

THE

NATIONAL

ARCHIVES

Lesson One:

What can 'pauper voices' reveal about punishments for workhouse children?



Key Stage 5 | 1780 - 1939

Resource Pack

Introduction

This lesson is part one of a two lesson sequence focussed on punishment of the poor in Victorian Britain. The first lesson explores punishments given to children while the second lesson examines pauper attitudes to punishments for the general population.

It was created as part of the Teaching the Voices of the Victorian Poor Teacher Scholar Programme.

Suitable for:

KS5

Time period:

19th Century Britain

Connections to the Curriculum:

Edexcel A Level History
34: Poverty, Poor Law
and the State in Britain,
c1780-1939.

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Teacher's Notes

To put the lesson into context, students should have an awareness of what the New Poor Law said about workhouse punishments for children. They could therefore read Articles 136-142 of the 1847 Consolidated General Order.

As the main task differentiates between the guardians and workhouse staff, students will also need to have some knowledge about these roles.

Overarching query: before considering each document, students such ask themselves... "does the workhouse deserve the negative characterisation that it has in nineteenth century British history?"

- What would convince you that the workhouse system was bad?
- What would convince you that the workhouse system was not bad?

Alternatively, you can replace the above query with:

Read the following two statements. How do the documents help us to identify what the poor thought about the workhouse? Which statement do you find most convincing?

- "the workhouse was a prison for the poor and was a punishment for their poverty"
- "the workhouse was an asylum for the poor and extended to the working class to help them in time of need"

For each document students should answer the following questions:

- a) What punishments does the child or children receive in the workhouse?
- b) What, if any, rules are being broken by workhouse staff?
- c) What does the evidence suggest about local poor law authorities?
- d) What does the nature of the evidence reveal how powerless paupers were?
- e) What other issues do the documents raise?

A table is provided to record this information. This could be completed in paired/group work or as a carousel activity.

Once all the evidence has been considered, students can share with the class their answers to the overarching query and debate their various "convictions" regarding the workhouse as bad/not bad.

Name:

	Evidence 1	Evidence 2	Evidence 3	Evidence 4	Evidence 5
What punishments does the child or children receive in the workhouse?					
What does the evidence suggest about workhouse staff?					
What does the nature of the evidence reveal about local poor law authorities?					

Extract from The 1847 Consolidated General Order

- Art. 136. - No child under twelve years of age shall be punished by confinement in a dark room or during the night.
- Art 137. - No corporal punishment shall be inflicted on any male child, except by the Schoolmaster or Master.
- Art 138. - No corporal punishment shall be inflicted on any female child.
- Art 139. - No corporal punishment shall be inflicted on any male child, except with a rod or other instrument, such as may have been approved of by the Guardians or the Visiting Committee.
- Art 140. - No corporal punishment shall be inflicted on any male child until two hours shall have elapsed from the commission of the offence for which such punishment is inflicted.
- Art 141. - Whenever any male child is punished by corporal correction, the Master and Schoolmaster shall (if possible) be both present.
- Art 142. - No male child shall be punished by flogging whose age may be reasonably supposed to exceed fourteen years.

Male child = under 13 years old

Female child = under 16 years old

Tasks

Document 1 – Witness Statement. Mary Lambhurst. This is one of a series of witness statements into allegations of alleged harsh (illegal) treatment/punishment by the master and mistress of the Wandsworth and Clapham Union workhouse towards a number of children.

