LITTLE BADDOW

THE HISTORY OF AN ESSEX VILLAGE

PART THREE

by

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FORWARD

In the concluding volume of my history of the village of Little Baddow, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to the staff of the Essex Record Office who made available to me all the hundreds of documents of all kinds which have gone to the making of this history. Especially I would mention Mr. R. Bond, who has been consistently helpful. I also acknowledge with thanks the permission of the County Archivist to reproduce the extracts from documents, the drawing of the memorial hall, and the photographs of the Rev. Ady, Rev. Tayler and Mr. And Mrs. Lindsell.

My debt to many villagers, for this volume in particular, is very great. Most of the photographs reproduced have been donated to the Parish Chest by public-spirited inhabitants (following in the tradition set by their predecessors). So many of these inhabitants have been so kind and patient with my questions about the village in their young days that I have a mass of material, which would make a complete book in itself, all safely lodged in the Parish Chest. It may be invidious to mention names, but one I must – Mr. Roy Warsop, to whom I owe so much.

Mrs. Janet Shave, daughter of Mr. H. Stracy, lent and allowed me to use the photograph of her father's bus and the one of Miss Langford. The photograph of the school children of the 1890s is a copy from the original lent me some years ago by Mrs. Norah Taylor.

For reasons of space, I have omitted maps in this volume, but they may be found in Parts one and two.

Chapter one

The Poor

Poverty was less of a problem to mediaeval villagers than it became to later generations, but nevertheless, following the Black Death, increasing vagrancy forced the government to take action to maintain law and order. Regulations were made to try to stop able-bodied beggars from wandering about the country and to induce them to seek work, while at the same time it was recognised that the impotent poor had a right to assistance from their own parish. Perhaps Johanna, a pauper living in Little Baddow in 1381, was an aged widow being cared for in the parish in which she had spent her life. The Church recognised an obligation to care for the orphans, disabled and aged, allocating to the poor some of the fines imposed by the ecclesiastical courts and also part of the tithe. Almsgiving was regarded as a Christian duty, sometimes taking the form of bequests in wills, as is shown by some of the earliest local wills. Roger Hammond, for instance, in 15 12 provided money for "poore marieges" and Thomas Grome in 1538 money to be distributed "amonges the pore people". Joan Radley (1518) instructed that if all her children should "fayle" then her property should be sold and "dysposyd in dedys of charyte wher most nedde ys", and in any case the residue of her late husband's and her own apparel was to be given to poor people by her executors. Such bequests are exceddingly rare after the 1530s.

A number of Statutes from 1531 aimed at the punishment of the many vagrants and "sturdy beggars" and the relief of the increasing multitude of impotent poor. Rural parishes were to elect two Collectors who were to "gentellie aske" of every man what he would give as a contribution after church every Sunday for the relief of the parish poor. Poor boxes were put into churches for donations. By 1572 it had become necessary to substitute for voluntary weekly collections a compulsory tax upon every householder except the indigent. An Act of 1589, aiming at the prevention of poverty, decreed that only one family might live in any house and that every cottage built must have four acres of land. Anticipating this Act, Bassetts manor court in 1572 ordered William Byrd to expel and remove from his house the stranger, William Shall, while Tofts manor court in 1573 passed a by-law against "inmates", with a fine of 3s.4d. for anyone disregarding it. The parish was prepared to support its own poor, but not those from other places. The vicar, though, sometimes had to enter in the Register that he had baptised the child "of a poore woman that came by the waie" or buried "a poore man" whose name he did not know.

Quarter Sessions dealt with a few Little Baddow cases of poverty in Elizabethan times. Richard Hammond als. Tyler was bound over to pay for the maintenance of his son (presumable illegitimate) so that "for want of sustenance and other necessary provision for him he perish not". In 1592 Agnes Hopkynes told the magistrates that

since the death of her husband Little Baddow would not allow her to remain there because of her "charge of children" and she asked the Court that she might have an abiding place appointed for her, when she would labour for her living and not be burdensome to any place. Quarter Sessions decided to ask for contributions, from all the parishes where she had lived and her children had been born, with which to provide for her. Meanwhile Little Baddow was to allow her to remain in the village. Little Baddow also found itself having to maintain the many small children of John Harrys, the tanner who by his unthriftiness had become very poor and "nothing worth". The justices managed a solution to his complicated financial affairs.

