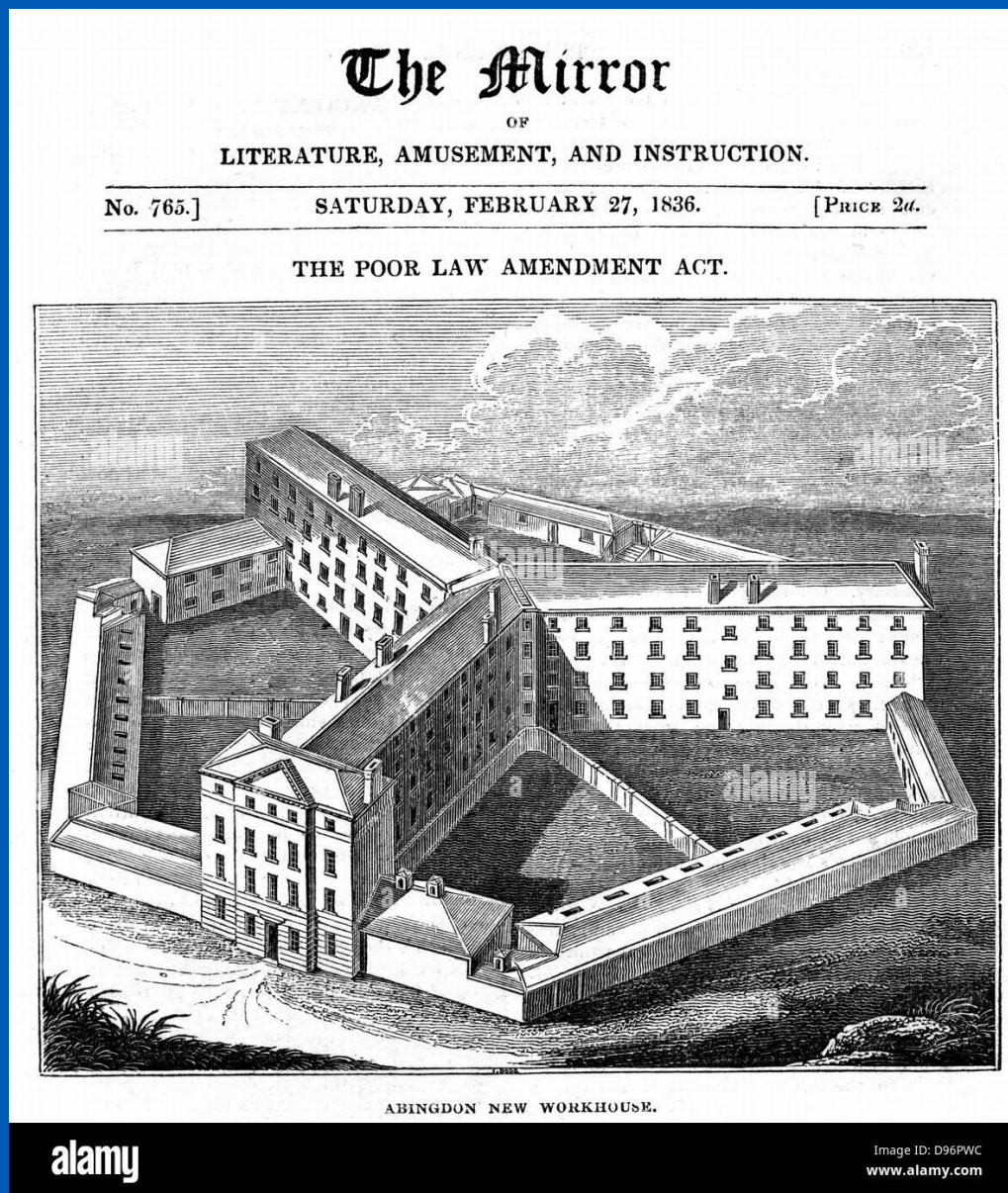


Life in the Workhouse: Impact on Ordinary People

Uncovering Family Stories through Workhouse Records



Introduction & Agenda

1. Historical Context of Workhouses
2. Impact on Ordinary People
3. Daily Life in a Workhouse
4. Case Study: Thanet Union Workhouse
5. Research Tips
6. Discussion and Q&A

Historical Context of Workhouses

1. Origins of the Workhouse System
2. Elizabethan Poor Law (1601)
3. Poor Law Amendment Act (1834)
4. Purpose of Workhouses
5. Relief for the Poor
6. Deterrent Against Idleness
7. Expansion and Evolution
8. 19th Century Growth
9. Changes in the 20th Century

