

Another glimpse of fund-raising for emigration appears in the diary of the Revd William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington.³⁴ On October 4 1841 he “attended a meeting this Evening at King’s Arms & gave £2 towards sending a woman named Rymill & two children to America, & a young woman named Powers”. In March 1845 he attended a vestry meeting about “the parties wishing to emigrate” and on April 15 he “sent for James Clarke, & delivered into his hands Bibles, Prayer Books & other Religious Books, as a present from me to the persons who were about to emigrate tomorrow to America at the Parish Expence – a proceeding in no wise approved of or sanctioned by me – especially when the parties emigrating were considered duly by me.” His diary entry for April 16 reads “19 persons left this place today for the purpose of emigrating to the United States or some part of America – Scroggs the Overseer took them to Southampton.” Evidently the Vicar was not a great help to the would-be emigrants, even to the extent of not knowing that his parishioners (all labourers, two of whom were married with children) were going to Montreal in the ship *Saint Anne*. Three weeks later Mr Risley received a visit from Mr J Bellow of Adderbury who “called to solicit a contribution towards defraying the expenses of sending two young men Olds and Hopkins out to Canada as emigrants”. This shows one village trying to get help from another to fund emigration, and it may be significant that, although four Adderbury families did go, they did not include Olds or Hopkins.

Some idea of the process and cost of sending emigrants abroad can be got from the experience of Eydon in 1845 and 1846.³⁵ Standard printed forms were used to record the process, beginning with a copy of the resolution in the Vestry Book, stating that

“At a meeting of the Rate-payers of the above parish, and Owners of Property therein entitled to vote pursuant to the provision of an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of His late Majesty King William IV, intituled “*An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales*”, held at the National School Room in the said parish on [date] ... it was resolved that the Churchwardens and Overseers shall, and they are hereby directed to borrow the sum of [amount] as a fund or contribution for defraying the expenses of the emigration of poor persons

³⁴ *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington, 1835-48* (Banbury Historical Society vol 29) pp101,176-9, 231-2. Risley did also have strong personal connections with Adderbury.

³⁵ NRO Eydon Parish records Ey 182-88; and Brackley Union Minutes 1843-46, PL1/4, pp 269, 286, 316.