Parliament was becoming ever more concerned about both the "great and horrible abuses of idle and vagrant persons" and the "extream and miserable estate of the Godly and honest sort of the poor subjects of this realm". After much discussion an Act was passed in 1597 and re-enacted with slight alterations in 1601, which was to form the basis of the administration of poor relief until the twentieth century. Under this Act every parish was to appoint two "overseers of the Poor" who, with the Churchwardens and under the supervision of the local Justices of the Peace, were to collect the Poor Rate and be responsible for looking after the impotent poor, the punishment of vagrants and the setting to work of the able-bodied.

A few incidents only show the working of the Act in Little Baddow in the first century of its operation. In 1657 Quarter Sessions received a petition from the inhabitants of the village stating that Mary Wood had been delivered of two base children who were chargeable to the parish. The suspected father, George Charles, some weeks since had departed, deserting his wife and lawful children. The wife had died and the churchwardens and overseers had thereupon seized his goods, house and lands, fearing that these children also would become chargeable. They were to authorised to retain the property for the maintenance of the lawful children until their father returned, upon which two justices were to examine him regarding the base children and "make such order as the law requires". Among other cases reaching the courts, Nathaniel Sach in 1697 had disobeyed an order made by two justices to maintain a male bastard child by him begotten on Mary Tanner, while in 1702 Mary Beadle told the justices that she was with child and the child was likely to be born a bastard, chargeable to Little Baddow, and that the father was Edward Toby, miller, late of the parish. A few poor children were apprenticed, with the consent of two justices, the church wardens and the overseers, among them Phillip Somes to the miller at Huskards mill, John Wells to a yeoman and Nicholas Harris to a blacksmith, all until they were twenty-four years of age. The parishioners of Chatley hamlet in 1635 were annoyed because a poor child from Little Baddow had become a servant there – and so likely to become chargeable to them.

This paucity of records fortunately ends in the next century, for a complete set of account books, kept by the Little Baddow Overseers of the Poor, survives for the years between 1722 and 1834. In the latter year the Poor Law Amendment Act took the care of the poor out of the hands of individual parishes. The vestry minute books survive from 1759 until 1835 and supplement the account books.

These books show that every Easter saw the outgoing overseer balancing his accounts, submitting them to the vestry meeting and asking them to grant the imposition of a rate to meet the expenditure he had incurred. The meeting also

agreed on four names from whom the next two overseers should be chosen, to serve for six months each. The overseer then took his account book to two local justices for them to confirm both the accounts and the rate and to appoint the new overseers. Having done this, the outgoing overseer (as a note scribbled at the front of the second account book, commencing in 1748, adjured him) had to "Take care that notice be given in the parish Church on the Sunday next after every overseers rate is allowed him by two Justices otherwise his rate is null and void". He could then go round the parish collecting the assessments from the inhabitants who were liable to pay. Meanwhile his successor was starting his period of office from Easter to Michaelmas and would collect his rate at the end of his term.

They were appointed from the wealthier families like the Taylors of the Hall, the Pledgers, the Johnsons of the Mill, the Harts of Hammonds, the Hodges of the Papermill, the Sorrells of Tofts. Of the few women appointed, some served, like Ann Lord in 1730, Sarah Pledger in 1767 and Catherine Stoneham in the 1780s and 1790s, but Widow Stokes in 1733 and Mrs. Swan in 1754 had the duties carried out by a man. When apparently trying to enlarge the circle of those who could be called upon to act, the vestry meeting appointed some poorer men, such as Thomas Saward (carpenter) in 1777, Ralph Stone (small farmer) in 17798, Henry Fool (small farmer) and James Jordan (innkeeper) in 1779, they allowed them to collect a sixpenny rate in advance of taking office and then the remainder was collected as usual. After this experiment the vestry reverted to appointing substantial householders, each of whom could expect to serve several times during his lifetime. The only recorded instance of a man refusing to serve was in 1761 when John Foster, maltseller and grocer, was fined 6d. by Quarter Sessions. Isaac Pledger, at that time churchwarden performed the duty for him, and in fact for the next two overseers as well. On several other occasions someone deputized for the elected overseer, presumably by mutual agreement. Most of them found writing and spelling extremely difficult; someone sarcastically wrote beneath a particularly bad example " a first rate writer and speller". One or two were illiterate, such as Robert Cobbs who in October 1732 "pd. John Belcher for keeping my Accots", and James Chipperfield and George Taylor who put their marks instead of signatures to their accounts. Even as late as 1823 John Raven, farmer of Whitwells, was illiterate. Some accounts were written in several different hands – it is useless to speculate whose.

