

*Lushington*, which sailed from Southampton to Quebec in May 1845, shows that it carried passengers from Helmdon in Northants, Marsh Gibbon in Oxfordshire, Steeple Claydon, Twyford, Amersham, Chesham and Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire and Hailsham in Sussex; every adult male was described as a labourer.<sup>29</sup>

However not everything was plain sailing for those who stayed behind, as the experience of Marston St Lawrence shows. The parish supported emigrants on several occasions, beginning not later than 1836 when the parish's Vestry Book recorded the sale of nine cottages to pay for the expenses of three families and two single men who had emigrated to America.<sup>30</sup> This was followed in 1840 by an application to sell off more parish houses, and in 1843 by a resolution to sell property to assist four families who wanted to emigrate, supplemented in 1844 by borrowing first £50 and then another £50.<sup>31</sup> In 1845 a further £70 was borrowed to assist another 17 people to emigrate to Western Canada, and in 1846 £40 for a family of seven.<sup>32</sup> By 1848 this burden of debt was getting out of hand and the parish made representations to the Poor Law Commissioners to sell off consols to repay emigration debts of £63 18s 3d to Gillett & Co of Banbury and £90 owed to Bartlett & Co. This does not appear to have been successful because the Commissioners replied first that the proceedings relating to the debts which Marston St Lawrence had incurred in connection with emigration had been "so irregular" that there was little the Commissioners could do, and secondly that if the annual interest payments had been made by the parish the debt would have almost been discharged by then.<sup>33</sup> So in 1851 the parish had to decide to collect a rate of ½d to pay off Gillett's debt. But in the meantime the parish had raised another £8 for the emigration of a poor person to Upper Canada in April 1849. How long it took Marston St Lawrence to clear their debts is not known.

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<sup>29</sup> MH 12/ 8673 Brackley Union Correspondence 1843-46, 20 May 1845.

<sup>30</sup> NRO Vestry Book 1836-1857.

<sup>31</sup> NRO Brackley Union Minutes 1837-40, PL1/2, p 348.

<sup>32</sup> MH 12/8673 Brackley Union Correspondence 1843-46, 14 April 1845 and 28 February 1846.

<sup>33</sup> MH 12/8674 Brackley Union correspondence 1847-50, January 1849.

<sup>33</sup> *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington, 1835-48* (Banbury Historical Society vol 29) pp101,176-9, 231-2.