 28-03-1902.

-Tenders to replace Girl's Day Room tiled floor with wooden block floor. *Swindon Advertiser* 04-04-1902.

There was an Easter Service held on Thursday. *Swindon Advertiser 11-04-1902.*

-Tenders out to install electric lighting. *Swindon Advertiser 03-07-1902*

-Job advert for Working Engineer (Handyman) *Swindon Advertiser 03-07-1902*

-Tenders for Installation of Electric lighting. *Swindon Advertiser 04-07-1902.*

-May 9 meeting, Masters Report, 208 inmates, 178 vagrants relieved, 984 people receiving out-relief at £116 7s 10d. The large increase in the number of tramps was noted, many having to sleep in the barn due to lack of space. House Coronation Celebrations were to be arranged for 28th June, and out relief to be increased that week by 1s adults and 6d per child. The gardener had applied for a salary increase, it was agreed to increase to 21s per week. It was agreed to purchase eleven pigs at £41 15s to fatten. A committee was set up to look at building a chapel on the site. *Swindon Advertiser 09-05-1902.*

-June 4 meeting. Masters Report, 218 inmates, 148 vagrants relieved, 963 people receiving out-relief at £118 17s 3d. After a report and the possibility of saving £100 a year, the Board agreed to get tenders to install electric lighting. *Swindon Advertiser 06-06-1902.*

-Advert for Engineer to look after equipment at Workhouse including laundry equipment, heating systems and proposed electric lighting. *Swindon Advertiser 04-07-1902.*

-Advert – Tenders to install electric lighting to workhouse. *Swindon Advertiser 11-07-1902.*

- July 16 meeting. Masters Report, 187 inmates, 57 vagrants relieved, 942 people receiving out-relief at £137 19s 7d. It was agreed to increase the pressure of the heating boilers from 60 to 80 psi, Messrs Williams to complete the work for £34. There were currently 87 male and 76 female lunatics chargeable to the Union. *Swindon Advertiser 18-07-1902.*

–July 30 meeting. Masters Report, 204 inmates, 61 vagrants relieved, 945 people receiving out-relief at £116 18s 2d. G.W.R. had invited the children in the house to the Annual Fete in the Park, Swindon. 11 applications for post as resident engineer, Mr Alfred Whiteley of Ilford was appointed. To look after the £3,000's worth of equipment. The tenders for Electric lighting had been received, plant £711 to £1559 and wiring £365 to £859, referred to sub-committee to review. Mr H W Jeans of Hill Manor, Hinton Parva had offered a day out for the inmates including supplying enough breaks, this was accepted. *Swindon Advertiser 01-08-1902.*

-Advert for Tenders to erect an Engine and Accumulator house for new electric lighting. *Swindon Advertiser 01-08-1902.*

-William Procter, a tramp was charged with smashing glass panes and tearing up his blanket, while in the Workhouse. Committed for 1 months hard labour. *Swindon Advertiser 01-08-1902*

- Advert for tenders from Drapers, Bakers, Butchers, Grocers, Chemists, Coal Merchants and Others, Residing within the Union, to provide materials and services to Workhouse for six month ending 28 March 1903. *Swindon Advertiser 15-08-1902.*

-Advert for tenders from Drapers, Bakers, Butchers, Grocers, Chemists, Coal Merchants and Others, Residing within the Union, to provide materials and services to Workhouse for period ending 28th March 1903. *Swindon Advertiser 22-08-1902*

-Meeting 27 Aug. Master's Report, 213 inmates, 131 vagrants receiving relief and 993 poor receiving relief at cost of £115 19s 11d. Safety modifications had to be made to Electric generation scheme at cost of £199. Wilts County Asylum had increased their costs from 9s 11d to 10s 6d a week. This will cost Union about £260 per annum. *Swindon Advertiser 26-08-1902.*

-Meeting 10 Sept. Master's Report, 198 inmates, 129 vagrants receiving relief and 952 poor receiving relief at cost of £113 3s 10d. Thanks to Alderman E Jones for two parcels of periodicals for the inmates. Half year estimate, expenditure £10,468, plus county rate of £5,059 making a parish contribution on £14,866 required. Work on the new buildings was continuing satisfactory, but they would need to buy tools for the new engineer at £50

In same paper they are asking for Tenders to supply the equipment. *Swindon Advertiser 12-09-1902.*

-Meeting 24 Sept. Master's Report, 204 inmates, 104 vagrants receiving relief and 947

poor receiving relief at cost of £116 6s11d. Miss Annie Elizabeth Hewitt appointed as assistant nurse
Swindon Advertiser 29-09-1902.

-Meeting 8 Oct. Master's Report, 212 inmates, 134 vagrants receiving relief and 959
poor receiving relief at cost of £123 9s 6d. Profit on sale of pigs £23 15s 2d. The tender from S J
Limmex & Co, Swindon to supply Engineers tools at £20 was accepted. Mr T H Bond had written
requesting a pay rise due to significant increase in work, referred to next meeting. Board resolved to
borrow £1900 to cover cost of new electric lighting. *Swindon Advertiser*
10-10/1902.

-Tenders for wrought iron hot water guards. *Swindon Advertiser 10-10-1902.*

-Meeting 22 Oct. Master's Report, 225 inmates, 217 vagrants receiving relief and 969
poor receiving relief at cost of £125 8s 9d. Relief cases, Elderly man who's sons were rich but not
supporting him given 5s a week and sons to be asked to repay, A man who was paying 2s week
towards his wife's costs in the infirmary had them reduced to 1s after he appeared and explained he
had been invalided in the sinking of the 'Stella'. Greed to put out tenders for furniture for new infirmary.
The tender of £12 to supply Hot Water Pipe Guards by Edwards, Bays & Rye was accepted. Mr Bonds
request was supported, and he was given a £15 rise. *Swindon Advertiser 24-10-1902.*

-Meeting 5 Nov. Master's Report, 218 inmates, 110 vagrants receiving relief and 969
poor receiving relief at cost of £118 13s 6d. There seem to about 20 extra vagrants at
moment mostly ex. Soldiers. 24 gas burners were to be purchased at 1d each until electric lights were
installed. Problem with lack of linen storage in new hospital plus there were issues with steam pipes,
Architect to report. It was decided to apply for a 15-year Public Works Loan of £1900 towards the cost
of the new electric lighting. *Swindon Advertiser*
07-11-1902.

-Tender to supply, meat, raisins and currents for Christmas dinner. *Swindon Advertiser*
21-11-1902.

- Tender to supply and install 5 to 8 ton weighing machine. *Swindon Advertiser 21-11-1902 &*
Manchester Guardian 29-11-1902.

1903. Master, Herbert Ernest Bond, £135 per annum.

-Edgar George WICHELL, 2y 4m son of Walter Noah WICHELL of Kingsdown was admitted to
infirmary with burns on January 1st and died the same day. Amy WICHELL the wife said that her
daughter Alice had lit the fire and she had taken ashes to garden when she heard screaming, the boys
nightclothes had caught fire. She put out the flames, doctor was called and took him to the infirmary.
Coroner's verdict – Accidental death. *Swindon Advertiser*
09-01-1903.

-Tender for 100 loads of stable manure. *Swindon Advertiser 16-01-1903*

-George BYGRAVE, carter, summoned for being asleep in charge of a miller's horse and cart, fined 5s
and 5s 6d costs. *Swindon Advertiser 23-01-1903.*

- Tenders for Clothing, Drapery, Bread, Flour, Butter, Milk, Grocery, coals, Ironmongery, etc.
Swindon Advertiser 13 & 20-02-1903.

-Advert for Probationer Nurses, salary £10, then £15 and then £20, included uniform, board &
lodging. *Swindon Advertiser 20-03-1903.*

- Selling off their Worcester Gas Engine and a double action lift pump. *Swindon Advertiser*
27-02-1903.

-Advert for supplying 5 tons of potatoes. *Swindon Advertiser 27-02-1903.*

- Queen's Theatre, Swindon, kindly invited 40 children from Workhouse to the last performance of
'Aladdin', sweets and oranges were provided. *Swindon Advertiser*
27-02-1903.

