

## PARISH OF CHARDSTOCK AND ALL SAINTS

### EXAMINATIONS TAKEN ON OATH 1798 TO 1822

Transcriptions and extracts made by members of Chardstock Historical Record Group (CHRG) from original documents held at Devon Heritage Services at Exeter under references 2590A/PO21 to 2590A/PO30.

#### **27.11.1798 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO21**

John **CASLEN**, husbandman now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chardstock and lived there until he was 14, when he bound himself “an apprentice by indenture” for seven years to John **MITCHEL**, Yeoman of Chardstock. At the age of 18 his Master gave him leave to go away into any other service upon condition to pay his said Master 10s a year out of the wages he should receive in any other service. John Caslen then went to Chard to serve Robert **LINCORN**, miller, for one year for £3, then for one year and a quarter for his full wage. After that he pressed into the Queen’s Service and served a foot soldier seven years and upwards. After he was lawfully discharged about 15 years ago, he returned to Chardstock living there for a year wrought by the day at husbandry and not in any covenant. Since then he went into Chard Parish, married his first wife and had one daughter named Elizabeth. Shortly after he married his second wife, now living, and had by her one son named William and two daughters Mary and Sarah, all still living. Since he came back last to Chard, he has rented four small estates of several owners, which altogether were worth £10 10s a year and paid two years rent. Signed the Mark of John Caslen.

#### **2.12.1747 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO22/1**

William **DAVIS** was born at Axminster and served an apprentice there with John **IRISH**. He then went to Chard and lived there about 20 or 30 years from whence he was removed to Chardstock, where he has resided to this day. Signed the Mark of William Davis.

#### **2.12.1747 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO22/2**

Henery **WESSCOMBE**, now residing in Chardstock, was born in Pittminster, Somerset and lived there until he was about 18 years of age. Then he bound himself an apprentice to John **BARBER** of St. Mary Magdalen, Taunton “White Bread Baker” for seven years. His Master was declared bankrupt so he served about half his term. He then set himself up as a White Bread Baker in Ilminster, Somerset where he lived for four years in a cottage. From thence he went to St. Mary Magdalen, Taunton and rented a house and backside to the value of £20 per annum and was possessed of the tenement upwards of two years. He then came to Chardstock and has lived there upwards of two years. Signed Henry **WISCOMBE** (note different spelling to that above)

#### **1.8.1748 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO22/3**

William **DAVEY**, weaver now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chard, Somerset “but have heard that his father had a Discharge from the Parish of Axminster, Devon”. William had not served an apprentice nor had he done anything to gain a Settlement, but as above. Signed the Mark of William Davey.

Note at bottom of document reads:

“Received first August, 1748 of Mr William Amor nine shillings in full for a Summons, one Warrant and three Examinations on account of the Parish of Chardstock  
Signed Samuel Gundry

**1.8.1748 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO22/4**

George **BANFIELD**, now residing in Chardstock, was born at Ilminster, Somerset and had an estate in Ilminster for which he paid the Church and Poor Rates and "enjoyed it after he came to age". Then came to live in Chardstock for 18 years and afterwards rented an estate of Mr John **ROUNSIVELL** called Fordwater for which he paid £6 a year for four years and had receipts for his rent. At the same time he took an estate of Mr Thomas **DEANE** at £3 10s a year and paid the taxes which he enjoyed three quarters of a year. Mr Deane took distress in the last quarter. The same year he rented one field of Mr John **HOAR** for which he paid 30s a year. George Banfield said that he had not done any act whereby to gain a Settlement but in Chardstock. Signed George **Bandfield** (note different spelling of surname)

**17.8.1748 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO22/5**

Elizabeth **KEATE**, now residing in Chardstock, said she was born in Chardstock. When about 18 years of age she covenanted with Mr William **JAMES** of Forton, Chard, Somerset for one year service for which she was to receive 55s. She performed this service and received her wages accordingly. She then returned to her father in Chardstock and lived there about five years. Afterwards she lived with Anthony **HENLEY** Esq. of the Grange in the County of Hampshire. She make no agreement for wages, but had meat, drink and lodging. She said that her Master voluntarily gave her money, but not as wages and that she had not since done any act whereby to gain Settlement, but as above. Signed the Mark of Elizabeth Keate

**17.8.1748 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO22/6**

Examination taken on Oath of Elizabeth **HANCOCK** of Chardstock concerning her daughter's legal place of Settlement (whose name is Mary **BILLEN**)  
Elizabeth **HANCOCK** said that Mary **BILLEN** her daughter was bound out an apprentice by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of Wambrook to William **WHEYDEN [WHEADON]** of Wambrook, the occupier of an estate belonging to one **DINNETT** Esq. and that her time is not yet expired.  
Signed the Mark of Elizabeth Hancock

**6.12.1748 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO22/7**

Dorothy **HOLLWILL [HOLWELL]**. now residing in Chardstock, was born in West Buckland, Somerset. When about 18 or 19 years old, she went to Shute, Devon and agreed with Richard **SONEY** for a year. She lived with him for about half a year, then married Charles **TURNER** of Chardstock with whom she lived about 20 years. Her husband then died, after which she married two men of Chardstock, namely Bernard **WELCH [WALSH]** and John **BENNETT** and she survived them both. She was then married to John **PYNE[PINE]** of Trill, Somerset with whom she lived about six months in Trill before returning to Chardstock and marrying William **HOLLWILL[HOLWELL]** of Offhill, labourer. She lived with him for about a year and a half renting a cottage house in Chardstock of yearly value 20s. he has done no other act whereby to gain a Settlement than what is here written  
Signed the Mark of Dorothy Hollwill

*Note: The Chardstock Parish Registers record the following:*

14.10.1722	Burial of Bernard <b>WALSH</b>
15.4.1723	Marriage of John <b>BENNETT</b> and Dorothy <b>WALSH</b>
9.3.1728/9	Burial of a John <b>BENNETT</b>
9.8.1731	Marriage of John <b>PINE</b> of Trul and Dorothy <b>BENNET</b>
2.2.1744/5	Marriage of William <b>HOLWAY</b> of Offield and Dorothy <b>PINE</b>
27.11.1748	Burial of William <b>HOLWELL</b>
1.10.1752	Burial of Dorothy <b>HOLWELL</b>

**22.5.1751 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/1**

William **DAVYS** was born in Chard, Somerset as his parents told him. His father belongs to Axminster, Devon. William lived with his father in Chard until he was about 17 years old, when he went and wrought with William **GUMMER** of Chard in weaving of cloth, who paid him by he

piece and continued in his service about three years. He lodged in William Gummer's house, but received no victuals of him. Then he went to work with John **POPE** in Membury, Devon weaving in cloth and being paid by the piece. Afterwards he came to Chardstock and wrought for James **WEALCH** of Chardstock, clothier, in weaving of cloth, who also paid him by the piece. He then went to Tatworth, Somerset and wrought for Mr Robert **DEANE** in weaving of cloth, who again paid him by the piece. William Davys now resides in Chardstock where he rents a house of Mr John **ROUNSEVILL**, but has not done any act or acts whereby to gain a Settlement, but as above.

Signed the Mark of William Davys.

Note at bottom of document:

*"NB It will be proper to Examine this Examinants Father before an Order".*

**22.5.1751 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/2**

Robert **WHITE**, now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chardstock as his parents told him and his Grandmother Jane **WHITE** with him £6 6s. He was bound an apprentice to Elias **FORSEY** of Thorncombe, Devon, clothier for nine years and served him for between five and six years (to wit) about four months in Thorncombe, three years at Winsham, Somerset, then to Thorncombe to serve his Master two years wanting about two months. He then came to Chardstock and wrought with Robert **DEANE** about three years working in Woollen Manufactory and received wages by the piece. At the same time he rented four cows of Samuel **APSELL** [**APSEY**] of Chardstock. He has not gained any legal Settlement but as above.

Signed the Mark of Robert White.

Note at bottom of document:

Amy [**WHITE**] the mother of Robert White said on her Oath 27.9.1751 that Robert White was bound an apprentice to "Elace **Forey**" in Thorncombe, Devon and was a Parishioner in Thorncombe before he was bound an apprentice.

Signed Amy White

**24.7.1751 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/3**

James **ABBOTT** [**ABLETT**], now residing in Chardstock, was born in Yarcombe, Devon where he lived with his parents until he was about 14 years old and afterwards at several different places until he was about 22 years old. Then he went to Marshwood, Dorset and rented an estate of the yearly value of £60 and afterwards to Yarcombe where he rented an estate of Samuel **BOND** of value £26 a year, where he lived for 3 years and paid rates and taxes and the full rent as agreed on. Since then he has not done any act whereby to gain Settlement elsewhere.