Like all parish officers, overseers were unpaid, but they were allowed to charge some of their expenses to the Poor Rate. There were fees to pay when they took their accounts to the local justices, such as 2s. "for Confearming the Book", 1s. "for making the Rate", or 4s. "for sining the Book and Rate and Instrurckschonis". Expenses were incurred at Chelmsford Quarter Sessions or "at Danbury at the Seshons" (petty sessions). They had to travel some distance on occasion, such as when one overseer went to Ingatestone to pay in the "County Money". They regularly went to pay "the Bridge money and Quarterage" (County Rate) at Chelmsford. One overseer spent 3s. "when I paid the Bills". Another charged 2s. 6d. "for my horse 5 times to Chelmsford" and another "for a journey and expenses to Perlly" and three other journeys, but many journeys must have been made without claim. Most of their work, however, was done within the parish, entirely without charge, and the onerous nature of the day-to-day administration must have resulted in a man's own farm or business being continually neglected during his term of office.

In the 1720s the annual expenditure on the poor was about £60 and the rate usually well under 1s. in the £ each half year, but from the 1740s and especially from the 1760s this steadily rose until in 1800 the rate reached 4s. 6d. for the half year, after which there were usually two or three rates imposed in the course of every six months. During the Napoleonic Wars, with a great deal of unemployment and poverty throughout the country, the parish was spending ever-increasing amounts on its poor until for the year 1815/6 it spent over £800. The total remained at around this figure until 1834. The population rose from perhaps 250 to 300 in 1720 to 350 in 1780, and from 456 in 1801 to 548 in 1831. In 1748 there were fifty-five occupiers who were liable to pay the Poor Rate and the figure remained about the same, although the number too poor to be rated increased to nearly half the total occupiers by the 1820s. In 1801 the vestry agreed "that the whole Parish of Little Baddow should come under a fair and just valuation by two impartial men as soon as convenient can be", but it seems to have made little difference. The records do not state how willingly or unwillingly the parishioners paid the Poor Rate, but several men were taken to Petty Sessions after 1800 for not paying, and no doubt they were not the first defaulters.

The overseer' accounts were divided between the "weekly collection" and the "extraordinaries". During the period covered by the first account book (1722 to 1748) there were six to eight people at any one time who received the "weekly collection", which was a fixed weekly pension. They were widows, old men or orphans, but there were others who were sick and temporarily in need. The "extraordinaries" included all other payments made to or on behalf of the poor and on the administration of the Poor Law.

People in receipt of a regular allowance were required to wear a badge on the shoulder, probably a large "BP" for "Baddow Parish". Such people were forbidden to beg in the streets but could visit houses to ask for scraps of food.