- a) What punishments does Mary (14 years old) receive or witness in the workhouse? – Mary had to stay alone in the Chapel for 3 days; Eliza H was beaten; Hair was pulled from Mary's head; Mary was beaten; Mary Clements was beaten black and blue; Mary Baines had to be confined in the laundry for 1 month; Ann Maides head was cut open, allegedly with a strap and buckle (and the wound was not dressed); Mary had to stand on the stage in the schoolroom from 7pm until 1 or 2 am.
- b) What rules are being broken by the workhouse staff? There should be no corporal punishment (such as caning or flogging) for any female under 16. We don't know the age of some of the girls in the text, but children under 12 should not be punished during the night. Mary was told that she had only been in the schoolhouse for an hour – why? Because children weren't allowed to be punished during the night.
- c) What does the evidence suggest about workhouse staff? They were prepared to break the rules. But they were also aware of the rules and wanted to cover up their behaviours.
- d) What does the nature of the evidence reveal about authorities? This is a witness statement – what does that tell you about the authorities? That they were interested in interviewing or investigating illegal punishments against children. Date? This is early on after the Acts implementation – 1834. Was that more of a priority (that it was being implemented correctly) rather than concern or care for the children?

Document 2 - Witness Statement. Statement of Peter Lyth (with cross examination), a 13 year old boy who alleged he was excessively beaten by William Carr, the school master.

- a) What punishments does Peter (13 years old) receive or witness in the workhouse? The Master hit him twice on 1 hand. The Schoolmaster took away his beef. The Schoolmaster beat him once the Master had left.
- b) What rules are being broken by the workhouse staff? The master and Schoolmaster were not both present for the corporal punishment.
- c) What does the evidence suggest about workhouse staff? They were prepared to break the rules. What does the cross examination statement reveal about the workhouse staff? They are trying to lie/ cover up their actions. But 1 woman (Mrs Wellum) seems sympathetic towards the children.
- d) What does the nature of the evidence reveal about authorities? This is a witness statement – what does that tell you about the authorities? That they were interested in interviewing or investigating illegal punishments against children.

Tasks

Document 3 -Extract from the Clutton Minute Book. Refers to a brief investigation into the actions of the schoolmaster, accused by George Brimble and Joseph Gullick (pupils) of overly severe punishment at the workhouse school.

- a) What punishments do George (11 years old) and Joseph (8 years) receive or witness in the workhouse? Beaten with severe bruises.
- b) What rules are being broken by the workhouse staff? The master and Schoolmaster were not both present for the corporal punishment, as the master was not informed. The schoolmaster used instruments which were not approved by the authorities.
- c) What does the evidence suggest about workhouse staff? They were prepared to break the rules. But they were also aware of the rules and wanted to cover up their behaviours.
- d) What does the nature of the evidence reveal about authorities? These are minutes from an investigation – what does that tell you about the authorities? That they were interested in interviewing or investigating illegal punishments against children. What were the consequences of the investigation – what does this tell you? The schoolmaster resigned. Implies that some allegations were taken seriously by the authorities.

Document 4 – Letter.

- a) What punishments does the child or children receive in the workhouse? The governor of the workhouse pushed the child around with force. He asked for her to be locked away.
- b) What rules are being broken by workhouse staff? Corporal punishment is inflicted on a female child (assuming she is under the age of 14). Also neglect to wash and care for the child when they have wet the bed.
- c) What does the evidence suggest about workhouse staff? The governor is supposedly trying to hide his involvement.
- d) What does the nature of the evidence reveal about authorities? The paupers were willing to write to the authorities. The paupers knew their rights and wanted the authorities to investigate!

Document 5 – Letter. An interesting one where the complaint may not be all that it seems!

- a) What punishments does the child or children receive in the workhouse? The pauper claims that an 8 year old boy, and a girl, have been beaten by the School master.
- b) What rules are being broken by workhouse staff? Not exactly clear – if the girl has been beaten than that would break the rules. It may be that the punishment on the boy would be deemed excessive, possibly an instrument was used (not clear).
- c) What does the evidence suggest about workhouse staff? The staff did issue punishments for misbehaviour (the Master has admitted to this) – but this was within the rules for boys. Shows that the staff were often clear about what the rules were.
- d) What does the nature of the evidence reveal about authorities? The guardians sought out incorrect claims or 'falsehoods'. According to historian David Roberts (in his article 'How Cruel was the Victorian Poor Law? Historical Journal (1963), "both real and imaginary tales of cruelty" were often told.

Tasks

Suggested written task:

Consider the 5 pieces of evidence looked at in this lesson.