Signed James **Ablett** (note different spelling of surname)

*Note: To further complicate matters, the back of the document is endorsed "James Abbot's Examination July 24th 1751"*

**14.8.1751 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/4**

Sarah **CROW**, widow now residing in Chardstock, said that she had been lawfully married to her late husband William **CROW** for 15 years and upwards. He died about six weeks since in Axminster. She said that at the time of their marriage her late husband resided in Axmouth, Devon and that he rented an estate of £200 a year and upwards and from there went to Colyton, Devon and rented of Mr John **DRAKE** an estate of £40 a year and lived upon it two years and from hence went to Chardstock and rented an estate called Battleford of Mr Thomas **DRAKE** at the yearly rent of £30 or thereabouts and lived there a year and three quarters or thereabouts and stocked the estate and paid rent accordingly. The family then went to Axminster and took of the late Mr **FORWARD** a house and backside at the rent of £4 10s a year and lived therein five years and then took another small dwelling at "two and thirty shillings and six pence a year" and lived therein until the death of her husband. She said that to her Dep[illeg] knowledge her husband never did any other act whereby to gain a Settlement.

Signed Sara Crow

**6.4.1752 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/5**

Sarah **WAKELY**, singlewoman now residing in Chardstock, was born in Wootton Fitzpaine, Dorset and since she went to Chardstock and lived there about 16 years and followed the calling of a spinster. From there she went and bargained with one Henry **POTTER** of "Hennick near Chidleigh", Devon for one whole year for which she had meat, drink and clothes and after the first year was expired she agreed again with Henry Potter for another whole year for which she was to have 40s for her years service, which she duly performed and received her wages accordingly and since she went to Whitelackington, Somerset and agreed with William **HANNING** for one whole year for which service she was to have £3 and with whom she served about four months and then parted by consent. Since then she has not done any act whereby to gain any Settlement elsewhere.

Signed the Mark of Sarah Wakely

**6.4.1752 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/6**

Betty **DAVIS**, singlewoman now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chard, Somerset where she lived with her parents until the age of about 9. Since she came to Chardstock she followed the calling of a spinster and she further says that her father lived in Chard by a Discharge given by the Officers of Axminster, Devon. She further said that she never did any act whereby to gain any Settlement.

Signed the Mark of Betty Davis

**6.4.1752 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/7**

William **DAVIS**, weaver now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chard, Somerset where he lived with his father William **DAVIS** until he attained the age of 18 and followed the calling of a weaver of his said father and further says that his father then lived in Chard by a Discharge given by the Officers of Axminster, Devon and that he never did any act whereby to gain any Settlement in any place whatsoever.

Signed William **Davies** (note different spelling of surname)

**6.4.1752 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/8**

Robert **PAGE**, now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chard, Somerset where he lived until the age of 21. His father informed him that he (Robert) was a Parishioner in Chard. He entered his Majesty's Service and served about four years before being lawfully discharged. Since then he had not done any act whereby to gain any legal Settlement elsewhere.

Signed the Mark of Robert Page

**25.9.1754 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/9**

Edward **FORREY [FORSEY]**, now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chard, Somerset as his father informs him. His father was a parishioner of the Burrow [Borough] of Chard where he now lives. The Examinant further said that he has done no act to gain Settlement since his birth but as above written.

The Mark of Edward Forrey

*Note: Two endorsements on back of document read "Ed Ferry's Examination" and "Susanah his wife, Bettie aged 7, Merriah aged 3 and a half"*

**25.9.1754 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/10**

Amey **WHITE**, now residing in Chardstock, was born in Thorncombe, Devon as her "frinds" informed her, where her father was a parishioner, and lived with her "frinds" until she was about 25 years old. Then she married William **WHITE** of Thorncombe and soon after rented an estate of about £16 per year in Thorncombe and lived there for one year. Some time after rented an estate in Chard at £8 per year and occupied it for about 6 years. Then removed to Kilmington, Devon and lived in a house of his mother where her husband died. The she removed to Thorncombe and rented a house about £1 per year, then removed to Membury and rented a "Darey" of £5 of John **COLYEAR** of Membury. Then removed to Chardstock and lived in house with Edward **SPRACKE**, son-in-law by the desire of her daughter, deceased and have no

act but as above.

The Mark of Amey White (although she "signed" by writing her Christian name Amy)

**11.1.1758 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/11**

William **TURNER** of Hawkchurch said that in the year 1749 Mr Thomas **DRAYTON** a Churchwarden or Overseer of the poor of Chardstock gave him £1 3s being the contribution agreed to be given to him by the Officers of Chardstock under an Indenture dated 29.11.1749 whereby Robert **SEAWARD**, son of Mary [Seaward crossed out] **PINNEY** of Chardstock was bound to him for 7 years and no money was mentioned to be given to him in the Indenture.  
The Mark of William Turner

**14.9.1758 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO23/12**

Mary **CHICK**, now 81 years old and a widow, was born in Wambrook, Dorset as she hath heard and believed. She and her husband John **CHICK** went from Wambrook to Chardstock where they rented an estate of £12 a year and lived there for two years. Afterwards went to Isle Abbotts and rented an estate of £6 10s a year and lived there for two years, which was about 21 years ago when "they left off Membury". She further said that her late husband in his life time nor she since her husband's death never done any act to gain a Settlement other than as above set forth.

Signed the Mark of Mary Chick

**25.11.1760 Examination Taken On Oath at Tytherleigh 2590A/PO23/13**

Matthew **BOND**, now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chardstock as he has heard and believed. He lived there until about the age of 14 or 15, when he went to Wambrook to service and lived first with Farmer **BARTLETT** one year and agreed with him for £1 15s 0d for the year and received his wages accordingly. Then he left Farmer Bartlett and agreed with Mr William **TURNER** for three quarters of a year at the rate of £1 15s 0d and lived with him three quarters of a year. From thence went and lived with Mr Abraham **LEWIS** and agreed with him at the rate of £2 15s 0d for the first year and £3 10s 0d for the second. Lived there two years and received his wages accordingly. Then went and lived with Mr John **THOMAS** and agreed with him at the rate of £5 per year and lived there one year and three quarters and received his wages in like manner, all which places were in the Parish of Wambrook and that since has worked by the week in Chard with Mr John **ANDREWS** driving his wagon and that about half a year ago he came and settled himself in Chardstock, where he still lives and says that he has done no act whereby to gain Settlement other than as above.

Signed the Mark of Matthew Bond

*Note: See also document 2590A/PO24/2*

**5.8.1761 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO24/1**

William **PERHAM**, now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chardstock as he hath heard his parents to say and believe it to be true. He lived with his parents until the age of about 18 when he bound himself an apprentice by Indenture to Thomas **WARRY**, clothier of Chardstock, for five years and agreed with his Master for meat, drink, washing, lodging and cloathing and with whom he served almost four years, then his Master died. Afterwards William Perham married and lived with his father-in-law and worked as a journeyman with Mr James **WELCH**, clothier of Chardstock, being paid by the piece for about two years. Then went and worked with Mr Robert **DEANE** of Chard for about 8 years and being paid by the piece. He lodged with his father-in-law in Chardstock during the whole time he was working for Robert Deane. Then Robert Deane moved to Chardstock to live and William Perham continued o work with him ever since and still continuing to do so. He further said that his wife died about a quarter of a year ago leaving him with four small children now chargeable to Chardstock. He also said that he never did any act whereby to gain Settlement other than as aforesaid.

Signed William Perham

**4.12.1761 Examination Taken On Oath at Charmouth 2590A/PO24/2**

Matthew **BOND**, labourer aged about 27 years and now residing in Chardstock, was born in Chardstock and that his parents were there settled, as he has heard and believed. He lived with his parents until the age of 9 or 10 when he hired himself to George **BARTLETT**, Yeoman of Higher Wambrook for one year at 32s 6d per annum and lived with him for one year and received his wages accordingly. Afterwards lived with Abraham **LUCE** for two years as a servant by the year in Wambrook, when he left and hired himself with John **THOMAS** of Wambrook by the year and lived with him one year and a half, when he hired himself to John **ANDREWS**, common carrier of Chard, Somerset, as a weekly servant with whom he continued five or six years and drove his stage waggon between Chard and London. About two years since he married and took a cottage house at Chardstock where he has lived ever since. He has not done any other act whereby to gain a Settlement except as above and that he gave for the said house £1 11s by the year and no more and that he paid no rates or taxes for the same. Signed the Mark of Matthew Bond

*Note: See also document 2590A/PO23/13*

**16.12.1766 Examination Taken On Oath at Chardstock 2590A/PO24/3**

Richard **DENNING**, butcher now residing in Chardstock, said that he is about 46 years old and was born, as he has been informed and believed, in Chardstock. When he was about 12 years old he was bound an apprentice to Thomas **GUPPY**, Yeoman of Chardstock, by his father and served his Master until his death, which was about the space of five years. He then returned to his father and has done no act whatsoever to gain a Settlement but in the Parish of Chardstock. Signed the Mark of Richard Denning

**16.12.1766 Examination Taken On Oath at Chardstock 2590A/PO24/4**

Henry **TUCKER**, labourer now residing in Chardstock, said that he is about 28 years old and was born as he has been informed and believed in Chardstock. In the year 1761 he rented an estate in Honiton, Devon of one Hannah **DAVEY**, widow, for the space of 3 years at the yearly value of £40 and hath done no act to gain a Settlement since elsewhere. Not signed

**5.5.1768 Examination Taken On Oath at Dalwood 2590A/PO24/5**

Henry **TUCKER**, labourer now residing in Chardstock, said that he is about 30 years old. In the year 1762 he rented an estate in Honiton, Devon at the yearly value of £40, which he rented for three years successfully and hath done no act to gain a Settlement in any other parish since.