-Meeting 25 Mar, Masters Report – 239 inmates, 269 vagrants relieved, 1015 poor
receiving relief at £115 0s 8d. It was agreed that vagrant 'Reservists', would be allowed off their work
duties. *Swindon Advertiser 27-03-1903.*

-Meeting 8 Apr, Masters Report – 229 inmates, 187 vagrants relieved, 979 poor receiving relief at £125 2s 2d. 13 pigs had been sold at a profit of £16 1s 9d. Thanks to New Century Club for parcel of periodicals. Miss Mary Elizabeth Pinnock appointed as Industrial trainer & Miss Harriett Richards as assistant nurse. Male patients to be moved to the new infirmary. Assessment committee reported on past year and had found 151 queries, now resolved. Rateable value of Workhouse was £296,706. Clerk salary to be £65, adopted. *Swindon Advertiser 10-04-1903.*

-Meeting 6 May, Masters Report – 233 inmates, 171 vagrants relieved, 964 poor receiving relief at £116 8s 6d. * pigs had been sold since last report at profit of £11 5s 6d. It was decided to employ a clerk at recommendation of auditors. Two probationer nurses were appointed, Miss Ethel Atkinson of Jennings Street and Miss J E Ockwell of Cricklade Road. The Board agreed to adopt the Canadian Emigration policy for abandoned or orphaned children aged 11 to 13 at about £15 per child. Dr McLean's salary was increased from £130 to £195. A request for increase by Nurse Dawson, was deferred to next meeting. *Swindon Advertiser 08-05-1903.*

-Meeting 3 June, Masters Report – 233 inmates, 158 vagrants relieved, 936 poor receiving relief, at a cost of £114 18s 4d. Precept rate was £7,424 plus £426 for technical education. Electric lighting installation now complete. *Swindon Advertiser 05-06-1903.*

- Meeting 1 July, Masters Report – 230 inmates, 144 vagrants relieved, 901 poor receiving relief, at a cost of £167 11s 5d. Condolences to Mr H W Jeans on death of his wife who had been a member of the Ladies' Boarding Out Committee. A widow of 14 year with two daughters, one blind had applied for relief. The new infirmary to be formally opened on July 22nd at 2:30. *Swindon Advertiser 03-07-1903.*

-James Jefferies, tramp for neglecting his task at the workhouse. Would not do gardening work as he didn't like the food he had been given, given 7 days prison. *Swindon Advertiser 10-07-1903.*

-An American Organ purchased by Rev. C F Burrows for chapel was dedicated. The choirs of Upper & Lower Stratton churches attended. The harmonium has been moved to the new hospital. *Swindon Advertiser 10-07-1903.*

- Tenders for alterations to Women's Day Room. *Swindon Advertiser 17-07-1903.*

-Opening of New Infirmary- Ceremony was held on Wednesday by Mrs. F. P. Goddard. The original plans were drawn up by Mr. R. J. Keswick in 1899, Mr. A. J. Colborne built Block 1 and Admin Block at cost of £7223 14s 7d and Block 2 at cost of £4650 14s, Messrs. John Williams & Sons of Cardiff supplied all the heating at cost of £1332 10s, there was an additional cost of £1900 as it was decided to use Electric instead of Gas lighting. Block 1 has 56 beds and Block 2 72 beds. There is a telephone connection with main building. *Swindon Advertiser 24-07-1903.*

-Meeting 29 July. Masters Report – 236 inmates, 145 vagrants relieved, 908 poor receiving relief, at a cost of £113 10s 3d. The board again rejected a request from Swindon for more seats. *Swindon Advertiser 31-07-1903.*

-Meeting 11 Aug. Masters Report – 238 inmates, 104 vagrants relieved, 931 poor receiving relief. Vaccination report, 874 births, 445 vaccinated. There continued to be an increase in numbers of tramps. 180 chargeable inmates in Wilts County Asylum. At close of meeting Mr. A D Hussey-Freke was presented with illuminated address and a portrait for his 41 years' service as chairman. *Swindon Advertiser 14-08-1903.*

– AN EXTRAORDINARY BOY – A story of a lad who, with others, extracted a key from the master's pocket and escaped from the workhouse at Stratton. He was an epileptic, said the master, and while playing truant called at a cottage and asked for some water. While the lady got some, he made off with the husband's supper. While in the Workhouse he smashed windows, thrashed younger boys, plagued the old men, and was up all hours of the night. Once he laid down on the railway tracks, luckily the driver saw him in time. He also had a mania for adjusting clocks, and often got the men out of bed early through this. The chairman decided to consult medical opinion on the boy's condition. *The Evening News 30-07-1903.*

-Meeting of 26-08-1903, Masters Report – 228 Inmates, 188 tramps relieved, 919 poor

receiving relief at cost of £111 2s 8d. Mr. H. J. Southwell and party from G.W>R. Mechanics' Institute had given a tea and entertainment on 15th August. Mrs Goddard of Highworth had sent a parcel of books for the inmates. An offer from Cambria Lodge was accepted for concert and gifts was accepted. A list of defects in new Infirmary to be sent to Architect. Mrs Hinton had supplied a sofa for the nurses rest room. *Swindon Advertiser 28-08-1903.*

- Tenders for Clothing, Drapery, Bread, Flour, Butter, Milk, Grocery, coals, Ironmongery, etc. *Swindon Advertiser 04-09-1903.*

- Meeting 09-09-1903 – Masters Report, 91 inmates, 131 vagrants assisted, 933 on poor relief at £125 9s 10d. Architect reported some steam leaks and some cupboards and doors had shrunk. Half year contribution will be £15,258, equal to a tenpenny rate. *Swindon Advertiser 11-09-1903.*

-Meeting 23-09-1903 - Masters Report, 85 inmates, 235 vagrants assisted, 988 on poor relief at £122 2s 2d. The Loyal St Margaret's Lodge of Oddfellow's asked to be relieved of their payments due to a fellow being currently in the asylum and their outgoings were currently exceeding their fees. This was agreed. It was agreed to employ an Engineers Assistant at £1 a week as the current 80 hours a week the Chief Engineer, Mr Whiteley, was doing was unacceptable, Mr Charles Dyke was appointed. The case of a blind boy was raised, as he was now 5 he had been sent home, it was decided to continue to support him. The request for the Union to have their own Asylum had been turned down by Central Government. *Swindon Advertiser 25-09-1903.*

-Advert for Working Gardener to superintend and look after 12 acres of land adjoining the Workhouse. Wage £1 per week and residence in Workhouse. *Swindon Advertiser 25-09-1903.*

13-09-1903 Sidney Smith, 40, eldest son of late P. S. Smith of Wanborough died in hospital. *Swindon Advertiser 02-10-1903.*

- Cooking Apparatus – Tenders to be submitted by 20-10-1903. *Swindon Advertiser 09-10-1903.*

- WATERWORKS – Inviting tenders by 20th, for putting down a pumping plant at the Workhouse. Details from master. Sealed tenders to Mr. John P. Kirby, clerk. *Swindon Advertiser 09-10-1903 & Manchester Courier 15-10-1903.*

-Meeting 23-09-1903 - Masters Report, 236 inmates, 219 vagrants assisted, 1006 on poor relief at £131 4s 2d. Mr Jeans had entertained 70 children and 12 adult on Sept 14, vote of thanks passed. It was decided to review the amount of Port & Whiskey being used. It was also decided to set up a committee to review the ever-increasing numbers of vagrants. Local Government had asked for an external fire exit to the new infirmary. *Swindon Advertiser 23-10-1903.*

- Meeting 04-11-1903 - Masters Report, 254 inmates, 283 vagrants assisted, 978 on poor relief at £122 6s 6d. A discussion took place on how the poor live, one case, a widow with 2 children receiving 5s a week spent 4s 6d of it on rent. Mr Edgar Hanbury had sent £1 towards inmates Xmas dinner. Messrs F & T Affleck's tender of £68 10s 6d for a new pump was accepted. Messrs Raggett & Phelps reported on their attendance of the Wilts Poor Law Conference. *Swindon Advertiser 06-11-1903.*

-For Sale – 110ft of Corrugated iron, as fixed, forming a covered way. And adverts, Tenders to supply Meat, raisins, and Currants for Christmas dinner. *Swindon Advertiser 20-11-1903.*

-Advert for Probationary Nurse, starting at £10 rising to £15 the £20 per year with apartment, rations, and indoor uniform. *Swindon Advertiser 04-12-1903.*

-Meeting 2 Dec. Masters Report, 249 inmates, 245 vagrants assisted, 977 on poor relief at £128 8s. Child admitted to house after being left with neighbour for 3 months. A father appeared before the board and was ordered to remove them from the workhouse, he had no place to take them, given 2 weeks to find somewhere. Mr Ashton of G.W.R. had sent some illustrated papers for inmates. The tender of Mr Jackson, Stratton butcher, was accepted for Christmas dinner supplies,

Beef, mutton & pork at 6 1/2d per pound, suet at 4d. Contract for new cooking apparatus went to Mr James Lott at £119 2s 6d to be installed 28th January. Tramps union had written offering to supply books to tramp's ward, accepted. After a review the cost of beef tea and milk had been reduced from 5s 6d to 4s 10d per head. *Swindon Advertiser 04-12-1903.*