To what extent did the workhouse uphold the principles of 'less eligibility' for children?

Document 1 - Transcript

Date of letter: 23 August 1843

Poor Law Union: Wandsworth and Clapham Poor Law Union

Union counties: Surrey

Parish county: Surrey

CIRCUMTEXT:

TEXT:

Mary Lambhurst_ ----- ^14 years old,^ sworn _deposed, I was educated in the W.H. once Miss R beat Eliza H, I said it was a shame_ the Matron dragged me out of ----- my seat by the Hair. I was taken to the Chapel; I had to remain there 3 days till I begged Miss R's pardon. Eliza H. was beaten for taking her supper without Miss R's leave. Hair was pulled from out of my head. Eliza H. was ----- and black and blue I saw the marks the same night --- the next night --- I was kept in the Chapel till just before Mr. R went to bed we were in the Chapel all the next day and the following, the 3rd day we were in the Chapel; it was Sunday and we begged Miss R's pardon at night. I have seen Knots in the Rope at the ends, and one to hold by. I have been taken out of bed in the Evening and sent to the Chapel, I was allowed to put on my clothes. I was beaten once because my sister was out of her place and I did not tell. Mary Clements was beaten for not spelling, and she had blows on her hands, shoulders and head; she was bruised black and blue. Once Mrs and Miss R were out, we were running over the school. Mr.R. came and put us on the stage ^in the Schoolroom^ Where we remained till one or two o'clock in the morning when Miss R came home. Eliza Hannington who came for us said it was that hour, it was just before 7 when we were put on the stage. Mary Baines was confined I think about a month in the laundry._ Ann [Maides] head [was] cut open, she told me Mrs R had done it with a strap with a buckle to it; I saw the wound it bled. Louisa Dwyne's ear was split, she said Mr R had done it. L D was to put Talcum to it ^I never saw any one dress it^_. I do not know that the girls were punished with a strap, I do not see as such any knots at the end of the Rope, only in the middle of the crop used by the Master. I never heard that E. Hall and Louisa Dwyne fought and D's ear was torn.

Document 2 (a)

Catalogue Ref: MH 12/11198/297

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ending for the Master - I recollect James Howard
in particular. When the Schoolmaster went for me
to his room, he said I must sign the paper -
which I did. He then asked me if it was correct.
I said so he said I must sign it was correct,
or he would again punish me.

"Signed"
Jas Lyth.

back to have the boys taken away. I refused to do
the Statute. Lyth told the Master that I had
been punishing my boys and gripping my fist at
Howard. The Schoolmaster then sent for William
and the Schoolmaster beat me - he also beat me
all round the room, after the Master left and
I then asked for a piece of string and the
Schoolmaster ^{said to me} ~~gave me~~ a piece of the string saying
a piece like in the Master's Book which I used
and twisted round my neck, in a passion,
the Schoolmaster again beat me very much, he
got my head between his legs and beat me a great
deal. He then sent me to the house at my own
cost bleeding from a blow from the corner. Mr.
William advised that I should not try just to work
again as my arm was hurt. I wanted to clean the
ground and desk afterwards I went to the day room
with the other boys for supper. The Schoolmaster said
I should not have spoken against with the
other boys and sent me back to the school room.
My supper and afterwards sent to me to the school
room. The Schoolmaster did not speak to me
about the consequence of the Act I had attempted.
The Schoolmaster after beat the boys without

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William Howard and the other three
children under the board of
Governors of this Union at a Special
Meeting held on Tuesday 29 January
1851, as to the excessive punishment
of Peter Lyth, and the Statute of the
Union for the Schoolmaster with
reference thereto, dated dated 10 January
1851.