His family is reported at the bottom of the document as Maria his wife and children John (aged 8 years), Mary (5), Ann (3) and Charles (1).

Signed Henry Tucker

**19.12.1769 Examination Taken On Oath at the Tytherleigh Inn 2590A/PO24/6**

Full transcript

The Examination of Ester **APSEY** who Saith and Believes she was born in the Parish of Chardstock in the County of Dorset and there lived with her Parents until she was about the age of 16 years when she went into the Parish of Chard in the County of Sommerset and then hired herself as a Covenant Servant by the year at the Rate of Fifty Shillings a Year with one John **BURRIDGE** and continued with him under that Hiring for the Space of Two Years and has Done no Other Act or Thing Whereby to gain a Settlement save as aforesaid.

The Mark of Ester Apsey

Sworn at Tytherleigh Inn in the County aforesaid this 19th day of December 1769 before us  
Francis Gwyn                      Thomas Putt

**6.3.1770 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO24/7**

Hugh **MARKS**, now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in Chardstock as he believes and lived with his parents in Chardstock until 18 years of age. He then bound himself apprentice to George **BURRIDGE**, clothier of Chardstock for five years and gave George Burridge £20 to show him the Cloathing Trade and had his meat, drink and lodging accordingly and further this Examinant said that he removed into the village of Tatworth, Somerset and there married his wife Ann and there resided four or five years during which time he sold two several estates in Chardstock to his brothers William **MARKS** and John **MARKS** and continued in his own houses at Tatworth where she resided one whole year or thereabouts after he had so sold his said several estates in Chardstock and hath done no other act or thing whereby to gain a Settlement save as aforesaid

Signed Hugh Marks

**6.3.1770 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO24/8**

Alice **MARKS**, singlewoman now residing in Chardstock, said that she was born in Tatworth, Somerset and there lived with her parents until she was about 18 or 19 years of age. She then went to Axminster, Devon and lived with one Mr **DOWN**, Innkeeper, for about three months, and came back to live with her parents in Chardstock for about twelve months, but not as a yearly servant. She further said that she had not done any act, matter or thing whereby to gain a Settlement save as aforesaid.

Signed the Mark of Alice Marks

**6.3.1770 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO24/9**

Elizabeth **LARCOMBE**, now wife of Robert **LARCOMBE** and before her marriage called Elizabeth **EARL** said that fourteen years ago next April in Axmouth, Devon she was delivered of a Male Bastard Child who was Christened Henry **PLUCKNETT** and removed with her child, then aged 14 days, into Chardstock. The child has lived with Jane **PLUCKNETT** the mother of the said Henry Plucknett who was the father of the said Bastard Child ever since this Examinant removed to Chardstock. He still resides with her and goes to "Dayly Labour" but never hired himself as a servant as this Examinant believes and further this Examinant saith not.

Signed the Mark of Elizabeth Larcombe

**6.3.1770 Examinations Taken On Oath at "Titherly Inn" 2590A/PO25/1**

This document records two separate Examinations

Thomas **PINNEY**, husbandman now residing in Chardstock, was born in Withycombe, Devon. About five years ago from Lady Day last he took an estate of Mr John **WHEADON** in Thorncombe, Devon at a yearly rent of £12 for the term of three years and that he lived in Thorncombe and continued in possession of the estate and paid rent thereof for two years and a half. He has done no other act whatsoever whereby to gain a legal Settlement in any other parish.

Signed Thomas Pinney

James **STAMP**, labourer now resident in Chardstock. was born in Upottery, Devon. About five years ago he made an agreement with Mrs Elizabeth **KNIGHT** of Stockland, Dorset to serve her there for the yearly wage of about £4 10s and that he lived with and serve her one year. Afterwards he lived with her on an agreement by the week for the space of about four months. Then he went to live with the Revd. Mr Palmer in Chardstock for wages of 2s 6d by the week upon condition that if he thought fit to leave Mr Palmer's service and Mr Palmer thought fit to turn him from his service, he was to give or receive a fortnight notice. He continued to live with Mr Palmer on these conditions for one year and three quarters and that he has not since done any other act whereby to gain a legal Settlement

Signed James Stamp

**8.7.1772 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO25/2**

John **COLLYER**, twine spinner now residing in Chardstock, said that he was about 70 years of age, was born in Chardstock and about 33 years since was possessed of and rented an estate in Axminster, Devon of about the yearly rent £20. He continued to live there for about 10 years. About 24 years ago he went to London and hired to a Dier [Dyer] in Bromley by the week at the rate of 11s with whom he worked on different [illeg] and or weekly hirings and in no other manor for about 11 years from which time till September past when he returned to Chardstock and built a house there on the Waste which he have occupied in his own right till Lady Day last, but it is not rated to Church Tithing or Poor [Rate]. He hath done no act whatsoever to gain a Settlement at Dalwood in the said County

Signed John Collier (note different spelling of surname)

**9.6.1773 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO25/3**

William **HAMLING** the younger labourer, now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in Smallridge, Axminster, Devon and that he has done no act to gain a Settlement on his own account since his birth and that his father William **HAMLING** is now living a settled inhabitant in Axminster. This Examinant further said that about twelve months ago he married his present wife Elizabeth (late Elizabeth **GREGORY**) at Chardstock by who he has one Base Born Child named William born about one year and half ago in Chardstock

Signed the Mark of John Hamling junior

*Note: The document records the Examinant's name as **William Hambling the younger**, but the signature (signed with his Mark) is recorded as **John Hamling junior**.*

**3.2.1777 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO25/4**

Robert **HELLYER**, Yeoman aged about 40 years, now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in Chardstock where his parents were legally settled as he has heard and believed. About 13 years since he went to Colyton, Devon and hired himself by the year to one Amos **TOWZER** with whom he lived and worked for more than a year and received his wages accordingly. When he left he returned to Chardstock and married Elizabeth his present wife, he soon took an estate of Thomas **DRAYTON** in Chardstock at yearly rent of £5 10s and still continues renting the same and that he also took an estate of John **TUCKER** in Chardstock at yearly rent of £4 13s and continued renting it for one year. At which time he left on account of the rent being raised. This Examinant further says that he has resided in Chardstock ever since and has done no other act whereby to gain a Settlement.

Signed the Mark of Robert Hellyer

**28.8.1780 Letter to Mrs Ann WISCOMB at Chardstock 2590A/PO25/5**

*Full transcript*

Mouther this comes with my kind love to you hoping it will find you in good health as it leaves me at prisant and the ..... his wife I thank god for it Mouther. I am very much surprised to think you never told me about your son Robert being married before he was dead? I do ashour you that I shall insist upon her pardoning of her Settlement as I can show mine any time and desire of you to send me the sight of it as the genteelmen of the parish is going to look in to it and if the find it out I shall be breft? and home my Children with me so I desire of you let me know the right of it as fast as possible so no more at present only beg to see the auther to conclude your true Lawful Daughter Sarah **WISCOMB**

Note on back "Please to ancer this by the return of post because I am in distress with my Children

**2.12.1780**

**Letter from Mr Godwin**

**2590A/PO25/6**

Full transcript

I received a letter Thursday last from one Elizabeth **DALIE** at Chard, which is from my a Prentice maid are her mother where she informs me that Chard people will not let her bide their, she was bound out by the Parish of Chardstock to me. I took to her and cloath'd her in the first seting out, she behave'd so bad that I cou'd not keep her, her mother came to me and told me if I would find her in Cloaths, she wou'd take care and keep her for what she coul'd get. She told me she cou'd earn two Shillings and sixpence a week, and so she remain till about a twelve month a go her mother came to me and said she could keep her ne longer upon that condition. I then took her here and new Cloath'd her and intend to have made a servant of her. As soon as she was Cloath'd she run away from me back to her mother. The Monday following I send to know the reason of her going back to her mother her answer was that the devil shou'd have Crewkerne and me boath before she wou'd ever see it again. If she come chargeable send her to me and I have a horse and man, which she shall immediately be sent to bridewell. She have got about five weeks before her time is up. Please to acquaint the Gentleman of the Parish with this, if she come their. My compliment to Mrs Pryer.