-William JACKSON, a tramp, for wilful damage to his cell door, cost 15s 7d. 14 days hard labour. *Swindon Advertiser 11-12-1903.*

-10 tons of potatoes at 1 1/2 ton per month from January. *Swindon Advertiser 25-12-1903.*

-Meeting 2 Dec. Masters Report, 256 inmates, 242 vagrants assisted, 968 on poor relief at £120 13s 4d. All inmates to receive Christmas bonus, 1s adults, 6d children. A number of periodicals had been received for inmates from Miss F Humphries & Mr A J Gilbert. As kitchens were waiting improvements, it was agreed Mr Love, Stratton, would do some of the cooking for 10s. Issues with heating in the boardroom to be investigated. The clerk was given a £50 bonus for completing the new infirmary on time and in budget. Request from Mr Volwes, Relieving officer for District 1, requested a pay rise, currently £115 plus commissions of £70, board could not justify a rise. Miss Emma Jane Kembrey appointed as probationary nurse. *Swindon Advertiser 25-12-1903.*

1904 - Inmates were entertained by some of the committee, and gifts, paid for by GWR penny subscription, were handed out to the inmates. There was also a band. *Swindon Advertiser 15-01-1904.*

-Tenders to supply 52 sacks of seed potatoes to workhouse. *Swindon Advertiser 29-01-1904.*

-27 Jan meeting, Masters Report, 260 inmates, 296 vagrants relieved and 985 poor in receipt of relief at a cost of £128. Local Government Board Inspector had visited on 14th, there had been a query over £3 spent on opening the New Infirmary, now OK, another query was that of paying relief to children boarded out to relatives, waiting reply. Mr. Freeth of Stratton had been given the printing contract at £18. After discussion it was decided it was impracticable to keep lunatics within the workhouse. The Vagrancy Fund, for a daily hot meal was increased from £3 3s to £5 5s per year. Application for salary increases were passed to Finance committee. *Swindon Advertiser 29-01-1904.*

-Feb 10 Meeting, Masters Report, 273 inmates, 287 vagrants relieved and 1039 poor in receipt of relief at a cost of £125 1s 8d. Current applicant, elderly man unemployed for 3 months with sick wife. New cooking apparatus has been fitted. Messrs Woolcott & Smith to attend Poor Law Conference at the Guild Hall, London on 23 & 24 Feb. Gardener was given pay rise to £1 1s. Boarded out orphans will be brought back into the workhouse when they become 16 if not employed. Miss Kembrey to be given full time post. *Swindon Advertiser 12-02-1904.*

-Feb 24 Meeting, Masters Report, 289 inmates, 360 vagrants relieved and 1043 poor in receipt of relief at a cost of £132 3s 8d. There had been a major increase in vagrants, on Sunday there were 39 when Union could only really take 21 and wards had had to be used. There were a few minor concerns over the skin conditions of some of the boys. It was decided to ensure staff did not smoke in front of the children. A Report of inmates diet had been prepared and showed that monies could be saved by modifying the diets. Dr Muir was given a salary increase of £40. *Swindon Advertiser 26-02-1904*

- Tenders for Clothing, Drapery, Bread, Flour, Butter, Milk, Grocery, coals, Ironmongery, etc. for 6 months from 28th March. Also Tenders for connection of Workhouse drainage to sewers. *Swindon Advertiser 04-03-1904*

-Mar 23 meeting, Masters Report, 274 inmates, 276 vagrants relieved and 1041 poor in receipt of relief at a cost of £132 4s 3d. A party had visited on 19th to give a concert. A quantity of magazines had also been received. A tender for connection of workhouse sewers of £117 17s 6d from Mr Winchcombe was accepted. It was decided to offer the lads plots of land to practice their gardening skills. *Swindon Advertiser 25-03-1904.*

-Apr 20 Meeting, Masters Report, 277 inmates, 256 vagrants relieved and 967 poor in

receipt of relief at a cost of £125 12s 2d. Mr Hussey-Freke voted as chairman. Mr Woolcott reported a profit of £31 16s 5d on sale of pigs. Members of the various committees were then appointed.

Swindon Advertiser 22-04-1904

-1903 Union Health Report. Population 14,00 over 50,000 acres. 434 births, 243 deaths. 117 cases of Scarlet fever, only one death. 11 cases of Diphtheria. 21 died of Consumption. New Sewers being installed in Stratton, (Stratton part) Accommodation, 29 houses, 41 farms & businesses, 391 3 bed, 296 2 bed & 11 1 bed cottages. 14 new houses built during year. Water supplies, from Swindon 1, by wells 705, by springs 8, and by canal 9. Public well at Stratton Green. Dairy Farms – 20 with 100 sheds for 230 cows, milk goes to London, Swindon & for local use. *Swindon Advertiser 29-04-1868*

-May 20 meeting, Masters Report, 257 inmates, 277 vagrants relieved and 1002 poor in receipt of relief at a cost of £126 2s 2d. Board decided to voice their opposition to the Valuation Bill 1904, as it would reduce the Unions say in future assessments giving all power to the County. Miss Harriet Richards, Assistant Nurse to be given pay rise of £5 to £30 per annum. *Swindon Advertiser 20-05-1904.*

-Jun 29 meeting. Masters Report, 263 inmates, 120 vagrants relieved and 1011 poor in receipt of relief at a cost of £124 19s 8d. Nurse Hewitt to received salary increase of £5. Miss Williams, Superintendent nurse resigned after 2 ½ years' service. The clerk was given a salary increase of £20. Stratton sewerage scheme now complete. GWR have given notice or replacing some crossings with footbridges. Mr. E Hoddinott, Sanitary Inspector to receive salary increase to £140. *Swindon Advertiser 01-07-1904.*

-Aug 9 meeting, Masters Report, 288 inmates, 266 vagrants relieved and 1000 poor in receipt of relief at a cost of £127 1s 2d, the current period has been higher than usual. District Surveyor to be paid £7 5s 9d for New Roads Report. It was also decided to use Workhouse labour to do the work to reduce costs. *Swindon Advertiser 12-08-1904.*

- Tenders for Clothing, Drapery, Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Grocery & Ironmongery, for 6 months to 25th March 1905 & coal for year ending 30th Sept 1905. *Swindon Advertiser 26-08-1904.*

-Aug 24 Meeting - Masters Report, 290 inmates, 257 vagrants relieved and 992 poor in receipt of relief at a cost of £128 9s 5d. Mr Yeats of Highworth had donated some periodicals. One of the relieving officers had been approached by a Scottish lady who he could not understand. The well needed repair. The price of tea had risen by 2d due to increased duty. Due to a rise in the use of Whisky & Port the Medical Officer would be asked to do a review. Miss E E Dowley appointed as Superintendent Nurse.

-Sep 9 Meeting - Masters Report, 289 inmates, 211 vagrants relieved and 1021 poor in receipt of relief at a cost of £126 2s 0d. Last night there had been 300 inmates a new record. House committee to look at Laundry, repair or replace. Proposed next half yearly contribution to be £14,216. A New porter Mr Reginald Frederick Luck of Ramsgate had been appointed. Dr. Muir was asked to attend next meeting to explain the large quantities of Port & whiskey being consumed in the infirmary. There were concerns over the ever-increasing number of tramps requiring assistance. Swindon Town Football Club have invited the boys to attend a match. *Swindon Advertiser 09-09-1904.*

Entertainment was laid on at the Workhouse last Wednesday by R.A.O.B. Loyal Cambria Lodge, The Grapes Inn, Swindon. There were several act and a lantern show for the children. Gifts were handed out to all who attended. *Swindon Advertiser 18-09-1903.*

- David ILES of Upper Stratton failing to contribute to maintenance of his father at Workhouse. Order of 1s per week issued. *Swindon Advertiser 23-09-1904.*

-Meeting, 19 October. Masters report – 302 in house. 252 vagrants relieved, 990 requiring poor relief at £132 8s 1d. Mr Willway & party entertained the inmates on Oct 12th. A lot of relief cases these days were due either to deafness or old age. Relief had been given to and old woman who had been living in a Navvy's hut. Children had missed school on 15th & 16th September due to treats being arranged at workhouse. Over the last 2 years the NSPCC had brought 35 children to the workhouse. Mr A J Colborne's tender for £57 15s 6d was accepted for the Infirmary modifications. It was agreed to support

a motion from Stoneham Union asking for grant to be revised every 5 years to take into account salary increases. *Swindon Advertiser 21-10-1904.*