Peter Lyth says I am turned 13 years of age -
I am an orphan whose house is the Workhouse. I gave
my Sister Charles Lyth but her dead eyes & my Mother
I have at died the day after my Father was buried -
I was punished by Mr. for the Schoolmaster on
Thursday the second day of January 51. I was in the
Schoolroom by order - when the Schoolmaster was
sleeping there and by accident I ran against him
the fall. Lyth told the Master I had pushed
the boy over and the Master threatened to
use my back hand. I went with the rest of the
boys to dinner and the Schoolmaster beat my dinner

1851
FEB 10
P.L.

Document 2 - Transcript

Statement of Peter Lyth (with cross examination), a 13 year old boy who alleged he was excessively beaten by William Carr, the school master.

Archive and reference: The National Archives: MH 12/11198/297. Original reference: 7614/851.

Date of letter: 4 March 1851.

Poor Law Union: Wolstanton and Burslem Poor Law Union.

Union counties: Staffordshire. Parish county: Staffordshire

CIRCUMTEXT:

Witness Statement concerning the complaint over the beating of Peter Lyth, pauper child.

TEXT

The Examination of Peter Lyth, taken on oath before Harry Bernard Farnell, Poor Law Inspector. Who says, I am turned 13 years of age. I am an orphan and have been in the Workhouse three years, my father Charles Lyth has been dead three years, and my Mother Hannah died the day after my Father was buried.

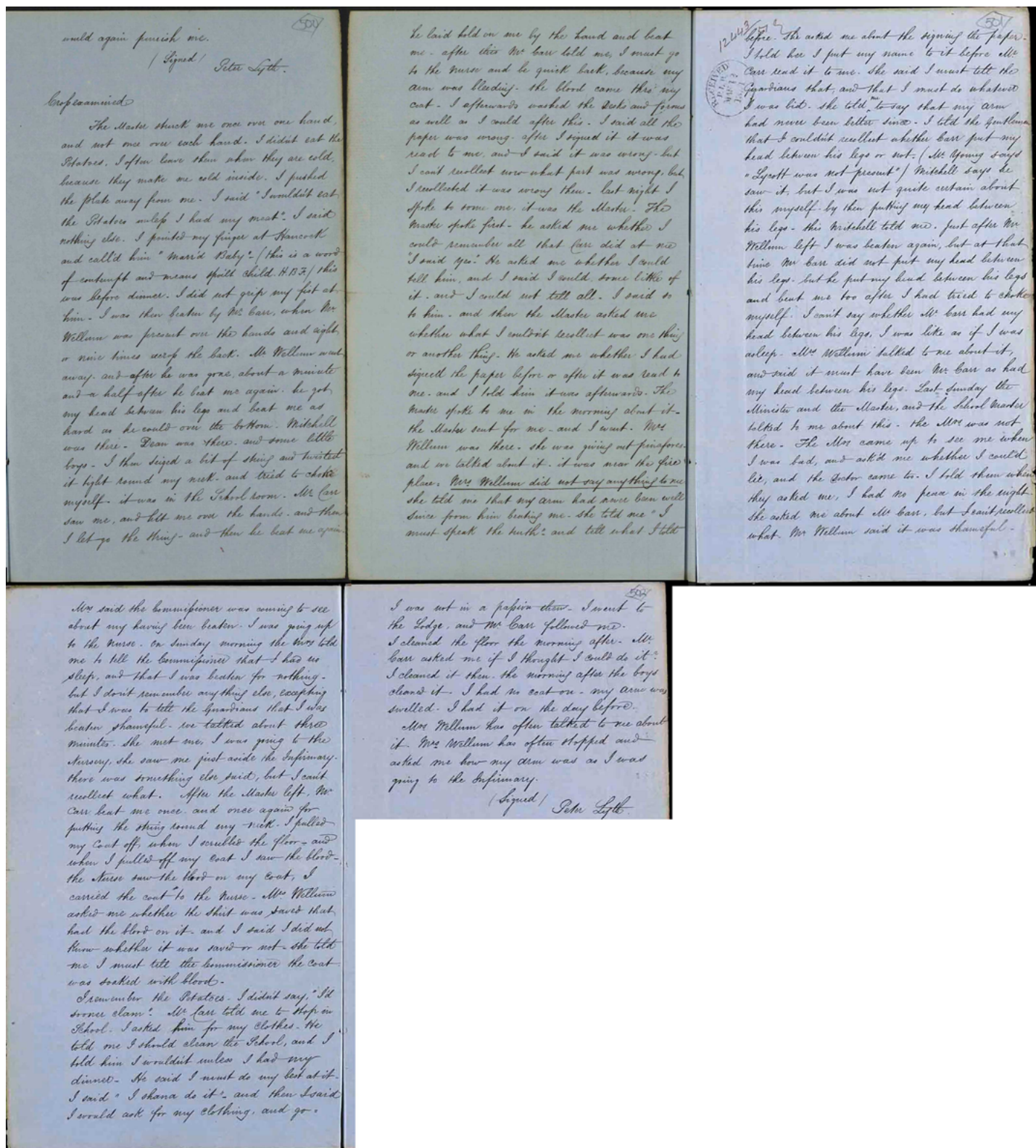
I was punished by Mr Carr the School Master on Thursday the second day of January 1851. I was in the School room before dinner, when Thomas Hancock was stooping down and by accident I ran against him and he fell. Lycett told the Master I had pushed the boy over and the Master struck me twice once on each hand - I went with the rest of the boys to dinner and the Schoolmaster sent my dinner back to have the Beef taken away- I refused to eat the Potatoes - Lycett told the Master that I had been pointing my finger and gripping my fist at Hancock - the School master beat me - he also beat me all round the room after the Master left and I then asked for a piece of string and the School Master said there was a piece on the desk, seeing a piece lie on the Master's desk which I seized and twisted round my neck in a passion, the School Master again beat me very much, he got my head between his legs and beat me a great deal He then sent me to the Nurse as my arm was bleeding from a blow from the cane.