I should be glad if you will go to the Clerk at Chardstock and get her age, as I am informed she is in her 22 year of her age, A line by the return of Post will Oblige. Your humble servant Mr Godwin.

**4.6.1781**

**Two related Examinations Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO26/1**

Thomas **PEARCE**, cordwainer, said that he was born in Honiton, Devon where his parents were legally settled as he has heard and believes. When he was about 21 years of age he went into Hawkchurch, Dorset and after working there some years as a Journeyman Cordwainer he agree with his Master John **PALMER** for two years at £10 a year [including] meat, drink, washing and lodging. He lived with and served John Palmer for two years, then he went into Chardstock and has lived there working at his business ever since. At Lady Day last he took a piece of ground adjoining and belonging to the house which he rents of his landlord and for which he pays £7 a year and agrees to pay all the Rates and Taxes, but he has yet paid none nor been asked for any. He has done no other act whereby to gain a Settlement.

Signed Thomas Pearce

John **PALMER** of Hawkchurch said that Thomas **PEARCE** came to him about 10 years since. After working for him for about 3 years as a Journeyman Shoemaker, he entered into an agreement with him in writing for Thomas Pearce to serve him and work for him for 2 years at £10 a year [including] meat, drink, washing and lodging under which he served 3 weeks. When he being an Idle Fellow the Examinant told him that it was impossible to continue under the Agreement and insisted that it had to be destroyed, which he refused to do. Thomas Pearce then agreed to work by the Piece or Pair without mentioning any particular time. Thomas Pearce then worked for him for some years. Examinant further said that he paid him at the rate of £10 a year only for three or so weeks and never afterwards, but by the Piece or at the rate of 3s 6d a week

Not signed

**3.12.1782**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO26/2**

William **MEACHAM**, labourer now residing in Chardstock, said that he is abut 30 years old and was born in Combe St. Nicholas, Somerset as he hath heard and believes. He never was an apprentice nor a servant to any person whatsoever and that he resided with his parents in Combe St. Nicholas until he was 15 or 16 years old, when he went into Chard to lodge and continued to take his Dailey Labour in Combe St. Nicholas for about 10 years. Then he married Mary **CORKE** of Chard by whom he has three children now living viz Betty (aged about 6 years and three quarters), Thomas (about 4 years) and Joseph (about one year and a half). He said that his father and mother, Thomas and Jane **MEACHAM** are now living at Combe St. Nicholas and that he hath often heard his father say he was a legal Parishioner of Chardstock and that his father had received relief from Chardstock but not within 9 or 10 years past and tat he hath

done no other act or deed whereby to gain a Settlement otherwise than as above set forth.  
Signed the Mark of William Meacham

**7.7.1783 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO26/3**  
William **SYMES**, aged 39 and now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in Chardstock where his parents were settled as he has heard and believes. He has always lived in Chardstock except about 10 years since when he went to Combe Pine, Devon and hired himself for a year to James **HARVEY** and lived with him about three quarters of a year when he left on account of a Bad Leg he had got. This Examinant says that his father was possessed of an estate in Chardstock of about £24 a year and that he has five children by Elizabeth his wife viz Sarah (aged 8 years), Elizabeth (6), Mary (4), William (2) and Rachael (aged 5 days). And that he has done no other act whereby to gain a Settlement  
Signed William Symes

**15.10.1783 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO26/4**  
Jane **DAVIS**, a singlewoman and a vagrant, said that she hath been informed and believed that she was born in Creech, Somerset where her late father John **DAVIS** was last legally Settled. To the best of her knowledge and belief, the place of her last legal Settlement was and is in Chardstock for that about 30 years ago she was hired for a year by the Reverend Mr **KEATE**, Minister of the Parish Church of Chardstock, at the wages of £3 and lived with him the whole year and received of him £3 for her year's service and also lived with him at the same yearly wages for 18 months next following. Since the said service she hath never lived at service with any person, that having been ill for sometime and unable to work to get anything toward her subsistence and thereby reduced to great Want and Distress she now obliged to beg and ask Charity and was apprehended as a Vagrant and Begging.  
Signed the Mark of Jane Davis

**28.2.1784 Letter from Chard to Chardstock 2590A/PO26/5**  
Full transcript  
To the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Parish of Chardstock, we the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Parish of Chard do give you notice that we intent to apply to two of his Majestys Justices of the Peace at Hinton St. George on Tuesday next by Ten O Clock in the forenoon for an Order of Removal of Christopher **HUTCHENS** and his family from our said Parish of Chard to your said Parish of Chardstock - where you are to attend to show cause why such Order shall not be granted - given under our hands February 28th, 1784.  
Signed            John Warre            Church Warden  
                         John Wheadon            Overseer

Note underneath reads;

The above Christopher **HUTCHINGS** and Mr Wheadon accordingly appeared at Hinton St. George for an Order and George **BOND** appeared on behalf of Chardstock Parish when the Justices after Examination declared he belonged to Chard Parish and would grant no Order.

**17.2.1784 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO26/6**  
Christopher **HUTCHINGS**, labourer now residing in Chard, Somerset, said that he is about 33 years old and was born in Chard, Somerset as he hath heard and believes. When he was about 13 or 14 years old his father George **HUTCHINGS** made an agreement with John **EVLEIGH** of Chard for the Examinant to serve him 5 years to learn the Art of "Scribbling and Breaking Wool". John Evleigh paid him weekly wages of 1s 6d (first year) 2s (second year), 2s 6d (third year), 3s (fourth year) and 3s 6d (fifth year), when his Master died sometime before the time was expired. During the whole time he lodged at his father's house in Chard and received of his father meat, drink and clothes all the time and that he worked at his business as a labourer in Chard, Combe St. Nicholas and other places in Somerset ever since and that about 12 years ago he married Maria **BRAGG** of Chard Parish by whom he has four children now living (viz) Joannah (aged 12 years), Mary (10), Hester (3) and an infant about a week old and saith that his father was a legal parishioner in Chardstock and that his father when living often

received relief from the Parish Officers of Chardstock. He hath done no other act to gain a Settlement than above set forth.

Not signed

**7.2.1785**

**Summons**

**2590A/PO26/7**

To all Constables, Tythingmen and others, his Majesty's Officers, for the County of Dorset and also to Samuel **HARVEY** to execute. You are hereby in his Majesty's Name required to summon and warn Deborah **LONG**, widow of Chardstock, personally to appear before his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County at the White Hart Inn in Beaminster on Monday the 21st of this instance by 10 am the Morn to be examined regarding her last legal Settlement. Signed T R Drewer

**19.6.1796**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO26/8**

Sarah **PAVEY**, a singlewoman now residing in Membury, Devon, said that she was born in Membury, About 7 years since she hired herself to William **MARKS** of Chardstock with whom she lived and received one year at the yearly wages of £3 10s and received her wages accordingly. She hath done no act whereby to gain a Settlement elsewhere either by renting or servitude.

Signed the Mark of Sarah Davey

**Letter headed Plymstock 29.1.1787**

**2590A/PO26/9**

Addressed to the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish of Chardstock

Full transcript

Gentlemen,

By a Correspondence before me between Ann **WISCOMBE**, Widow, of your Parish and Sarah **WISCOMBE**, the supposed Wife of but now Widow of Robert **WISCOMBE**, Son the said Ann Wiscombe, it is asserted by the letter that her Son Robert was a married Man before he married her, which is several years since and that she Ann Wiscombe had then a Son with her, called Joseph born of Jenny Daughter of John **LENTAL** of Wambrook, about two miles from her habitation. Now on the Supposition the present Sarah Wiscombe, a sojourner in this Parish, could not have been the lawful Wife of the said Robert, tho' they were certainly married. It is moreover said in the Letter dated March 9 1786 that as Sarah Wiscombe had expressed an inclination to go to Robert's Parish, it would be useless and that the Gentlemen of the Parish would send a Certificate under the hands of the Minister &c of the Parish when Robert Wiscombe and Jenny **LENTAL** were married. Now Gentlemen to prevent the said Sarah Wiscombe and her two Children from being sent by an Order to Robert's Parish, I take the liberty to request of you to inform me of the truth of the Premises and take so oblige as to send a copy of the Marriage of the said Robert Wiscombe. Clergymen and Officers of Parishes are but too often under the necessity of troubling one another in similar Cases, which I hope will excuse me to you

I am Gentlemen with respect your most obedient servant

Vincent Warren

Minister of Plymstock near Plymouth

**6.12.1788**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO26/10**

George **PILTON**, labourer now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in Warminster, Wiltshire, and is now about 40 years of age as he hath heard and believes. When he was about 15 years of age he hired himself as a servant to Nathaniel **HAWKINS** of Kilminster, Devon for one year at the wages of £1 6s meat, drink, washing and lodging. He lived out the said year and received his wages for the same. He lived another year with Nathaniel Hawkins with an increase in wages. He then hired himself as a servant to Hannah **COLLIER** of Coxdon Mills, Chardstock for one year at the wages of three Guineas [£3 3s] meat, drink and lodging under which hiring he continued out the year and received his wages for the same. He continued three years longer with Hannah Collier with an increase of wages every year. He lived at two or three other places but never for a year at any one place. He married his present wife about 14 years ago, by who he has living two children (to wit) Robert (aged about 13) and

Sarah (about 12). And further that he hath not done any other act than as above set forth whereby to gain a Settlement.