- Meeting 16 Nov Chairman Masters report – 301 in house. 335 vagrants relieved, 1028 requiring poor relief at £139 11s 9d. Mr W W Dickson had supplied some illustrated papers for the inmates. Temporary relief granted to a Scottish woman looking after 3 children. On Tuesday evening they had housed 54 tramps at 2 to a cell. Children's clothing, Women's Committee recommended replacing one calico garment with a flannelette one during the summer, agreed. Messrs King & Jones appointed to attend Wiltshire Poor Law Conference at Trowbridge. Vaccination fees had risen by £3,339 in four years. A 10s reward had been issued for Mr O Kennedy for deserting his family and sent to the Irish policeman who had captured him. It was agreed to give the Master a £10 increase. Agreed to support a Superintendent of Vagrants. *Swindon Advertiser 18-11-1904.*

- Meeting 2 Dec, Chairman Mr. A D Hussey-Freeke. Masters report – 305 in house. 449 vagrants relieved, 1071 requiring poor relief at £135 17s 8d. A tramp had had broken a window of the relieving officers house. It was agreed that all burials be at Swindon Cemetery unless other specific instructions had been left. A new Engineers Assistant had been appointed, Edwin Williams, 28, of Stratton. It was agreed that inmates be given one glass of beer with their Xmas meal. It was agreed that out relief at Xmas be increased for that week by 1s for adults and 6d for children. *Swindon Advertiser 02-12-1904.*

Kate HOBBS, for assaulting Martha PEART at the workhouse on December 10th. Seven days hard labour. *Swindon Advertiser 16-12-1904.*

1905, Meeting 11-01-1905, Chairman Mr Hussey-Freke. Masters report – 304 in house. 334 vagrants relieved, 1171 requiring poor relief at £145 9s 7d. Christmas dinner cost £14 17s 10d for 302 inmates. The Board collected 9s 6d so that an ex. Soldier who had become a tramp and had been helping in the Tramps ward, could get the train back to London. Mr J Davis, Lidding Relieving officer had asked for a rise, as he was currently the highest paid it was refused. Extra relief over the Christmas period had cost £39 3s 9d. *Swindon Advertiser 13-01-1905.*

Meeting 25 Jan, Masters report – 317 in house. 478 vagrants relieved, 1092 requiring poor relief at £142 0s 6d. Mrs Matthews had sent some illustrated papers. After a couple of incidents on the wards it was decided that 1 an up to date address for family be kept by bedside and 2 that any incident be reported to master. A girl, Lily Webb, brought to the house was one that was being looked for and was returned to Cardiff. Two applications had been received from Widows who were not getting their pension from The Nelson Tea Company. There was concern over a man sent to Devizes Institution who was obviously not fit to travel. *Swindon Advertiser 27-01-1905.*

-Advert for person to undertake Bathing of Male inmates, hair cutting and shaving from 8 to 12 on weekdays. *Swindon Advertiser 27-01-1905.*

-Meeting 8 Feb. Masters report – 319 in house. 352 vagrants relieved, 1105 requiring poor relief at £139 12 9d. A Housekeeper had been left with four small children after their Irish father had just up and left, he had been a gentleman's' servant in Cirencester. The children were taken in and an arrest order issued for the man. Robert Richards of Swindon was appointed as Male Bath Attendant. Owing to the resignation of the Industrial Trainer, Miss Pinnock, the post to be advertiser. Messrs Jones & Smith to attend Poor Law Conference at Guildhall, London. There again was concern over lack of reporting in the house, the latest was with cases of scabies. Next meeting to look at District nursing. *Swindon Advertiser 10-02-1905.*

-Meeting 22 Feb. Masters report – 324 in house. 342 vagrants relieved, 1124 requiring poor relief at £144 9s. A number of periodicals had been received for the inmates. Due to a fire it was agreed to provide a young girl with a wig. Board looking into replacing Gas lighting with electric. It was agreed to get more information on District Nursing. *Swindon Advertiser 24-02-1905.*

-Tenders for Meat, Bread, Butter, Eggs, Groceries, Fish, potatoes and other provisions for period up to 30th Sept. *Swindon Advertiser 10-03-1905.*

-Meeting 10 March. Masters report – 313 in house. 351 vagrants relieved, 1116 requiring poor relief at £138 5s. The inmates had been entertained on Feb 22 with a group from Swindon and on 1 Mar by The Salvation Army. Half Year Estimated expenditure requires contribution of £17,299. Miss Brooks was chosen as Industrial Trainer. Decided to use English meat only and that milk contract should be for 12 months. 12-03-1905

-- Tenders for Clothing, Drapery, Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Grocery & Ironmongery, for 6 months from 27th March 1905 & milk for year ending 31 March 1906. *Swindon Advertiser 17-03-1905.*

-Meeting 22 March, Chairman Mr Hussey-Freke. Masters report – 310 in house. 329 vagrants relieved, 1171 requiring poor relief at £142 3s 8d. Thanks to Mr Colin Smith of Highworth & friends for entertaining inmates on March 9th, also that 60 children had attended the pantomime on March 18th. It was agreed to supply a girl with a wig at cost of 32s 6d from Goldsmith's of Swindon. Mr Edwin Smith gave a report of the Poor Law Conference. There was need for a harmonium player for Sunday services. Estimate to repair Laundry was £2125, House Committee to action. *Swindon Advertiser 24-03-1905.*

-Wanted, Working Engineer at £1 15s per week. *Swindon Advertiser 24-03-1905.*

-Meeting 5 April. Masters report – 305 in house. 335 vagrants relieved, 1169 requiring poor relief at £147 19 8d. March 29th Swindon Salvation Army Band had entertained the inmates. The porter had resigned, agreed to give him a testimonial. A complaint was made against Dr Muir that a man, Mr New, had been in hospital for 13 weeks with paralysis and had received no attention during that period. Doctor to be asked to answer. Mr J Cooke of Stratton had offered to play for Sunday morning services and Miss Constance Hussey-Freke would play in afternoons and train the choir, accepted. Miss Louisa Ling, 33, of Tetbury was selected as new nurse. Mr Charles Hibberd had resigned from the Board. Cost of new laundry would be £1250, to stop issues during build the new laundry should be separate from the old. Sub-committee to look at the applicants for engineer. *Swindon Advertiser 07-04-1905.*

-Meeting 19 April. Masters report – 307 in house. 317 vagrants relieved, 1124 requiring poor relief at £147 19s 8d. There were 4 cases of scabies. Mr Hussey-Freke was re-elected as chairman. Board Inspector raised two issues, lack of supervision of infants and poor drinking water. J Roly was appointed as house engineer. Committee members for year were appointed. *Swindon Advertiser 21-04-1905.*

-Meeting 3 May, Chairman Mr Hussey-Freke. Masters report – 302 in house. 348 vagrants relieved, 1079 requiring poor relief at £151 10s 10d. It was reported that there had been a delay in the burial of John Smith of Stratton who died April 27th, contractor to be approached for reason. Mr J P Smith of Swindon had attempted suicide and had been brought to Stratton Infirmary after Victoria Hospital refused to treat him. Clerk to write and ask for explanation. Board voted to remove the food allowance for officers. Miss L Ling was appointed as assistant nurse. Wilts County Visiting Board had given notice of reducing payment for feeble minded. *Swindon Advertiser 05-05-1905.*

Funeral Mr John Page Smith left Infirmary for Swindon Cemetery on Tuesday last. *Swindon Advertiser 05-05-1905.*

Annual Meeting 17 May, Mr. A D Hussey-Freke chairman. Masters report – 305 in house. 349 vagrants relieved, 1175 requiring poor relief at £146 10s 3d. An old man 72, a blacksmith had applied for relief again, on last two occasions he had been caught working as well. He was refused relief but offered a place in the Workhouse which he declined saying 'I's rather died outside.' It was agreed that staff wishing to have family to stay should make a formal request. Following an inspection, it was agreed to make twelve large and buy 8 small fire guards. The Audit had been completed with no errors. There had been a response to the burial issue, the sexton had noted the date but had forgotten to pass onto the gravediggers, vicar to be contacted. It was agreed to increase the Assistant Engineers salary to 23s per week. *Swindon Advertiser 19-05-1905.*

-Meeting 31 May. Masters Report 299 Inmates, 320 Vagrants relieved, 1175 Poor receiving relief at cost of £146 10s 3d. Mr F Miles of 46 Regent Street had sent buns for the children The Salvation Army had given a concert on 24th May. Board supported a motion from Ipswich Union, to stop men losing their right to vote just because they had lost their job. Wilts County Council had again increased their Expenses claim. Dr Dunmore is currently ill and is being covered by Dr. Brangwin. Board agreed for Relieving Officers to act as School Attendance Officers, as long as it didn't interfere with their relief work. There was some concern over visitors to officers staying overnight in the house. *Swindon Advertiser 02-06-1905.*