Perhaps one of the most pathetic dependents was "the lame woman" who first appeared in the accounts in 1729 and who remained on the weekly collection at 2s. a week for twenty-seven years, never given a name, until in 1756 she was removed from the village. Sometimes these people were housed in the Poor House, but more often they were left in their own homes and their rent paid for them, or they were lodged at parish expense in the home of another poor person – often someone who needed the small board and lodging allowance to save them from having themselves to ask for poor relief. One of these people always balanced precariously on the verge of penury was John Miller. He and his wife fostered orphan children and his wife often nursed the sick and poor. On 20th April 1731 the overseer wrote in his account book "Memorandum that part of the House by the Church is let to John Meller at £1 5s. per annum to enter upon it at Michaelmas next and he to make up the fence at his own charge". He was sometimes given malt and hops as well as firewood and clothes and once 2s. "in the snow". Finally he was put on the weekly collection, remaining in his own home. He died in 1740 and his widow soon after. His son of the same name was in no better state. Several of the poor were sick in August 1749, among them John Miller and his wife, for whom Doctor Green prescribed "A bottle of stuff". When his wife died her funeral was paid for by the parish, as was his own in 1764. After his death the overseer paid 2s. "for feching John Milers goods down to the Vestery", where either they were stored until some other poor persons were in

need or whatever was there of they were sold at once. On the same day the overseer paid 6d. to Abraham Cass, church clerk, "for Crien Robert Mooteney goods"; Robert Mortimer had left three-year-old twin boys, cared for by the parish for nine years.

Among those on the weekly collection when the accounts begin in 1722 was John Pool, receiving 1s. a week for a short period. He became ill in 1729 and the overseer had to come to his assistance again. His last days are well documented in the accounts. On 16th July Michael Pitman, the overseer, paid 4s. for cloth and the making of a shirt and 8 and a half d. for "Bread Beer and Shugar" for him. On 23rd July "a man and horse to go to John Pools mother" cost 2s. Dr. Dunkley's fee was 14s. Dame Barker was paid 5s. for looking after the sick man, 1s. for "several things" and provided with "Bread and Cheese and Bear" costing 3s. 2d. Dame Hockley helped to look after him and received 3s. for it, together with 6d. for earthenware for him. "Hollingham wife" was paid 2s. for nursing him. A blanket was provided for 3s. 6d.,' meat cost 1s. 6d. and beans and milk 8d. Dame Ellis for sitting up with him received 1s., and the "Candles for watching with John Pool" were 2d. On 5th August however Mr. Pitman entered in the book "for John Pools Corpse to the Grave" 2s. 6d. and to Mr. Ortons man for "putting John Pools into his coffin" 1s. Hockley received 1s. for making the affidavit that he was buried in a woollen shroud; this was in accordance with an Act of Charles 11's reign designed to protect the wool trade. Abraham Cass, church clerk, was paid the usual fee of 3s. 4d for digging the grave.

Meanwhile Samuel Dore (as was so often the case, no overseer was sure how to spell his name and it is unlikely that he knew himself), an old man, was receiving 2s. a week from about 1723. He also received "extraordinaries", like clothes and supplies of wood, brush and broom for his fire. In 1733 Goody Miller was paid 1s. "for looking after old Dor when sick". Two years later 2 and a quarter yards of cloth and 1 and a quarter yerds of lining were bought for 8s. 6d. and then 2s. 6d. "payd for Samuel Dores wascoat making". At the end of the following year he fell ill again and Dame Miller was given 5s every four weeks for nursing and doing washing for the old man. Two sheets, two shirts and a load of wood were provided for him, and John Josling supplied "milke and other things" at a cost of £1. 3. 0. "Naighbor Chiterfeld" let him have three shillings' worth of wood. He died in April 1737 and the overseer entered into the account book-

Samuel Doars goods……..…s. d.
Sold to Mr Josling 2 old kettles and a hutch…….10.0.
To Mr Taylor 3 old tobbs……3.0.
To Abram Cass an old friing pann……..1.0.
To dame Miller a cask……. 6.
To an old trunk…… 6.

15.0.

One of the earliest funerals in the account books was that of "old Stockdale" who died in June 1732. The overseer paid for a "Burieing sute", for "Laying him forth", "for Beer at his Burieing", for the "Affiedavit and the fetching". For the coffin and the church clerk's fees – in all about £1. Another John Stockdale received the weekly

collection from 1749 until his death in 1770; it was not unusual for pauperism thus to descend from generation to generation in a family.