Mr Wellum advised that I should not be put to work again as my arm was hurt - I assisted to clean the Forms and Desk afterwards, I went to the Day Room with the other boys for Supper, the School Master said he would not have such a scoundrel with the other boys and sent me back to the School room, my Supper was afterwards sent to me to the School Room. The School Master did not speak to me about the consequence of the act I had attempted. The School Master often beat the boys without sending for the Master. I recollect James Hancock in particular. When the School Master sent for me to his room he said I must sign the paper which I then did he then asked me if it was correct, I said no, he said I must say it was correct or he would again punish me
(Signed) Peter Lyth.

[Continued...]

Document 2 (b)

Catalogue Ref: MH 12/11198/297



Document 2 - Transcript (continued)

Cross examined.

The Master struck me once over one hand, and not once over each hand. I didn't eat the Potatoes, I often leave them when they are cold, because they make me cold inside. I pushed the plate away from me. I said "I wouldn't eat the Potatoes unless I had my meat" - I said nothing else. I pointed my finger at Hancock and call'd him "Marr'd Baby" - (this is a word of contempt and means spoilt child. H.B.F) this was before dinner. I did not grip my fist at him - I was then beaten by Mr Carr, when Mr Wellum was present over the hands and eight or nine times across the back. Mr Wellum went away - and after he was gone, about a minute and a half after he beat me again - he got my head between his legs and beat me as hard as he could over the bottom. Mitchell was there - Dean was there-and some little boys -

I then seized a bit of string and twisted it right around my neck - and tried to choke myself - it was in the School room - Mr Carr saw me, and hit me over the hands - and then I let go the string - and then he beat me again. He laid hold on me by the hand and beat me- after this Mr Carr told me, I must go to the Nurse and be quick back, because my arm was bleeding - the blood came thro' my coat - I afterwards washed the Desks and forms as well as I could after this - I said all the paper was wrong - after I signed it it was read to me, and I said it was wrong - but I can't recollect now what part was wrong, but I recollected it was wrong then -

last night I spoke to some one, it was the Master - The Master spoke first - he asked me whether I could remember all that Carr did to me "I said Yes" - He asked me whether I could tell him, and I could not tell all - I said so to him - and then the Mater asked me whether what I couldn't recollect was one thing or another thing - He asked me whether I had signed the paper before or after it was read to me - and I told him it was afterwards.