Signed the Mark of George Pilton

*Note at bottom of document: "8.8.1796 a copy of the original Examination".*

*See also Examination taken of Mary **PILTON** on 21.9.1796. DHC reference 2590A/PO27/1*

**6.4.1789 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO26/11**

John **SEWARD**, aged about 40 and now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born a bastard in Chardstock. When about 7 years old he was bound by the Parish Officers to Ann **KEATE** and Hugh **WELSH** for an estate which they occupied in Chardstock. After he had lived with Ann Keate for a year she, not having sufficient to employ him and with the consent of Hugh Welsh, assigned him to Thomas **PATCH**, Dowlas Weaver of Kingston, Somerset. After he had lived with Thomas Patch in Kingston for one year, his Master moved to Seaborough, Somerset and he went with him as part of his training. After three years he moved with his Master from Seaborough to Shipton Gorge, Dorset, where he lived about a year "when his Master broke". He returned to Ann Keate, who gave him a shilling and told him to go about his business. Since which time he has worked as a Day Labourer only for different Masters and has done no other act whereby to gain a Settlement, About 17 years since he married his present wife Jane by whom he has 5 children viz - William (aged 15), Elizabeth (10), Thomas (8), Eleanor (3) and James (one and a half).

Signed the Mark of John Seward

**3.8.1789 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO26/12**

Mary **LONG** (formerly **WAKELY**), a widow aged about 54 and now resident in Chardstock, said that she was born in Chardstock where her parents lived under a Certificate from the Parish Officers of Wotton Fitzpaine and by whom they had often been relieved. She lived with her family in Chardstock until she was near 30 years old and then went to Newfoundland with John **LONG** who she cohabited with for 15 years. She and John Long were coming home when he was drowned. She returned to Chardstock where she has been ever since. She never went to service and has done no other act whereby to gain a Settlement.

*Note: The Examination originally ended at this point, but the signature of Mary Long has been crossed out and the following added:*

After she arrived in Newfoundland she and John Long agreed to be married according to the custom of that country. The marriage ceremony was read out of the Common Prayer Book by an Officer of a Ship in the little cottage house at Flower de Luce harbour in the presence of a number of people. The ring was put and she was told by the Officer that she and John Long were then married. That John Long was born and bred in Membury, Devon to which Parish he often told the Examinant he belonged.

The Mark of Mary Long, formerly Wakely

**12.3.1790 Copy of Case for Mr Bond's Opinion 2590A/PO26/13**

Betty otherwise Elizabeth **MOORE**, a pauper and singlewoman, said that she was born in Combe St. Nicholas, Somerset. Her father Hugh **MOORE** was bound an apprentice to a blacksmith in Combe and served out his apprenticeship and afterwards set up his trade and carried it on there for several years. She lived with her parents in Combe until she was 14 years of age, when she took care of and worked for herself in Combe until she was 19 years of age. She then went to a place called Lodge in Chardstock and hired herself there of Mr Samuel **PALMER** and made an agreement with him on a Whitsun Monday until the Lady Day following for 1s a week [illeg] to that time and that she lived with Mr Samuel Palmer under the hiring until the Lady Day following at 1s per week being found also in meat, drink and lodging and that she received her weekly wages occasionally as she wanted them [illeg] to that time. She then made a second agreement with Mr Palmer and hired herself to him as a yearly servant at the wages of £3 a year and continued with him for 6 months only under such second hiring and received

30s for her half years wages and then quitted Mr Palmer's services. Afterwards she hired herself to Mrs Ruth **PRYER** of Chardstock where she continued one month only without any particular agreement. On quitting Mrs Pryer's service she returned to Combe St. Nicholas and was there Relieved and continued in that parish for one year, working for her maintenance and that she then went to Lyme Regis, Dorset and hired herself to one John [illeg] as a Nurse Tender to his wife at 1s a week wages and continued with him in that employ for about 6 months and immediately afterwards went and hired herself as a servant to Mrs **PATERSON** of Lyme Regis under agreement with her for 1s a week as long as her mistress have to keep her or as long as they both agreed with meat, drink, washing and lodging included and that she continued with Mrs Paterson her Mistress in Lyme under this hiring and service for the space of two years and eight weeks until Christmas last and that she received her wages from time to time, quarterly or at some such limited period occasionally as she wanted them, but it is suggested that the pauper considered herself at liberty to quit Mrs Paterson's service at the end of any one week and that Mrs Paterson never once spoke to her about staying a year because that she hired her by the week only.

Your opinion therefore is desired on the state of this case. Whether the pauper did or did not gain a Settlement in Lyme Regis under her service with Mr Paterson for two years and eight weeks from a persuasion that was a general hiring and a compleat service for the time stated, or whether on the other hand her different agreements with Mr Palmer at Lodge can have coupled together as to establish her Settlement in the Parish of Chardstock to which Parish she is lately removed by an Order of two Justices.

*Note: The above account is not signed. It is followed by the Opinion in different handwriting:*

I am of the opinion that the hiring under Mrs Paterson cannot be considered as a hiring for a year and consequently that no Settlement was gained under it, but of the services with Mrs Palmer under the two hirings were of the same kind they may be coupled and in this case a Settlement was acquired in Chardstock.

Signed: Nathaniel Bond

*Note: Reverts to first handwriting:*

The pauper is near her time of Laying in on want most probable to happen within a short time of the ensuing Sherborne Sessions whereby she will of course be unable to attend.

I [illeg] therefore if under your opinion the Parish of Chardstock should be advised to appeal to the Order of Removal from Lyme Regis whether the Justices would Respite such Order on a affidavit of the fact with the subsequent Sessions.

*Note: Second handwriting:*

I cannot advise the Parish of Chardstock to appeal but if an appeal was entered I think there would be sufficient ground to respite it

Signed Nathaniel Bond Dorchester March 12 1790.

*Further note: The Chardstock Parish Registers record the baptism on 4.4.1790 of Charles the base born son of Elizabeth Moore.*

**15.3.1790**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO26/14**

James **COX**, aged about 32 years and now resident in Chardstock, said that he was born in Lyme, but that his parents belonged to Chardstock, as he had heard and believes. his father having lived there as a servant for several years with the Revd. Mr **HALES**. Examinant lived in different parishes with his father (who is now living in Ilminster, Somerset) as part of his family till he was about 15 years of age, when he went to Wellington, Somerset and there [hired] himself to one Robert **PARSONS** a Potter, to serve him in the Pottery Work only, from three days

after old Xmas to New Xmas following at 3s 6d a week to be paid him only when he worked by said Agreement. He was not to work for any other person without the consent of his Master. He made the same Agreement on New Christmas Eve to work for and serve him at the advanced wages of 4s a week in the Pottery Work only from New Xmas to New Xmas. During the time he worked for Parsons in Wellington in both years, he was lent by his Master to work for different [*Master crossed out*] farmers at haymaking and reaping - always received the wages himself - and constantly made an allowance for the time to his Master, when he received his wages of him. According to the General Rules of the Pottery Business, he was not to work for his Master during a frost, and that he did not actually work for his Master during a frost in both the two years he so served him and that his Master in the first year told him he was not obliged to keep him in a frost. At the end of the time, he went to work for different Masters in different parishes, but for not one by the year, and than returned to Wellington and made a like Agreement with Phoebe **PARSONS** (daughter of his former Master) to serve her for a year at 4s 6d a week and worked for her under that Agreement for several years and during that time lived in Wellington, but never in any one year that he so lived with Phoebe Parsons worked for her during a frost. Soon after which he married Mary his present wife by whom he has two children viz - Betty aged 8 years and Mary aged one year and a half and has done no act whereby to gain a Settlement. The Mark of James Cox.