-Jun 16 Meeting. Masters Report 292 Inmates, 279 Vagrants relieved, 1156 Poor receiving relief at cost of £145 14s. Mr E Hanbury had given £1 for use of aged inmates. Relieving Officer had had to send an inmate to the asylum. Joseph Carpenter the gardener had asked for pay rise, rejected. Other Unions had started asking for donations, held over. The Boy's Superintendent, Mr Spackman, was to be brought before Board over his treatment of the boys. Mr H Anderson gave a report of the County Conference where child vagrants and county roads were discussed. *Swindon Advertiser 16-06-1905.*

-Meeting 30 June. Masters report – 295 in house. 285 vagrants relieved, 1156 requiring poor relief at £144 8s 1d. Mr Richards of Lower Stratton had provided a number of periodicals. The large increase in vagrants were mostly skilled men looking for work. Water supply to be connected to Swindon mains. The children had been invited to the annual GWR Children's Fete on August 12th. There was general concern over the numbers of under fed children in the Union area. Inspector had praised the children's wards in the house. *Swindon Advertiser 30-06-1905.*

-Tenders for Pig Styes. *Swindon Advertiser 14-07-1905.*

-Beatrice GIBBS, 17 for breaking 3 windows at Workhouse after her application to leave had been refused. 14 days hard labour. *Swindon Advertiser 14-07-1905.*

- Meeting 14 July. Masters Report 271 Inmates, 140 Vagrants relieved, 1134 Poor receiving relief at cost of £145 4s 6d. Mrs Pickard of Badbury Wick had sent some periodicals. There had been a small fire, a barrel of floor polish had caught fire, but it had been put out quickly without any damage. There had been issues with the standard of bread and butter supplied. An improper parcel to a female inmate had been stopped. There were 183 Union inmates in the County Asylum at 9s 11d per person. The Wanborough Assistant Overseer has resigned, aged 80. Mr William Hinder has replaced him with £300 bond. *Swindon Advertiser 14-07-1905.*

-DEATHS, Mary DYER of Swindon on July 19th aged 74 and Jacob WILLOUGHBY of Highworth on July 21st aged 50. *Swindon Advertiser 28-07-1905.*

-DEATH – George WALLIS of Wroughton, 78, on 31st July in Infirmary. *Swindon Advertiser 04-08-1905.*

-Meeting 9 Aug. Masters report – 301 in house. 201 vagrants relieved, 1168 requiring poor relief at £145 3s 8d. Francis GLYNN, captain of Fire Brigade has offered to train staff in fire drill. Mr Ilminster's Tender of £110 for building the new piggery was accepted. Mr V H Vowles was formerly elected an Inspector under the Infant Life Protection Act, which now allows him access to any home. *Swindon Advertiser 11-08-1905.*

-Meeting 23 Aug. Masters report – 305 in house. 255 vagrants relieved, 1147 requiring poor relief at £151 6s 1d. Application for relief from a family, husband, wife and 2 children, one with injured arm, husband was not working through poor eyesight. Granted. Mr Beswick's quote for new laundry, £2075 15s and water supply £400 were accepted. Half yearly Parish contribution estimate was £5935. Agreed to take a nursing probationer from Wiltshire Nursing Association for 12 months. *Swindon Advertiser 25-08-1905.*

-- Tenders for Clothing, Drapery, Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Grocery & Ironmongery, for 6 months until 31 March 1906 & coal for year ending 29 Sept 1906. *Swindon Advertiser 25-08-1905.*

-Meeting 20 Sep. Report 329 in house, 247 Vagrants receiving overnight relief, 1164 Outdoor Poor at cost of £145 17s 9d. The new steam disinfector would cost £14. There were 14 children suffering from scabies in the house. Vacancy on Board after resignation of Mr F T Shailes of South Marston. The Gas

Company was taking the Board to court over disputed bill, difference was £800. Mr H W Jeans of Hinton Parva gave his notice as he was retiring. An overtraining athlete had come down with consumption. *Swindon Advertiser 22-09-1905.*

-Meeting Nov 15, Chairman Mr Hussey-Freke. Masters report – 346 in house. 468

vagrants relieved, 1173 requiring poor relief at £150 6s 3d. Ladies Committee to board out 12 children. New sties had been whitewashed, Architect to be approached over roof leaks on these new buildings. Miss Bishop to be appointed probationer nurse. Agreed to install a steam disinfecter unit. Swindon Relieving Officer's salary to be increased by £15 to £150. *Swindon Advertiser 17-11-1905.*

-Tenders- to convert existing Earth Closets into Water Closets and laying of Water Mains & Service Pipes. *Swindon Advertiser 29-12-1905.*

1906, Jan 10, Meeting, Chairman Mr Hussey-Freke. Masters report – 332 in house. 326

vagrants relieved, 1242 requiring poor relief at £164 6s 1d. Vote of thanks to Tompkins & Barrett of Swindon, for gift of toys and sweets. A leak had been found and repaired in one of the lead pipes. Extra Xmas relief cost £30 3s 6d plus £15 7s 5d for Xmas dinner at about 12d per head. Concern was raised over the continuing high levels of unemployment. A Resolution from Wantage Union 'Soldiers injured in service should be paid for by Army', was supported. Messrs. Spackman's tender of £620 to carry out new water supply was accepted. Dr Muir reported a number of Scarlet Fever cases, in past fortnight five cases have been sent to Isolation hospital, children returning should not be allowed straight back into the house. *Swindon Advertiser 12-01-1904.*

-Meeting 7 Feb. Report, 326 in house, 441 vagrants receiving relief and 1261 Out-door poor at £163 10s 3d. There were complaints from local traders that work done in the house was undercutting local suppliers. County rate base for the Union had risen by £5,136. There had been 8 cases of scarlet fever in last fortnight, two more sent to Isolation Hospital, making 27 from Stratton in the last month, nurse Bishop was one of the victims, there had also been 2 cases of scabies. *Swindon Advertiser 09-02-1906.*

- Advert, Tenders for Clothing, Drapery, Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Grocery & Ironmongery, for 6 months until 29 Sept 1906, bacon for 3 months from 1st April & milk until 30 Mar 1907. *Swindon Advertiser 16-02-1906.*

1907, Mar 31 - Frances Maria Roberts widow of Charles Roberts, labourer of 25 Davis Street, died aged 71.

-Deaths – Charles HIETT, 80 of Rodbourne on 6th March & Frederick William STEVENS, two months of Swindon also on 6th March. *Swindon Advertiser 22-03-1907.*

-7 Aug Meeting. Report, 331 inmates, 187 vagrants relieved and 1270 poor receiving relief at cost of £183 6s 3d. Letter of Sympathy to Mrs Hussey-Freke and family over death of the former chairman. Salvation Army had sent flowers for use in the house. GWR Treat Committee will give their Annual treat on 31st August. Estimated cost for Workhouse improvement £530 to be sent to Local Government Board. Mr J Rowley, engineer, was not given a rise. Certified Midwives to take over cases from doctor. *Swindon Advertiser 09-08-1907.*

- Advert, Tenders for Clothing, Drapery, Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Grocery & Ironmongery, for 6 months until 28 March 1908 & coal for year ending 3 Oct 1908. *Swindon Advertiser 06-09-1907.*

-Oct 16 Meeting. Report, 359 inmates, 171 vagrants relieved and 1166 poor receiving relief at cost of £163 6s 4d. Vote of thanks to Swindon GWR Temperance Union for their cinematograph entertainment on Oct 11th. Boarding out committee were struggling to find homes for the children. Report required on cost of repair, deepening the main well. Wroughton medical officer was ill and there was a locum in his place. Castle Eaton Nursing Association to receive two guineas subscription. A nurse was leaving so an advert should be organised. Mr E Day of Upper Stratton was given the coal contract for six months. *Swindon Advertiser 18-10-1907.*

- Advert Tenders to supply Meat, raisins, and Currants for Christmas dinner. *Swindon Advertiser 06-12-1907*

-11 Dec Meeting. Report, 388 inmates, 408 vagrants relieved and 1333 out-door poor relief at cost of £179 19s 6d. Workhouse children not to attend Upper Stratton schools due to cases of Scarlet Fever. There was a quantity of firewood bundles for sale. Board renewed subscription to Chisledon & Liddington Nursing Association, they had covered 1249 visits in last year. County precept of £8899 10s 1d to be received in 2 instalments. A cheque was payed for Technical Education of £961. Mr J Stratford had retired due to ill health. Following a report, it was agreed current nursing levels were satisfactory. Board Agreed to assign a nurse to child care. First Tenders for Children's Homes have arrived. The work on the well was giving good returns. Next meeting in 4 weeks to avoid clash with Christmas. *Swindon Advertiser 13-12-1907.*