The Master spoke to me in the morning about it- the Master sent for me - and I went. Mrs Wellum was there-she was giving out pinafores and we talked about it - it was near the fire place: Mrs Wellum did not say anything to me she told me that my arm had never been well since from him beating me - she told me "I must speak the truth"-and tell what I told before. She asked me about the signing the paper- I told her I put my name to it before Mr Carr read it to me. She said I must tell the Guardians that, and that I must do whatever I was bid - she told ^me^ to say that my arm had never been better since - I told the Gentlemen that I couldn't recollect whether Carr put my head between his legs or not. (Mr Young says "Lycott was not present") Mitchell says he saw it, but I was not quite certain about this myself -by then putting my head between his legs - this Mitchell told me. Just after Mr Wellum left I was beaten again, but at that time Mr Carr did not put my head between his legs - but he put my head between his legs and beat me too after I had tried to choke myself. I cannot say whether Mr Carr had my head between his legs, I was like as if I was asleep - Mr Wellum talked to me about it, and said it must have been Mr Carr as had my head between his legs.

Last Sunday the Minister and the Master, and the School Master talked to me about this - the Mrs was not there - The Mrs came up to see me when I was bad, and ask'd me whether I could lie, and the Doctor came too. I told them when they asked me, I had no peace in the night. She

Document 2 - Transcript (continued)

asked me about Mr Carr, but I can't recollect what Mr Wellum said it was shameful - Mrs said the Commissioner was coming to see me about me having been beaten. I was going up to the Nurse -

On Sunday morning the Mrs told me to tell the Commissioner that I had no sleep, and that I was beaten for nothing - but I don't remember anything else, excepting that I was told to tell the Guardians that I was beaten shameful - we talked about three minutes, she saw me just aside the Infirmary there was something else said, but I can't recollect what. After the Master left, Mr Carr beat me once - and once again for putting the string round my neck - I pulled my Coat off, when I scrubbed the floor - and when I pulled off my coat I saw the blood - the Nurse saw the blood on my coat, I carried the coat to the Nurse - Mrs Wellum asked me whether the shirt was saved that had the blood on it - and I said I did not know whether it was saved or not - she told me I must tell the Commissioner the coat was soaked in blood-

I remember the Potatoes - I didn't say "I'd sooner clam". Mr Carr told me to stop in School. I asked him for my clothes. He told me I should clean the School, and I told him I wouldn't unless I had my dinner - He said I must do my best at it - I said "I shana do it" - and then I said I would ask for my clothing and go - I am not in a passion then - I went to the Lodge, and Mr Carr followed me.

I cleaned the floor the morning after - Mr Carr asked me if I thought I could do it? I cleaned it then - the morning after the boys cleaned it. I had no coat on - my arm was swelled - I had it on the day before.

Mrs Wellum has often talked to me about it. Mrs Wellum has often stopped and asked me how my arm was as I was going to the infirmary.

(Signed) Peter Lyth.

Document 3

Catalogue Ref: MH12/10324/306

in answer states - He produces the card, as
 per visiting card / and the stick, (a small
 withy stick). They were not instruments
 which had been sanctioned by the Board for
 such punishments.

Moved by Mr. Burgess demanded to know
 from what it is the opinion of this Board
 that the Schoolmaster is in the infliction of
 punishment on George Brantle and sought
 Gullick has acted illegally and improperly.

Carried unanimously.
 Moved by Mr. Burgess seconded by Mr.
 & Gullick that the Schoolmaster be requested
 to resign his Office.

Moved in an amendment by Mr. Gullick
 seconded by Mr. Burgess that the Schoolmaster
 be called in and reprimanded.

On a show of hands the amendment was
 carried by four to three.

The Schoolmaster was accordingly
 called in and reprimanded by the Chairman.