**3.9.1792 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO26/15**

Sarah **TILLMAN**, aged about 27 years and now resident in Chardstock, said that she was born in Membury, Devon where her parents were legally settled as she heard and believes. Upwards of 3 years since she went to Broadwinsor, Dorset and there hired herself a servant by the year to Farmer **DAMON** at yearly wages of 4 Guineas [£4 4s] a year, under which agreement she lived with and served her Master for 1 year and 3 quarters when she left his services and was paid her wages - that then she hired herself a servant by the year to one Farmer **WHITTY** of Whitchurch Canonorum, Dorset at £3 15s per year under which Agreement she served her Master for a quarter of a year only then left his services, that she then hired herself a servant by the year to Mr **HODDEN** of Marshalsea to serve him as a Dairy Maid on his dairy at a place called Castlewood in Broadwinsor at the wage of £4 a year under which agreement she served her Master for about three quarters of a year when she left her Masters services on account of some disagreement with her Masters daughter that at Lady Day last she went to Chardstock and hired herself a servant by the year to Mr Robert **DARE** at the wages of £3 15s a year, that being with child her Mistress refuses to continue her any longer in her service and has this day paid her her wages and that she has done no other act to gain a Settlement to the best of her Knowledge and Belief.  
The Mark of Sarah Tillman

**21.9.17926 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO27/1**

Mary **PILTON**, widow of George **PILTON**, labourer late of Broadway, Somerset, who said that she often times in the life time of her husband heard him say that his legal place of Settlement was Chardstock and that she had been informed and believes her late husband's Examination on or about 6.12.1788. She further said that her late husband did not in his life time after the said 6.12.1788 to her knowledge or belief gain a Settlement in any place whatsoever neither hath this Examinant since his death done any act to gain a Settlement in any place whatever - that she hath now living by her late husband 4 children (to wit) Robert (aged about 21 years), Sarah (about 19), George (about 6) and John (about 3).  
The Mark of Mary Pilton

*Note: See also Examination taken of George **PILTON** on 6.12.1788 reference 2590A/PO26/11*

**12.10.1796**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO27/2**

John **HICKMAN**, labourer residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in Islebrewers, Somerset of parents legally settled there and lived with them until he was about 14 years of age, then he went to live with Mr **MANNING** of Creech, Somerset as an apprentice, but no Indenture of Apprenticeship executed. He lived there as an apprentice for a year and a half receiving no wages, then went and lived with his Master for half a year. After this he went and hired himself by the year with Mr George **SHORE** of Stoke under Ham, Somerset for the wages of £3 10s and lived but that year and two others at different wages. Then went and hired himself by the week with Mr Edward **SHORE** of Chardstock and lived there under that hiring for eleven months and one week when he married and has lived ever since that time at Axminster and now has one child  
Not signed, being a copy

**12.10.1796**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO27/3**

John **NORTHAM**, painter and glazier now resident in Axminster, Devon, said that he was born in Allington, Dorset of parents at that time legally settled there until they went to Chardstock, where they rented Mills called Wambrook Mills of the annual value of £20. This Examinant went with them there as part of their family and lived with them there as such for about 2 years, when they went to Chard and lived in a small tenement of the value of £4 a year. He went with them still as part of their [family] and lived there until their father died. When he was about 10 years old he went to Stockland and lived with his uncle there for 3 years not under any Agreement whatever but as part of his uncle's family, his uncle finding him all necessaries, when he went to London and worked there in different parts of the City as a Journeyman for about 5 years, he then entered on board the fleet as a Volunteer and served when he was discharged and after that time he returned to Axminster married and has lived as a Journeyman renting a house at £3 10s a year and has a child  
Not signed

**29.6.1797**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO27/4**

Full transcript

Somerset (to wit) - The Examination of Thomas **TOWNSEND** of Chard in the said County Labourer taken on Oath this Twenty ninth day of June 1797 Before us two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace of and for the said County.

Who saith that he was born at Chard aforesaid and is now about 64 years of Age. That he Resided at Chard with his parents till he was about nine or ten years old when he was bound out by the parishioners of Chard as a parish Apprentice with Henry **ROSE** of Chardstock in the County of Dorset, Paper Maker. That he lived with him under such Apprenticeship for about the space of Twelve Months when the said Henry Rose absconded for Debt and the said Thomas Townsend remained in Chardstock about Half a Year. That Betty **POTTER** then entered upon the paper mills which had been Occupied by the said Henry Rose and he was then bound by the Parishioners of Chardstock as a Parish Apprentice to the said Betty Potter and continued with her under such Apprenticeship for the space of three years or thereabouts when he from ill usage by his Mistress left and went to live in and about the neighbourhood of Chard working at Daily Labour for his support. That prior to his leaving the said Betty Potter he with the assistance of one Mary **SPARCKE [SPARK]** an Apprentice with the said Betty Potter obtained by Indenture unknown to his Mistress and never delivered the same again to her neither did he ever offer to compel him to serve out his Apprenticeship that he afterwards Worked for her as a Day Labourer for two years and half as he was wanted by the Groat in the paper making trade and also for other persons and during the time he so worked as a Day labourer he lodged in the parish of Chard until he was about Twenty three years of age when he Enlisted for a Private Soldier in the first Regiment of Dragoon Guards and remained in that station for about the space of seven years. That while he was a Soldier he intermarried with Betty **HILSBUREY** of Hastings in Sussex and has now living by her two Daughters and one Son namely Betty who is married and lives in London: Ann now aged about Twenty eight years who about nine months ago was intermarried with John Baptiste **REGALENO** an Italian and Thomas aged about Twenty

five years who lives in Chard: That he was Discharged from the Regiment about Thirty years ago and have ever since lived at Chard Working for Sundry persons at Daily Labour for his maintenance and has not during the whole time done any act to Gain a Settlement in any place whatsoever.

Sworn at Ilford Bridges the day and year aforesaid before us William Hanning John Hanning  
The Mark of X Thomas Townsend  
A Copy

**14.3.1800 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO27/5**

William **GOTHARD**, now residing in Axminster, Devon, said that he was born in Dalwood, Dorset as he hath heard and believe. He served his apprenticeship with Joseph **DEAN** of Membury, Devon and then went to Shepton Mallet, Somerset and hired himself with the Revd. Mr **HAWKINS** for a year at the wages of about £6 and lived there two years - when this Examinant came to Chardstock and hired himself with Mr John **AMOR** of Churchill for a year at the wage of about £5 and after living with him in Chardstock for two years he married, since which he hath not lived at any place for a year or rented ten pounds a year - nor done any other act to gain a Settlement.

The Mark of William Gothard

**26.6.1800 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO27/6**

William **GOODEN**, aged about 36 years and a labourer now residing in Borough of Chard, Somerset, said that he was born in the Borough of Chard as he hath heard and believes, but his father was legally settled in the Parish of Chard as he hath heard and believes. When he was about 8 years old he was by Indenture bound Apprentice by the Parish of Chardstock to Robert **DEAN**, Yeoman of Ridge, Chardstock with whom he lived for about 9 years under the said Indenture. He then ran away from his Master to Lyme Regis, Dorset and after absenting himself for 3 days he returned to his Master at Chardstock who persuaded him to go to Bristol and told him he would give him up his time, in that case, to which this Examinant consented and to help him on his journey Mr Deane and his family gave him 8s as well as he recalls and believes and he went to Bristol for that purpose, it being agreed between him and his Master, that his Master should have nothing more to do with him, but the Indenture of Apprenticeship was not then delivered up nor was any Parish Officer privy to such Agreement. This Examinant said that after remaining at Bristol for a few hours he returned to his mother at Chard Borough. Then he went to work for Mr **LEMAN** in Chard Borough by the week at Daily Labour for about 2 years but does not know whether or not his Master Robert Dean know if that then this Examinant hired himself for a year to Mr Thomas **LOCK**, Innkeeper of Chard Borough, which he served accordingly, but this living was without having asked the consent of Robert Dean nor did Robert Dean ever tell him he might stay with Thomas Lock though he often saw him during his residence with Thomas Lock and once Robert Dean was drinking at Thomas Lock's and told the Examinant to behave himself well. The Examinant then without the knowledge of Robert Dean went to live with Mr William **WEAVER** at Forton with whom he lived as a weekly servant. He remained there about three quarters of a year, that when he had been there about a quarter of a year he was sent on an errand by William Weaver to Robert Dean's house in Chardstock who asked him with whom he lived when this Examinant told him that he then lived with Mr Weaver to which Mr Dean replied very well. and also told him to behave himself well. This Examinant then returned to Mr Lock's in Chard Borough with whom without the knowledge of Robert Dean, he agreed weekly and served about nine months with Thomas Lock. During this last residence he often saw Robert Dean and when he had been there about a quarter of a year Robert Dean spoke to him and asked him if he had changed places from Mr Weaver to Mr Lock, to which this Examinant replied Yes. From which said last mentioned place he entered a Soldier and when quartered at Tiverton had a letter wrote to his Master Robert Dean for his Indenture which was then sent him and delivered to his Commanding Officer, since which he has not seen it nor does he know where is it. He swore as a Soldier for 11 months and before he was discharged became 21 years of age. When discharged he returned to Chard Borough where he has ever since worked as a Day Labourer and that he has not done any other act

whereby to gain a Settlement. That he and Clara his wife, Elizabeth (aged about 15), Sarah (about 6), Robert (about 4) and Hannah (about half a year), their children, are now resident in and chargeable to the Borough of Chard.