1908 – Richard Ford, 10 Marner Street, Swindon order to pay 2s 6d towards medical costs for wife. *Faringdon Advertiser 20-02-1908*

-Tenders – To re-slate roof of Isolation Block. *Swindon Advertiser 21-02-1908.*

-Adjourned Meeting 25 Mar. Nurse had resigned, advert for new nurse starting at £25, rising to £30. Tenders for boots & shoes to be issued. A reduced diet recommended by the Doctor was passed. Doctor suggested checks before inmates were sent back to workhouse. *Swindon Advertiser 27-03-1908.*

-1 April Meeting. Masters Report, 360 in house, 383 vagrants relieved & 1396 receiving out relief at cost of £195 10s 6d. George BOURTON, the oldest inmate at 96 had died. Joseph ALDEN (or HOLDEN) a veteran of The India Mutiny & Crimea had been awarded a 7s a week pension. Infirmary diet, bread allowances to be reduced, men 7 to 6oz and women 6 to 4oz per day. There were two cases of scarlet fever and several of scabies. Agreed to employ a master's clerk at £35, part rations and non-resident. *Swindon Advertiser 03-04-1908.*

-Albert TRUEMAN for smashing glass of the Union Boardroom. Had caused problems at Workhouse before. 21 days hard labour. *Swindon Advertiser 10-04-1908.*

-Jesse HUTT, dealer of Swindon for deserting his children to the Workhouse at a cost of £1 per week. Given one week to remove children back to his care. *Swindon Advertiser 10-04-1908.*

-Deaths, Thomas POUND, 54 of Swindon on June 18th, William BURN, 64 of Swindon on June 19th. *Swindon Advertiser 26-06-1908.*

-22 July, Meeting J R Protheroe chairman. Masters report – 355 in house. 247 vagrants relieved, 1408 requiring poor relief at £191 4s 7d. A quantity of flowers had been received from a children's service at Liddington. The two-guinea subscription to a nurse at Castle Eaton was renewed. Mr A H Lee complained that during a recent visit the nursing staff had put a tout on the stairs to listen to the replies he was getting from questioning the inmates. It was believed the recent Scarlet Fever cases had been imported from school children. It was decided not to connect a telephone in the workhouse. Tramps kept in workhouse should work nine hours in summer and eight in winter for days care and three hours for nights detention. One nurse had already resigned, and a second was going due to heavy workload and low pay. Board accepted resignations and would advertise for replacements. It had been agreed to hire No.2 The Villas as accommodation for 30 children. *Swindon Advertiser 24-07-1908.*

Aug 9 – Henry POPE, aged 44, labourer of Chisledon died of Cardiac failure.

Meeting 19 Aug. Masters report. 375 inmates, 322 vagrants relieved, 1422 on out-door poor relief at £191 7s 10d. Concern was raised over the continued increase in out-door poor relief. A man of 70, who was requesting relief was told he would lose his pension if he claimed, so he decided to wait. Some Parishes were behind on their payments. There was concern someone had gone into the lying-in ward without a member of staff. Agreed to buy an 'Economiser' for the workhouse boiler at cost of £170. Miss Christen of Chippenham had been appointed as a nurse. *Swindon Advertiser 21-08-1908.*

1909 – Meeting 6 Jan. Masters report. 434 inmates, 289 vagrants relieved, 1477 on out-door poor relief at £212 17s 1d. Over Christmas a lot of toys, sweets and other treats were donated to the house. GWR Committee gave their annual entertainment. Board to send thanks to all. Christmas dinner cost £18 15s 7d for the 421 inmates and the Christmas bonus to Out-side poor cost £46. An order for an illegitimate child would be paid to the mother as she was about to take up a job in Buckinghamshire to save the matter going back to court. Union to supply firewood to local schools. Union had passed half year audit. Medical officer reported seven cases of measles and one of scabies. Cancer to be added as a notifiable disease. *Swindon Advertiser 08-01-1909.*

– Meeting 20Jan1909. Masters report. 436 inmates, 497 vagrants relieved, 1475 on poor relief at £188 5s 10d. The vicar had entertained the Aged Women to a tea party at the vicarage. The recent outbreak had been contained. Two women had come off books due to their marriage. England Waif & Strays Society was increasing their weekly rate to 5s. Tenders had been received for installing gas and water supplies to the Children’s Home. *Swindon Advertiser 22-01-1909.*

Deaths, Caroline Edwards, 34 of Swindon on Feb 2nd, Martha INGRAM, 90 of Blunsdon on Feb 1st, George HEATH, 71 of Swindon on Feb 3rd, Eva ROUND, 59 on Feb 6th. Elijah Michael, 73 on Feb 1st. *Swindon Advertiser 19-02-1909.*

- Advert, Tenders for Clothing, Drapery, Bread, Flour, Meat, Butter, Grocery & Ironmongery, for 6 months until 28 March 1909. *Swindon Advertiser 05-03-1909*

-James CURTIS charged with Breaking Windows at Workhouse. After cutting up his boots he threw them through the windows. 14 days. *Swindon Advertiser 19-03-1909.*

-Mar 31 Meeting, chairman J S Protheroe, clerk J P Kirby. J F Kilby Master gave his report. 394 inmates, 344 vagrants relieved, 1507 on poor relief at £296 5s 7d. Swindon Prospect Primitive Methodist band had given a concert to inmates on 26th March. The Relieving officer was questioned over a recent drowning of a man applying for relief. The officer said he had visited the man and offered him help and had left the option with him. He had drowned himself that night. They were currently looking for positions for older children, 5 boys over 14, one girl 15 and three 14. Two boys had recently joined the army. Mrs Matilda Locock of Newton Abbot was appointed as charge nurse. Mr Hyde was given the bread contract for district 2. The workhouse had reduced its use of stimulants to nil. The rateable Value of the Union had increased to £330,063. Highworth Nursing Association given grant of £5. Inspectors Report of 22 & 23 Feb. Although Workhouse is busy it is just acceptable currently. The Day room’s are particularly crowded. Lack of supervision in laundry. There still appeared to be a shortage of nursing staff but Guardians disagreed. *Swindon Advertiser 02-04-1909.*

Deaths – Albert James BARNES, 74 on April 26th, Elizabeth PREATER 72 of Stratton on April 24, Edmund WILKINS, 81 of Swindon on April 23rd. *Swindon Advertiser 30-04-1909.*

-Advert, Tenders to supply Coal & Coke for period June 1st, 1909 to 31st May 1910. *Swindon Advertiser 14-05-1909.*

-12 May Meeting. Report, 385 in the house, 376 tramps received relief, 1501 out-door poor at £200 17s 5d. There were currently a lot more cases due to depression of trade in Swindon. Miss Annie Powell, from the Infirmary, Stapleton, Bristol, appointed as charge nurse. W Willes tender of £7 17s accepted for alterations to office in Victoria Street. There was a lot of concern and discussion over the proposed new Poor Law which would complicate administration and remove some local democracy. A request from the Vaccination Officer for a pay rise was rejected. *Swindon Advertiser 14-05-1909.*

-Death- Eliza Blankley, 74, of Swindon, on May 2 *Swindon Advertiser 21-05-1909.*

-Death – Margaret Georgina Cook, 42 of Swindon died May 20. *Swindon Advertiser 28-05-1909.*

-9 June Meeting. Report, 368 in the house, 313 tramps received relief, 1536 out-door poor at £193 8s 9d. The coal Tender of Mr Edward Day of Stratton, 16s 9d a ton, was not cheapest but guaranteed a better quality of coal which would actually work out cheaper. Committee to look at value of installing a ‘Sirocco’ flue fan to improve burn in boilers. Issues with finding replacement nurses. There was a

request for Union to pay cost of returning 86-year-old back to Ireland to die in her homeland. *Swindon Advertiser 11-06-1909.*

-7 July meeting. Report, 370 inmates, 241 vagrants relieved and 1567 out-door poor at £201 19s 10d. Rev E R Knapp, of Rodbourne Cheney had sent flowers to cheer up the house. A man who had returned to work would be asked to re-imburse some costs. Several claimants appeared to be spending the relief on beer. Concern in the number of tramps attending the house. A Committee was set up to investigate the unnecessary beating of a feeble-minded boy. Nelson Tea Company had gone into liquidation, this allowed a claim of £1 12s for those on 10s pensions and 16s for those on 5s, Union to claim for those on relief. Edward BELCHED owed £18 14s 6d outstanding maintenance. The Union currently had 105 males and 99 females in Wilts Asylum and a further 3 in the Dorset Asylum. *Swindon Advertiser 09-07-1909.*

