

The whole process from Vestry meeting to safe delivery could be very quick. In 1845 the Eydon meeting asking for £100 and the Poor Law Commissioners' approval were both in March. The first instalment was paid on 2 April (probably for about £60, since it would have included money for clothing etc, as well as the passage money of £44.1s 9d). The Guardians paid a cheque for £10.0s 4d on 14 May to pay for transporting the 23 emigrants to London. The certificate of safe arrival was received on 30 July and the payment of £44.1s 9d to Carter & Bonus was authorised forthwith.

The Eydon Parish Records also give some indication of the calculations which the parish might undertake before deciding to help emigration. In the case of Ann Willoughby and her family, mentioned above (pages 263-65), the names of the 16 ratepayers who decided to pay for her emigration are recorded, with a calculation that to keep the family in the Workhouse would cost £41.13s 4d a year, whereas the one-off cost of sending her to Canada was £62.10s. The calculation is annotated "If it should be agreed that they should be sent to Canada and the money to be borrowed and paid off in four years, it would raise each rate-payer's voluntary subscription ½d in the £". It is then endorsed "Agreed to raise money to enable Ann Willoughby & her family to emigrate to join her husband in Canada, the money to be borrowed & paid off in 2 years with interest at 5 per cent."³⁶

Later years

From about 1850 onwards the number of assisted emigrants began to fall, and after a family went from Syresham to Quebec in 1853³⁷ the records of parishes helping emigrants to Canada become few and far between. Barrie Trinder's history of *Victorian Banbury* notes a new rise in emigration from Banbury around the 1870s when the agricultural depression set in, and the *Banbury Guardian* and *Banbury Advertiser* published letters from Banburians extolling working conditions in Canada and Pennsylvania. But the destinations of emigrants from the region were further afield, including Brazil, Texas, and New Zealand, and most of them were probably going at their own expense.

³⁶ NRO Ey 186.

³⁷ NRO PL1/ 564.