Signed the Mark of William Goodden (note different spelling of surname)

A small loose piece of paper in the document includes the following:

Side 1:		1800	
	Aged	36	
	Born	1764	
		8	
	Went Apprentice	1772	
	with Mr Dean	9	
		1781	
	with Mr Leman	2	
		1783	
	with Lock	1	
		1784	
	Mr Weaver 3 months )		
	2nd with Mr Lock )	1	6m
		1785	6
	A soldier		11
		1786	5
	Married	13	
		1799	5

Side 2: Gooden supposed to be bound to Mr John Dean of Tatworth, who died in 1785 aged 73

**23.7.1800 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO27/7**

John **DEANE**, aged about 32 years, said that he was born in Wambrook where his father Samuel **DEANE** was then resident, that when Pauper was about 5 or 6 years old his father moved with his family to Chard where he carried on the business of a blacksmith and continued then about 10 or 11 years or thereabouts, that he then removed to Combe St. Nicholas where he occupied a House Blacksmith's Shop and some arable and pasture ground which he rented under a yearly rent of more than £10, that whilst Pauper's father lived of Chard, Pauper hired himself to one Farmer **THOMAS** of Wambrook as a plough boy for a year, and staid with him two years, Pauper being then about 14 or 15 years of age, that Pauper on quitting Mr Thomas's service at Wambrook went to reside with his father at Chard and worked sometimes for him of the trade of blacksmith, and sometimes with Pauper's brother, who gave Pauper sometimes 6d and sometimes 1s a week when he worked, but his father gave him no wage whilst he worked for him, only found him provisions and wearing apparel, but made no hiring either with his father or his brother, that when Pauper's father removed to Combe, Pauper apprehends and believes he stayed at Chard while working for his brother for a short time and then removed also to Combe and lived with his father working at his trade with his father under no agreement for wages, but received only clothes and provisions and so continued for about 2 years - Pauper married about 13 years ago a woman of Chaffcombe where he resided in his Father in Law's house and worked at different places as a weekly servant and stayed there about half a year, then went to reside at Otterford where he rented a house at £4 a year and carried on his own business and continued there 2 years, then removed to Chardstock where he rented a house and shop at £5 5s a year which he continued to occupy for 6 years, then removed to another house in Chardstock which he rented for £3 15s 6d a year and at Lady Day 1799 took another house, orchard and plot of ground in Chardstock, the property of John **TANNER** under a rent of £9 a year and an hogshead of cyder, which he has continued to occupy till the present times, that the rent was reserved yearly, that after a year's rent was due viz after Lady Day 1800 Pauper came to an [illeg] with his landlord - that of Lady Day last Pauper took another Orchard in

Chardstock at £2 12s 6d a year which he [illeg] upon immediately and occupied till this time.

*Note: This document does not follow the normal format, in that the examination was not recorded as being before two JPs, it is unsigned (and unfinished?) and written on what appears to be a page taken from a Land Tax or Poor Rate book. On the back is written "John Dean Examination July 23 1800 Copy".*

**6.8.1800 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO27/8**

Simon **DUNSTER**, aged about 24 and now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in Chardstock where his parents were legally settled as he has heard and believes. About 3 years since he hired himself as a servant to Joseph **BURROWS** of Up Ottery, Devon at wages of 2s 6d per week for the summer half year and 2s per week for the winter half year, board, washing and lodging under which agreement he served for the year, then made an agreement with Joseph Burrows to serve him for another year at wages of 3s per week (summer) and 2s 6d (winter) board, washing and lodging. He so served for the second year then left, since which he has lived at different places but in neither for a year nor has he done any other act to gain a Settlement. About 2 years since he married Mary his present wife by whom he has 2 children - to wit - Mary aged 1 year and half and William aged 5 weeks and that he has received relief from the Parish of Chardstock.

Signed the Mark of Simon Dunster.

**14.3.1801 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO28/1**

Thomas **FARRANT**, now residing in Axminster, Devon, said that he was born in Chardstock of parents legally settled there as he hath heard and believes. That when he was about 14 years old his mother made an Agreement for him to serve James **BOWRING**, weaver of Axminster, for 5 years at 1s 6d a week. He worked with James Bowring during the whole of that time but always dieted and slept at his mother's house in Chardstock. Since which time he hath worked as a journeyman weaver and has done no act to gain a Settlement.

Signed the Mark of Thomas Farrant.

**3.2.1802 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO28/2**

Mary **MUTTER**, now residing in Membury, Devon, said that she was bound an Apprentice by the Parish Officers of Yarcombe, Devon to Mr **SEWARD** of Membury and resided with him in Membury till about 18 months since when her Master told her to go and reside with him at Chardstock, which she immediately did, and has remained with him in Chardstock till last Sunday fortnight when she returned to Mr Seward's in Membury in consequence of her being with child. And this Examinant further said that she was this day discharged from her Apprenticeship by two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for Devon in consequence thereof. Signed the Mark of Mary Mutter.

*Note: On back of document reads "Order made from Musbury to Chardstock"*

*Further note: The Chardstock Parish Registers record the baptism on 7.3.1802 of Elizabeth the base born daughter of Mary Mutter.*

**2.6.1806 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO28/3**

Joseph **AMOR**, aged about 42 years and now residing in Chardstock, said that when about the age of 15 years he was bound an Apprentice by his father to Elias **LOCK**, taylor of Chard, Somerset, for 5 years, that he served his Apprenticeship in Chard except the last forty days during which he resided with his parents in Chardstock, it being covenanted in the Indenture that he should return there to present his gaining a Settlement in the Parish of Chard, this Examinant during that time working for his Master who paid his father for his board and lodging. And this Examinant further said that about 18 years since he married Sarah **COLEMAN** of Castle Cary, Somerset who was well intitled to a Moiety of a dwellinghouse and orchard at Castle Cary and that he resided at the premises for about 10 years and then returned to Chardstock and worked at his business as a taylor, and after living there about 18 months he sold his property at Castle Cary for about £90. And this Examinant further said that he now

resided at Chardstock and has a wife and eleven children now living with him and has done no other act to gain a Settlement.

Signed Joseph Amor

**19.11.1806 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO28/4**

Mary **SUMMERS**, spinster of Chardstock, said that he was born as she has heard and believes in Chardstock of parents legally settled there - that when about 14 years of age her uncle, who resided at Luppitt, Devon, devised with her father that she might reside with him during his wife's illness. This Examinant accordingly went to her uncle's at Luppitt and worked at the Dairy and Household Business for 2 years and half when her father sent for her to live with him, which she refused to do until her father would allow her wages, which he agreed to do at the rate of £3 a year, that she returned to her father at Chardstock and resided with him for upwards of 3 years and received her wages, which she has done no act to gain a Settlement. Signed the Mark of Mary Summers.

**9.9.1808 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO28/5**

Robert **LORING**, Taylor aged about 30 years and now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in Membury, Devon, of parents legally settled there. That about the age of 11 he was bound by the Overseers of Membury to Samuel **VICAR**, Taylor of Membury, under Indenture of Apprenticeship till the age of 21 to learn the business of a taylor, that he served his Master till he became of age in Membury and then went to his mother's house in Chardstock where she has removed after her husband's and the Examinant father's death. That he continued to live with his mother till her death and soon after married, and has now 2 children who are now living with his wife in Chardstock. That he has done no other act whereby to gain a Settlement. Signature the Mark of Robert Loring.

**16.5.1811 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO29/1**

Mathew **STOODLEY**, now a Private Soldier in his Majesty's 8th Regiment of Foot, said that he was born in Crewkerne, Somerset, where he continued to reside till he was about 14 years of age when he went to Chardstock and hired himself to Mr Henry **HIGGINS** at 6d a week wages for one year and to be found victuals, lodging and clothes - that he continued to serve under this Agreement for a year and then made a fresh Agreement with Henry Higgins for 50s a year wages and to be found victuals and lodging and that he continued to serve under this Agreement about 8 months when he returned to Crewkerne where he continued to reside till he went into the Militia, that since he resided at Chardstock he has done no act whereby to gain a Settlement, that he has since married Margaret **LACEY** by whom he had one child now living named Jeremiah aged about 9 months. Signed the Mark of Mathew Stoodley.