-21 July meeting. Master gave his report. 363 inmates, 186 vagrants relieved, 1566 out-door poor relief at £189 12s 3d. Rev Burgess had sent flowers for the house. Probationary nurse Florence West of Carshalton, Surrey appointed. Coal consumption had reduced since installation of economiser. Vagrancy costs were due to increase. Medical officer had requested an increase from £120, referred to committee. Tender for steam coal from Dunkerton Colliery at 11s 9d was accepted. *Swindon Advertiser 23-07-1909.*

-Death – Martha Gannon, 54, of Swindon on 27th July. *Swindon Advertiser 06-08-1909.*

-18 Aug meeting. Master gave his report. 355 inmates, 208 vagrants relieved, 1483 on poor relief at £191 3s. Children had been invited to Stratton Flower Show on August 21st. Looking to replace butter with margarine. There appeared to be bread being wasted and ending up with the pigs. Medical Officers request for a rise was rejected. *Swindon Advertiser 20-08-1909.*

-Tom TOWNSEND for burning his clothes while in workhouse. 1 months hard labour. *Swindon Advertiser 27-08-1909.*

-Meeting 15 Sept. Masters Report 378 in the house, 304 vagrants, 1474 out-door poor costing £188 17s 10d. Mr J K Coleing apologised for being late, he had been delayed by troops currently using his fields. Issue with an 83-year-old man living alone with no-one to care for him, if Relieving officer arranged a nurse, he would lose his pension. An elderly lady from Hayden Street was claiming relief for her rent, was told she must remember the number before it could be paid. The Cook House was in urgent need of attention. There was concern raised over wastage of bread and a long discussion followed. *Swindon Advertiser 17-09-1909.*

-Meeting 13 Oct. Masters Report 391 in the house, 318 vagrants, 1486 out-door poor costing £220 14s 9d. Periodicals had been received from Mr E T Harvey. John Marshall & Charles Viles had been committed to 14 days hard labour for destroying their clothing while in the house. A man receiving relief of 5s a week and 14lbs of bread was walking 6 miles a day to complete his 18 hours labour test. Mr R Beswick to supply quote for improvements to kitchen and engineer to provide guard for laundry machinery. There was still resistance to vaccination of babies. Pay increase of £50 by the doctor, Dr J C Maclean deferred to next meeting. Five Guardians were appointed as Supervisors to the house per Local Government Board requirement. The 'Missing Husbands' register to be brought up to date. *Swindon Advertiser 15-10-1909.*

-Death – William Cottrell, 80 of Swindon on 5th Oct *Swindon Advertiser 15-10-1909*

-Death – John Hale 77 of Castle Eaton on 6th Oct. *Swindon Advertiser 15-10-1909*

-Death – George Moody, 31 of Swindon on 18th Oct. *Swindon Advertiser 29-10-1909.*

- Advert Tenders to supply Meat, raisins, and Currants for Christmas dinner. *Swindon Advertiser 26-11-1909*

-Meeting 22 Dec. Masters Report 407 in the house, 396 vagrants, 1516 out-door poor costing £197 5s 1d. The purchase of the economiser and fan had enabled them to burn cheaper coal with a major saving. 12 pigs had been sold to Messrs Adye & Illingworth for £49 18s 9d. A female inmate had to be

punished for bad language. Mr J P Kirby had supplied a number of periodicals for the inmates. There were a high number of deaths, 8 being reported at this meeting. A man who had been working on GWR at Reading on a 60*hour week for 16s until his health had failed, given 5s and one loaf per week. A woman with her husband in prison was given 4s 6d A Stratton pauper was in London for The Lord Mayors Show and would have to be brought back at a cost to the Union. The Master was given a £5 per annum rise. Miss Lily HILL to be appointed assistant laundress. Christmas dinner tenders accepted, Messrs Brookfield, Swindon raisins at 31s 6d per cwt, currants £31 per cwt, Mr A Jackson, Stratton for beef, mutton & pork at 6d, suet 4d per pound. *Swindon Advertiser 10-12-1909.*

-Meeting 22 Dec. Masters Report 416 in the house, 374 vagrants, 1509 out-door poor costing £192 14s. Children had been invited to entertainment at Swimming Baths on Dec 27th and The Great Western Entertainment Committee will give a concert at the Workhouse on Jan 15th. Miss Hill had commenced her duties as laundress and Miss Bartholomew had started as a nurse. Relief was granted to 3 idiot children, the father & grandfather had both been previously sent to the asylum. A Faringdon man was refused as a non-local. Several other cases of out of work men were discussed and two weeks relief under the labour test was applied. A mentally deficient man who had attempted to get work was given out-relief. New tenders from Mr W Haynes for Green bacon at 71s per cwt and from Mr Keene for smoked bacon at 78s 6d per cwt were accepted. Average cost of Workhouse was 7s 7d per week and cost of Children's home was 6s 10d per week. Local Government Board was suggesting all children be cared for away from Workhouse to free up space for adults. *Swindon Advertiser 24-12-1909.*

-Death – Jane WHITWAN, 67 of Swindon on Dec 8. *Swindon Advertiser 24-12-1909.*

1910 - Meeting Feb 2 – Master presented latest figures, 439 in Workhouse, 253 vagrants relieved and 1056 receiving poor relief. Mr H T Bond, relieving officer report usual batch of unemployed claiming under Labour Test Act, it is difficult to find work in house for them. Thanks to Mrs New for batch of books. Temporary nurse employed to replace Miss Peach who left on Jan 31st, and a temporary replacement was require for Miss Brooks the girl's Industrial trainer who was currently off sick. It was agreed to discontinue lunch for able bodied inmates as they were using it as an excuse to stop work early. Dr Muir to become medical officer for Children's Home at £3. Tenders to be advertised for seeds for coming year. There was a request for a new boiler for the kitchen and it was agreed to get tenders for replacing wooden floor tiles. An invitation for the children had been invited to a performance of 'Dick Whittington', at the theatre on Saturday was accepted. *Swindon Advertiser 04-02-1910.*

- Henry ILLSLEY, young man with cork leg for refusing tasks at Workhouse, committed for 7 days. *Swindon Advertiser 04-11-1910.*

-16 Mar Meeting. Report 416 in house, 243 vagrants relieved, 31 children in holes and 1544 outdoor poor costing £196 15s 10d. Nurse Harris had left, and Miss Salvidge had started her duties. Mrs. New of Avenue Road had sent a quantity of books and periodicals. 8 pigs to be sent to Messrs. Adye & Hindwood, Malmesbury. Mr. Hoddinott's milk tender for milk at 6 1/2p for summer and 9p for winter was accepted. It was agreed to increase the Cook's Superannuation calculation from 5 to 6s 6d per week. Messrs. Pope Brothers tender for alteration to kitchen, £233 and infant's day room, £219 be accepted. It was decided not to boost pauper's pensions. *Swindon Advertiser 18-03-1910.*

-20 July Meeting. Report, 327 in house, 236 vagrants relieved and 1440 Out-door poor at cost of £181 6s 9d. Mrs WARDELL the cook had returned from illness, Nurse Hilda BULLOCK started on Jun 25th, nurse Bartholomew left on Jun 27th and nurse Mabel LUCKHURST had commenced on 15th July. On Saturday last 82 children attended the Sunday School treat & on Tuesday Miss Dorothy Hussey-Freke has entertained the 11 boys of the Workhouse Choir to tea at Lechlade. A number of relief requests were reviewed. The engineer to be paid to clean the boilers, a saving over bringing someone in. Probationary nurse Rose SALVIDGE had tendered her notice. GWR Annual Fete Committee was inviting the children of the house in August, accepted. It was calculated that if the Union had to repay old age pensions to the exchequer it would cost around £4000 per year, so a letter of objection to be sent. Agreed to renew nursing institution subscriptions. *Swindon Advertiser 22-07-1910.*

-3 Aug meeting. Report. 345 inmates, 223 vagrants relieved, 1507 on poor relief at £184 18s 9d. Rodbourne Primitive Methodists had sent flowers for the house and Mr Norris, saddler of Swindon, had sent some straw hats. Report on visit to County Asylum was received. Board were not happy to be asked to contribute towards the new Old Age Pension. The Government Inspector gave a good report on the Union but suggested more should be done to get children out of the Workhouse. *Swindon Advertiser 05-08-1910.*

-Advert – Tenders for supply of Boots & shoes for period until 31st March 1911. *Swindon Advertiser 30-09-1910.*

-27 Oct meeting. Report. 405 inmates, 407 vagrants relieved, 1495 out-door poor at £186 6s 5d. Letter of thanks for finding a man work. Complaint over doctors language. It was decided not to send a delegate to the Poor Law Conference. Committee to discuss doctor's and Medical officers request for pay increases. Number of children vaccinated in last year was 592. It was agreed that paupers should have a respectful burial. Two fire ladders to be made up for emergencies. *Swindon Advertiser 29-10-1909.*