A letter was read (received during the
 sitting of the Board) from Mr. Charles
 Fowler the Schoolmaster, tendering his
 resignation of his Office on this day month.
 Resolved that such resignation be accepted
 and that the Clerk do give advertisement
 for the Election of a Schoolmaster in the
 3rd April, and that in addition to the
 usual papers, the advertisement be inserted
 in the Bristol Mercury and the London
 Times.

444
 (Copy)
 It appears on an inspection of the report of the
 visiting Committee that two of the Boys had
 been improperly punished by the Schoolmaster,
 & they were called before the Board.

Other names and complaints were as
 follows.

George Brantle of Dept Littleton, aged
 eleven years, states that the Schoolmaster
 has beaten him with rods, across the shoulders,
 because he could not write, and that he was
 beaten at the time when the alleged offence
 was committed. His jacket was on.

The Boy was examined, marks of
 bruising were found on both arms, except the
 back just below the shoulders, a large bruise
 on the left side under the arm, and another
 on the right ear.

Joseph Gullick of Bamberrough aged
 eight years, states that the Schoolmaster beat
 him for keeping his hat, with a stick. He
 beating took place in the Wash house, his
 jacket was off.

This Boy was also examined - There were
 marks of severe bruises on both arms.

Mr. W. H. the Master, states that he has
 received no intimation whatever of any punish-
 ment having been inflicted by the Schoolmaster on
 these boys.

Mr. Fowler the Schoolmaster was called in, and
 admitted that he had punished the Boys in the

Document 3 - Transcript

Archive and reference: The National Archives: MH12/10324/306

Original reference: 11654/1852

Date of letter: 14 April 1852

Poor Law Union number: 374

Poor Law Union: Clutton Poor Law Union

Union counties: Somerset

Parish county: Somerset

CIRCUMTEXT:

Clutton Union April 8th 1852 Copy

TEXT:

It appeared on an inspection of the report of the Visiting Committee that two of the Boys had been improperly punished by the Schoolmaster, & they were called before the Board Their names and complaints are as follows. George [Brimble] of High Littleton, aged eleven years, states that the Schoolmaster had beaten him with cords across the shoulders, because he could not write, and that he was so beaten at the time when the alleged offence was committed. His jacket was on. The Boy was examined. Marks of bruises were found on both arms, [across] the back just below the shoulders, a large bruise on the left side under the arm and another on the right ear.

Joseph Gullick of Farmborough aged eight years, stated that the Schoolmaster beat him for messing his bed, with a stick. The beating took place in the Workhouse, his jacket was off. This boy was also examined - There were marks of severe bruises on both arms.

Mr Roff, the Master, stated that he had received no intimation whatever of any punishment having been inflicted by the Schoolmaster on these boys

Mr Fowler the Schoolmaster was called in, and admitted that he had punished the boys in the manner stated - He produced the cord, (as Bed sacking cord) and the stick, (a small withy twig). They were not instruments which had the sanction by the Board for such punishments.

Moved by Mr. Budgett seconded by Mr Perrin that it is the opinion of this Board that the schoolmaster in the infliction of punishment on George [Brimble] and Joseph Gullick has acted illegally and improperly. Carried unanimously. Moved by Mr Budgett seconded by Mr [Broribb] that the Schoolmaster be requested to resign his office. Moved as an amendment by Mr [Naist] seconded by Mr [Press] that the Schoolmaster be called in and reprimanded. On a show of hands the amendment was carried by four to three. The schoolmaster was accordingly called in and reprimanded by the Chairman

A letter was read (received during the sitting of the Board) from Mr Charles Fowler the Shoolmaster, tendering his resignation of his office on this day month. Resolved that such resignation be accepted and that the Clerk do issue advertisements for the election of a Schoolmaster on the 30th April, and that in addition to the usual papers, the advertisement be inserted in the Bristol Mercury and the London Times.