**29.6.1812 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO29/2**

Henry **BURN**, a Private Soldier in the South Devon Militia and now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in Plympton, St. Mary, Devon, where his father then lived. That about the age of 6 years he was removed with his parents to Looe Trenchard, Devon, where his father belonged. At the age of 7 he went into the service of John **BRAG** when he was hired by his father for his Meat, Drink and Clothes. That he staid under this Agreement for 7 years, then went to Mary Davy, Devon where he lived with Samuel **HARE** about 8 months. Then returned to Looe Trenchard where his father had made a Bargain for him with Thomas **SIMMONS**, and served the year, then went into the service of Thomas **JOHNS** who lived also in Looe Trenchard and served him 12 months, his wages then as well as he remembers, about £4. Then went back to Plympton St. Mary and worked for about 2 months for Thomas **HALLETT** sometimes of his farm, sometimes in a slate quarry. After this he hired himself to Anthony **AVERY** of Mindinnich in the Parish of Maker, Devon at the wages of £6 10s a year from the ensuing Lady Day and entered upon the service accordingly, and serve out the year. Then agreed with same Master for another year at the wages of 7 Guineas (£7 7s) and lived with him in Maker till the month of August when from some dispute they parted. This Examinant then returned to Plympton St. Mary where he worked by the week in the employ of two different Masters till Lady

Day twelvemonth then next ensuing 1803. Then engaged as a substitute for John **LINE** at Plym, Devon in the South Devon Militia in which Regiment he has ever since continued. That he married 3 years ago last Christmas and has now living in Chardstock his wife and 2 children. That he has done no other act to gain Settlement.  
Signed Henry Burn.

**8.2.1813 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO29/3**

Samuel **PEARCE**, labourer of Chardstock, said that he was born in Chardstock of parents legally settled there as he has heard and believes. That when about 16 years old he went to Thorncombe and after residing there about 6 months, he went to Chard, Somerset and asked Mr **BROWN** to give him work, which he agreed to do in the trade of clothier and to be paid by the piece for what he should earn and to find himself in board, lodgings and clothes and continued working with him in this manner for upwards of 30 years, that during this time he married. That having become a widower he went to Mr **WALTERS** of Combe St. Nicholas, Somerset and worked by the piece with him for about 6 years, hath since done no Act to gain a Settlement.  
Signed the Mark of Samuel Pearce.

**8.2.1819 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO29/4**

Sarah **NEWBERRY**, aged about 32 years and now residing in Chardstock, said that she was born in Chardstock where her parents then resided and were legally settled as she has heard and believes to be true. She lived with her parents until she was about 10 years old when she was bound as a Parish Apprentice to William **LEAT**, Miller of Chardstock, with whom she lived between 6 and 7 years, when her Master died. She then went to the Borough of Chard, Somerset and hired herself as a servant to [blank] **SPICER**, surgeon and lived with him about three quarters of a year then she hired herself to William **LEMON**, Brewer of Chard, as a servant and lived with him three quarters of a year. Then she returned to her father Robert **NEWBERRY** dairyman at Smallridge and assisted him in the Dairy and Household Work. Her father found her board, lodgings and clothes, but he had no control over her to keep her longer than she pleased, there being no contract for any hiring or service. Then she went to the City of Bath and lived with different persons for a few months at each place, but not longer than 8 months at either place. Then she went to her father's at Stoke under Ham, Somerset about midsummer 1817 and resided with him for about 10 months. When her father removed to Chilthorne, Somerset and she went with him, where she remained assisting him in the Dairy and Household Work and he found her board and lodgings, but he had no control over her to keep her longer than she pleased, there being no contract for any hiring or service. She continued with her father till the first day February instant when she was brought to Chardstock under an Order by two Justices of the Peace for Somerset, her being with child. She has done no Act whatever to gain a Settlement by servitude or otherwise than before set forth.  
Signed Sarah Newbery

*Note: The different spelling of the surname. The document records it as NEWBERRY, but she signed NEWBERY.*

**12.2.1821 Examination Taken On Oath 2590A/PO30/1**

Thomas **MOORE**, labourer and resident of Axminster, Devon, said that he was born in the Parish of Chard, Somerset of parents legally settled there as he has heard and believes to be true. He has resided in Chard nearly all his lifetime until last Lady Day and has never been resident out of Chard Parish for a greater length of time than 6 months. He is now 54 years of age and was married about 4 months ago at Exeter, that he has never done any Act to gain a Settlement, until he came to Axminster, when he took the house he now resides in together with a close of land about three quarters of an acre of Mr George **COOMBS** as the yearly rent of £12.  
Signed the Mark of Thomas Moore.

**7.5.1821**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO30/2**

James **DEEM**, cordwainer of Chardstock, said that she was born in Chardstock of parents legally settled in Honiton, Devon as he has heard and believes to be true. He is now about 29 years of age and married. About 6 weeks since he received relief from the Parish of Honiton and has never done any Act to gain a Settlement by renting, servitude or otherwise than before stated.

Signed James Deem.

**5.4.1820**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO30/3**

Sarah **JEFFERY**, now residing in Chardstock, said that she was born in Chardstock as she has heard and believes to be true, where her parents then resided and were legally settled. She continued to live with her parents till she was about 17 years of age when she went to Axminster and hired herself to live with Mr John **BURRIDGE** for a year with wages of £3. That she lived with him upwards of a year and received her wages. Then she went to Chard and hired herself to Mr William **JENNINGS** to live with him at the wages of one shilling by the week with a weeks notice from [illegible]. That she went to live with Mrs **JENNINGS** at Lady Day, that she left the service at Lady Day. That she received her wages as she wanted them. That her mistress gave her a fortnights notice previous to Lady Day for her to leave the service. That she has since done no Act to gain a Settlement.

Signed the Mark of Sarah Jeffery.

**18.2.1822**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO30/4**

Anstice **SEWARD**, singlewoman and resident of Allson in the Parish of Chardstock, said that she was born in Chardstock of parents legally settled there as she has heard and believes to be true. She is now about 23 years of age. At the age of 20 she hired herself to Mr Charles **BENNETT** of Chardstock at 1s 3d per week board and lodging with whom she resided about half a year when her Master removed to Crimchard in the Parish of Chard, Somerset with whom she continued to live under the same Agreement for 2 years and half. That she has done no other Act to gain a Settlement than before mentioned.

Signed Anstes Seward (note different spelling to that above)

**4.3.1822**

**Examination Taken On Oath**

**2590A/PO30/5**

Thomas **MOORE**, labourer now residing in Chardstock, said that he was born in the Parish of Chard, Somerset as he has heard and believes to be true where his parents were then legally settled. About 26 years since he rented three pieces of ground and a house in Chardstock at £8 a year and resided there for 6 years having also for 2 years of that time rented a house, orchard and garden in Chard at the yearly rent of £13 which rent he paid although he permitted his son in law to reside therein. That at Ladyday twelvemonths past he took a house and field in Axminster, Devon for a year at the rent of £12, but which he occupied for 11 months and three weeks and paid £9 18s rent only.

That 3 years since having built a house in Chard on the Lord's Waste (many years before) he took a lease of Copy thereof for 5 lives and paid for the same 5 Guineas (£5 5s), that the same is now occupied by his son who this Examinant has let the same to.

That he has never lived in service, was bound an Apprentice or done any Act to gain a Settlement - That about one year and a half since he married his present wife by whom he has a child, Caroline aged 1 year, and that he has 3 children - Charles (aged 19 years), Joanna (15) and Fanny (10), all of whom were born in wedlock by his late deceased wife and that he has been relieved.

Signed the Mark of Thomas Moore.

**26.10.1822**

**Marriage Affidavit**

**2590A/PO30/6**

Marriage Affidavit of James **VICKERY**, bachelor of Chardstock, and Mary **DAW**, spinster of Honiton, Devon, taken on Oath at Honiton Rectory 26th Day of October 1822.

James Vickery maketh Oath and saith that he has been resident in his own house in Chardstock for the space of 8 years last past and is still resident in the same - and that he is of the full age of 21 years and upwards.

Signed James Vickery

Mary Daw maketh Oath and saith that she has been resident in the house of Mr Nathaniel **PINE** in Honiton, Devon for the space of 20 years last past and is still resident in the same - and that she is of the full age of 21 years and upwards.

Signed Mary Daw.

**30.10 1822**

**Marriage Affidavit**

**2590A/PO30/7**

John **TURNER**, labourer of Chardstock, maketh Oath and saith that his true Christian Name is John and that his surname is Turner and that he now resides and abides at the house situate and being on South Common in the Parish of Chardstock the property of Jonathan **KEECH**, weaver of Chardstock, and that the Deponent hath lived in the said house for the space of three months continually from the 7th day of July 1822. And this Deponent further saith that he doth request Bans of Marriage between him and Joan **SPEED**, singlewomen of Thorncombe, Devon, to be published in the Parish of Chardstock according to due Form of Law.

John Turner saith that he hath attained the age of 29 and that Joan Speed hath attained the age of 35

Signed the mark of John Turner.