Impact on Ordinary People

1. Who Ended Up in Workhouses?

- Families
- The Elderly
- The Sick and Disabled

2. Reasons for Entry

- Poverty and Unemployment
- Illness and Disability
- Widowhood and Orphanhood

3. Social Stigma

- Fear of the Workhouse
- Impact on Reputation

In-House Accommodation vs. Out-Relief

1. In-House Accommodation
 - Daily Life and Routine
 - Living Conditions
2. Out-Relief
 - Definition and Purpose
 - Eligibility and Administration
3. Comparison and Impact
 - Comparative Conditions
 - Effect on Recipients

Casual Wards in Workhouses: Shelter for the Destitute

1. Purpose and Function
 - Temporary Shelter for the Homeless
 - Designed to Deter Repeat Visits
2. Conditions and Regulations
 - Harsh Rules and Strict Segregation
 - Basic Provisions: Food and Lodging
3. Impact on the Destitute
 - Rise of "Tramping" Among the Poor
 - Challenges Faced by Casuals
4. Decline and Reform
 - Changes in the Early 20th Century
 - Closure with the Decline of Workhouses

Daily Life in a Workhouse

1. Daily Routine
 - Morning Schedule
 - Work Assignments
 - Meal Times
2. Rules and Regulations
 - Disciplinary Measures
 - Behavior Expectations
3. Living Conditions
 - Accommodation
 - Hygiene and Health

Impact on Families and Children

1. Families in Workhouses
 - Separation of Family Members
 - Challenges Faced
2. Children in Workhouses
 - Daily Life and Education
 - Emotional Impact
3. Support and Care for Families
 - Provision of Care
 - Impact on Family Dynamics

Maternity Care in Workhouses

1. Provision of Maternity Care
 - Facilities and Services
 - Types of Care Provided
2. Living Conditions for Expectant Mothers
 - Accommodation
 - Privacy and Comfort
3. Challenges Faced
 - Medical Expertise
 - Impact on Mothers and Infants

Care for the Elderly and Sick

1. Facilities and Services
 - Accommodation
 - Medical Care
2. Challenges and Limitations
 - Quality of Care
 - Overcrowding and Resource Constraints
3. Impact on Residents
 - Health and Well-being
 - Emotional and Psychological Effects

Workhouse Diet and Living Conditions

1. Food Rations
 - Standard Rations
 - Types of Meals
2. Quality and Nutritional Value
 - Nutritional Deficiencies
 - Impact on Health
3. Challenges and Variations
 - Regional Differences
 - Variability in Quality

Workhouse Reforms and Decline

1. Reforms in the Late 19th Century
 - Key Legislative Changes
 - Impact on Workhouse Conditions
2. The Decline of the Workhouse System
 - Changing Attitudes Towards Poverty
 - Introduction of Alternative Welfare Systems

Key Workhouse Records for Genealogy

- Admission and Discharge Registers: Track when people entered and left the workhouse.
- Birth and Death Registers: Record births and deaths within the workhouse.
- Creed Registers: Include religious affiliation and family details.
- Board of Guardians Minutes: Offer insights into decisions about individuals.
- Pauper Lists & Medical Records: Capture lists of inmates and medical conditions.

Genealogical Insights from Workhouse Records

- Family Connections: Discover relationships, next of kin, and dependents.
- Geographic Clues: Learn about migration patterns and places of origin.
- Economic & Social Status: Understand poverty, occupations, and life circumstances.
- Health and Causes of Death: Gain insights into medical conditions and treatment.

Where to Find Workhouse Records

- Online Databases: Ancestry, Findmypast, The National Archives.
- Local Archives: County record offices, local libraries.
- Workhouse Websites: Specific resources like workhouses.org.uk.
- Family History Societies: Regional groups with access to unique records and transcriptions.
- Visiting in Person: Access records that haven't been digitized.

Nearby Workhouses in East Kent

1. Elham Union Workhouse
 - Location: Etchinghill, Near Folkestone
 - Served Rural Communities
2. Dover Union Workhouse
 - Location: Union Road, Dover
 - Significant Port and Military Town
3. Ashford Union Workhouse
 - Location: Kingsnorth Road, Ashford
 - Key Market Town in Kent

Websites Dedicated to the History of Workhouses and their Records

- **Workhouses.org.uk**
 - Comprehensive History and Records
 - Extensive Database of Workhouses Across the UK
- **KentWorkhouses.uk**
 - Focus on Workhouses in Kent
 - Detailed Local Records and Histories

Summary and Q&A

1. Summary of Key Points
 - Historical Context of Workhouses
 - Impact on Individuals and Families
 - Researching Workhouse Records
2. Resources and Next Steps
 - Local Archives and Online Databases
 - Community Support
3. Questions and Discussion

Remember

Workhouses may have played an important part in your family history but are unlikely to feature in family “folk lore”.



Happy hunting!

Copyright:

Shepway u3a
Tin Tabernacle,
Stade Street,
HYTHE

shepwaygroups@gmail.com

https://shepway.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/family-history/