Document 4

Catalogue Ref: MH12/13307, 3973/1858

4C-19-0. 1mncv88. Birmingham RZ 495
 Gentlemen this to inform you of the brutal
 Conduct of the governor and matron to my child
 and wife my child wet the bed and the matron
 ordered the woman that washes the children to
 put my child in the cold water to stand
 there but the woman would not do it but
 come and told me and she went
 to protect the child and the matron
 sent for the governor to lock her up
 he come and pushed her about and her
 got a way from him and run to the
 able ward to tell me he over took her
 as she came in to the passage and
 smothered her cap of her head and pushed
 her down in to filth and her remained
 so for a long time she was fearst to
 be carried down to the infirmary in
 the chair and neither mother nor
 child could not be removed both where
 so will - he don't want this to be made
 known to you for fear of is of is
 caractor i wish for the case to be
 investigated for a case like that
 must not be blood over
 They are now well get from the house
 Thomas Howen X
 Birmingham workhouse 4840
 October 19th 1858 17

Document 4 - Transcript

Archive and reference: The National Archives: MH12/13307, 3973/1858

Date of letter: 19 October 1858

Gentlemen this to inform you of the brutal Conduct of the governor and matron to my child and while my child [xxx] wet the bed and the matron ordered the woman that wash the children to put my child into cold water to stand there but the woman would not do it but com and told the mother and she went to proctect the child and the matron sent for the govenor to lock her up he come and pushed her about and her got a way from him and run to the able ward to tell me he ove took her as she came in to the pasage and snathed her cap of her head and pusht her down in to [fils] and her remained so for a long time she was foarst to be caried don to the informery in the [chear] and neather mother nor child could not be moved both where so hill – he he dont ^want^ this to be made known to you for fear of is of is caractor I wish for the case to be envestigated for a case like that must not be blood over

They are not well yet from the [xxxx]

Thomas Howen

Birmingham workhouse

Document 5

Catalogue Ref: MH12/8977/164, 6222/A/1842

Mr. Bailey
 +
 Will
 The name of the order of the
 letter is Rochester, one of the most
 respectable banks in the British Empire
 who order with me a good number of
 letters of credit - The whole case comes before
 the Court of Chancery at the time, and it was
 found that the order only gave the day a
 right for a ^{few} hours for carrying eggs & chickens
 & having presented to the two before by his own
 father. Rochester never has a daughter in the house
 as he girl has it very long away from it - This
 sent the statement is consequently a falsehood.
 Sept. 28. 1842 P. H. J. H.

325 2 18
 I have owned this horse & you will pardon
 my presumption in supposing this
 to you but the ~~page~~ page that I have
 succeeded has compelled me to it I have
 a little boy only eight years old has
 been cruelly beaten by this monster and
 is still very bad and on other features
 used drove from the house and when
 struck by the monster and when
 I complained to the guardians they
 only laughed at me I hope you will
 order the case to be investigated
 as I have no other place to apply
 to not knowing the instant
 Commissioned named as above
 Beware on time Union

Research on French literature

Wm. H. Bondy, May 1842



Document 5 - Transcript

Archive and reference: The National Archives: MH12/8977/164, 6222/A/1842

Date of letter: 17 May 1842

CIRCUMTEXT:

The name of the writer of this Letter is Middleton, one of the most refractory paupers in the Berwick Workhouse & his statements are a gross misrepresentation of facts. The whole case came before the Board of Guardians at the time, and it was proved that the master only gave the boy a slight box on the ear for refusing to go to school, he having ^been^ prompted to the misbehaviour by his own father Middleton never had a daughter in the house and no girl has at any time run away from it – this part of his statement is consequently a falsehood

Sept. 28 1842 W.H.J.H.

TEXT:

Honoured Sir I hope you will pardon my presumption in addressing this to you but the [*****] that I have reseived here Compels me to it I have a little Boy only eight years old has been Cruelly beaten by the Master and is Still very bad and another sister was drove from the house and Struck by the Master and when I Complained to the guardians they only laughed at me I hope you will order the Case to be investigated as I have no other place to apply to not knowing the assistant Commisioners name or address

A pauper

Berwick on tweed Union

Workhouse

17 May 1842