-11 Nov Meeting. Report. 412 inmates, 217 vagrants relieved, 1451 out-door poor at £192 13s 8d. Concern from Master that Workhouse is crowded. Local Government Board had agreed plans for Children's Home, advert for Foster Mother at £30 rising to £35 to be arranged. Audit fixed for Nov 23. It was decided not to look into stone breaking as a Workhouse occupation. Changes in times to Sunday Services were noted. Board to start charging father of 'bastard' children. *Swindon Advertiser 13-11-1908.*

-23 Nov Meeting – Master presented latest figures, Able bodied men, 120, Women 55, sick men 55, women 40, children 67, 30 in homes. 513 tramps received relief. 102 people in hospital. 1544 people receiving relief in the community, at £186 17s 9p a week. A lady to be taken on as probationary nurse. It was agreed to give inmates glass of beer with their Xmas meal. *Swindon Advertiser 24-11-1910.*

-The Wiltshire Instrumental Concert Party entertained the Workhouse on Friday last. *Swindon Advertiser 02-12-0910.*

-21 Dec Meeting – Master presented latest figures, 387 in the house, 259 tramps received relief. 1544 people receiving relief in the community, at £197 7s 6p. 'The Limes', was accepted as lodging for 17 children. It was decided not to make a Christmas payment for the nurses. It was noted that from January the New Old Age Pension Act would begin. *Swindon Advertiser 23-12-1910.*

-Tompkins & Barrett's to provide Christmas gifts on 28th Dec. *Swindon Advertiser 24-12-1910.*

1915 - Kelly's Directory shows following detail - Poor Law Institution, Stratton St Margaret, 2 1/2 miles from Swindon, a building of brick and stone, erected in 1847, and will hold 460 inmates. Rev. Sydney Denton, Chaplain David Muir, Medical Officer Herbert T. Bond, Master Mrs Eleanor C. Kilby, Matron. Board day, every alternate Wednesday, at the Poor Law Institution, Stratton St Margaret, at 10.30am.

1919 – Two Stratton Hospital nurses are commended for their duties during the war, Miss O. King, V.A.D. and Miss M. Webb, V.A.D. *The Bath Chronicle 16-08-1919.*

1920, Apr 24 – Thomas Heath, aged 41, of Haydon St, Swindon committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor

1921, Jan 4 – Mr. H T Bond died after a short bout of pneumonia.

1926 -Through local newspapers a fund is raised to supply a wireless to the Institution. *North Wilts Herald 03-12-1926.*

1928 – Miss M Blakelock, Superintendent Nurse. *1928 Swindon Directory*

The annual Egg & Flower service were held at the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Sunday, Mr. Cecil S J Haskins, of Hartley College, Manchester, was the special preacher. The 15½ dozen and eggs were delivered to the Institution after the service. *North Wilts Herald 13-07-1928.*

1932- Henry George PRESTRIDGE, former Relieving Officer charged with 4 counts of embezzlement. against Union. Bound over to face charges. *North Wilts Herald 29-07-1932*

- 1934 – Probationer Nurse required at Stratton Institution Infirmary, a training school for Southmead Hospital, Bristol, Salary, 1st year £27, 2nd year £34 at Stratton, 3^{ed} year £30 and final year £35 at Southmead. *Western Gazette* 28-09-1934.
- 1935 – A concert was held at W.D. & H.O. Wills to raise funds to provide St. Margaret inmates with a Christmas treat, 400 attended and £17 was raised. *North Wilts Herald* 13-12-1935.
- 1936 – Advertising for Staff Nurse, £70 per annum rising to £75 plus residence. *Western Gazette* 10-04-1936. Still advertising in December 1937.
- 1937 – Miss C. Nelsom, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N., matron of Stratton Hospital has been nominated as candidate for General Nursing Council. *Daily Mail* 24-11-1937.
- 1938 – Advertising for Sister £85 per annum rising to £100 with £5 uniform allowance, also Night Sister on same rates. Still after Staff Nurse. *Western Gazette* 18-02-1938. Again, they appear to be struggling and are still advertising in July 1938.
- 1939 – 1939 Register- Emma Smith was matron of Institution and Harry Smith the manager, Mildred Jane Minstrell was matron of hospital and Doctor Janet Maclean MacKay. The oldest inmate at this time was Jane Lintern born in 1848.,
- 1941, Dec 26, DEATH - James Richard HARRIS, 20. *The Dover Express* 02-01-1942.
- 1945, Oct 27 – Advert for staff – Male Attendant £75, Assistant Master £85, Porter £80, Female Attendant £75. 1947 Swindon Evening Advertiser 'Elsie and Doris Waters (Gert and Daisy) the radio stars who were appearing at the Empire Theatre in Swindon, visited the Stratton Hospital after receiving requests from more than 30 patients in the women's surgical ward. They moved from bed to bed cheering up patients.'
- 1948 - Stratton St Margaret Institution Master - Mr R Bird, and Dr John Lowe was Medical Superintendent and Miss Moan the Matron. Children's Home - Foster Father Mr Gilbert, Foster Mother Mrs Gilbert
- The New Nurses Training Scholl at Salisbury General has allocated 3 places for Stratton Hospital trainees. *Western Gazette* 09-01-1948.
 - 103rd Birthday – Mrs Elizabeth Willowby, of Highworth, currently at St. Margaret's Hospital, celebrated her 103rd birthday yesterday. Married twice, five children by first marriage and six by second, is in reasonably good health. *The Western Daily Press* 15-01-1948. She died 12 days later. *Gloucester Citizen* 27-01-1948
 - A three-year-old child died of malnutrition over a long period, only weighed 18lbs 12 ounces, about half normal weight. Mother Mrs. Dorothy Eileen Thompson of The Steps, Chisledon, was charged and remanded without bail. *The Western Daily Press* 11-08-1948.
- 1949, Sep 19, Death, Eliza Jane, widow of George Usher, late of Bradley Alresford, aged 93 *Western Gazette* 23-09-1949.
- 1949 – Advert for Resident Supervisory Head Cook. Wages, male £6/15/0; female £5/8/0 per week less 23/- per week board and lodging. 1½d per hour for recognized certificates in catering, overtime at national A.S.C. rates. Nonresidents considered. *The Gloucester Journal* 18-11-1949.
- 1950 - Wilts C.C. Welfare Dept advertised for a working Head Cook at £5 8s per 48-hour week, less 21/- for board and residence, an additional 1½d per hour for diploma holders. *Wiltshire Times* 19-08-1950.
- 1952, Dec 26 – Ellen Louisa Tilley (nee. Adams) of 19 Newcastle Street, Swindon died.
- 1955, April 5 – George Herbert Philips, The Warren, Savernake died.
Advert for young ladies, 18 and over, to train for Certificate of General Nursing Council. Three-year course, £250 1st year, £250 2nd year, £265 3rd year, with £113 per annum board allowance. 96 hours per fortnight. Applications to Matron. *Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser* 03-12-1955.
- 1959 - The last of the Gentleman Jockeys is ill in St Margaret's Hospital, Stratton. Herbert Randall,

82, from Croft Road, Swindon has a chest complaint. He rode his first race as an amateur in 1901. The following year he became a professional and rode the famous three-year-old mare Sceptre winning both the 2,000 and 1,000 guineas in one week. He was also keen to embrace horsepower and was one of the first Swindon people to own a motor car. *Wiltshire Gazette & Herald 21-05-1959*.

1960, Mar 11 – Swindon Advertiser advert for part-time ward sisters and Geriatric Ward Sister.

1961-1965 – Matron, Miss F J Eastlaugh.

1963, Mar 14 – Alice Turner spinster of Fairview, Sundays Hill, Brinkworth, died aged 84.

1967, Mar 7, Rhoda Young of 7 Salisbury Street, Swindon died.

1968, Several nurses were sent to Princess Margaret Hospital to help with Hong Kong Flu.

1970, Miss Degg, matron.

Dec 5 - The new £35,000 Day hospital at the St Margaret's Hospital in Stratton St Margaret was officially opened by Ernest Le Q Herbert, chairman of the St Margaret Hospital Management Committee. The hospital has been unofficially open for the last two weeks and 30 patients attend daily for services from physiotherapists, occupational physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists and medical social workers. (extract from Evening Advertiser)

1977, Jul 8 – death of William Walter CHALK of Cheritan Nursing Home, Swindon aged 81

1977 Evening Advertiser - 'Life got a little bit easier for patients at St Margaret's Hospital, Stratton St Margaret, thanks to Highworth Lions Club. The club provided the hospital with a much-needed waterbed costing £655.'

1989 Raychem employees pay for Xmas Party with entertainment.