

passage for each family (£6.10s per adult and £3.5s per child); landing charges in America (5 shillings per head); and an allowance of £1.10s per adult and 15s per child. In order to advance the money for the paupers to emigrate which had to be paid when they set sail, various ratepayers of Long Buckby, including the churchwarden Mr Worston, agreed to pay the following sums up front and “to stop their levies which become due until they have been repaid”, *ie* to stop paying the poor rate which was supporting the paupers while they stayed in Long Buckby: “Messrs Worston and Bland £100 Thomas Perkins £20 George Ashby £20 William Irens £20 William Wills £20 Samuel Russell £5”.<sup>6</sup>

From the records of the Brackley Union in 1836 comes evidence of activity in other parishes, predating the Union, because of the debts they left behind.<sup>7</sup> The parish of Sulgrave made an application to sell some cottages “to pay off ... £82 borrowed about 4 years back for the purpose of emigrating some poor families to America” and Finmere applied to sell a plot of land to pay off a debt incurred in 1832 to enable 23 individuals to emigrate to Canada. A copy of the resolution of the Finmere Vestry, dated 17 February 1832, appears in the Brackley Union correspondence for 1840, showing that four families (9 adults aged 14 and over and 13 children) “are ready and desirous to emigrate on condition that the parish pay all the expenses of their passage to New York [*sic*] and put £2 in the pocket of each individual clear on their landing in that city.”<sup>8</sup> £150 was estimated as sufficient to cover the cost. Entries for March and April 1840 also indicate that the parish of St James Brackley wished to sell cottages to pay off a debt incurred in 1832 to pay for pauper families to emigrate; and Sulgrave was still trying to pay off an emigration debt – whether it was the same one referred to above is unclear. The Banbury Union records refer to similar action in North Oxfordshire: a return of those who had emigrated from Bloxham between July 1835 and June 1836 recorded the departure of Thomas and Elizabeth Taylor and their 5 children to Upper Canada and added “Two other families of agricultural labourers have emigrated from this parish but their expenses were defrayed from a private fund and not from the poor rates.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> NRO L Bu 88.

<sup>7</sup> MH 12 8671.

<sup>8</sup> MH 12 8672.

<sup>9</sup> MH 12 9577