Widow Wood, who was receiving the weekly dole from at least 1722, seems to have been taken ill when she was away from home for Edward Hollingham was paid 3s. "for fetching Dame Wood". Cord was bought for her bed and a sack given her, probably to lay over the cord. She was given physick, white wine and sugar and she recovered. Widow Dawson, also on the weekly collection in 1722, was granted regular supplies of fuel, such as on 1st January 1730 "halfe a stack of wood and halfe a hundred of brush". In February £3.3.0. was paid to "Rust and Surgen for luking after Eliz. Dawcons Ledg". Her leg continued to give her trouble but she lived on until March 1753.

The overseers in office during the early years of the account books had to provide for four orphan children. In 1729 one of the Chambers children was lodged with Mrs. Bruster and the other with Mrs. Swithen, but soon one of them disappeared from the accounts – perhaps sent off to work. On 20th April 1731 the Vestry agreed that Ann Jefferys (for whom they had been responsible for at least two years) should continue to board with Mrs. Ellis, Mary Richards (who was at Mrs. Brusters's in 1729) should be kept at the Widow Richardson's and Ann Chambers at Joseph Sweeting's all at 1s.6d. a week. Joseph Brown's wife was paid "for curing a sore leg of Mary Richards". On 8th November 1739 the overseer "Let Mary Richards to Nat. Chetcher for a yeare", doubtless as a general servant, and he fitted her out with "Apron and hatt" and "Hankitcher and under coat". The following March Mary Richards and Ann Chambers were ill and were given medicine, Ann having "three purges and gallepot of stuffe". No more is heard of Ann Chambers but Mary remained in the care of the parish. One year the overseer "paid Amb. Johnson for nursing of Mary Richards in smallpox". She had further trouble with her leg in 1746 when Isaac Pledger, overseer, paid 2s6d. "for purges and bleeding Mary Richards severall times when lame" and 15s. to "Mrs. Sturgeon for looking after Mary Richards leg". From 1751 she was often sick and in want and given small sums and clothes by the overseer. Perhaps it was she who was ment by "hoping Mary" who had a shift and apron bought for her in 1757. When old Wright died she was paid 6d. for sitting up with him. By this time (1767) she was receiving parish relief at 1s. a week, later raised to 1s.6d. besides extraordinaries. In March 1777 Dame Malt and Same Hales were paid 2s.6d. for "layen out Mary Richards" and Thomas Saward supplied her coffin for 9d.

One cannot feel that her life had been a happy one.

The first recorded of many unmarried mothers chargeable to the poor rate was Elizabeth Chinrey who in 1732 was lodged with Goody Ketcher at 1s. a qeek, and clothes bought for her. In March the overseer wrote "pd for Elizabeth Chinrey Lying Inn" £1.11.6. and "pd. For a weeks board after her lying in" 3s. In April he "paid Nat. Ketcher for keeping Elizabeth Chinrey and her child 3 weeks. Abraham Cass received his fee as church clerk when her child was christened. Throughout May the Ketchers continued to board her and the child, until in June Goody Brewer took over at 3s.6d. or 4s a week. In July, when she was lodging with Goody Hockley, Goody Brown was awarded the sum of 10s. "for curering Chinery". Then followed "Beer for Chinrey" several times, a "payer of Shooes" and "a payer of Clogs" at 2s. 6d. and

7d. Mrs. Spillman was looking after her in September when a new reel (for winding yarn) was bought for her. At Christmas the child died and the overseer on 27th December paid "the charch clark for barengen Ellen Chenery child" and "Goody Barker for laying it forth and the afdaved" (affidavit). The following November 5s. was given to "Goode Brown for a cuer done to Elizabeth Chinrey", after which she disappeared from the accounts, presumably this cure being permanent.

Sometimes the parish's obligation to look after its poor extended to paying relatives to care for them. John Kee's mother was paid 2s. for "locken ater him". Payment was made to John Tabor "for keeping his sister", and when Widow Bowles, who was on the weekly collection, fell ill, first Jacob Bowles was paid 6s. and then her daughter 3s. for looking after her. Similarly the vestry agreed "to allow Mary Bruster one shilling a week to look after her father".

Overseers were sometimes involved in disputes at Quarter Sessions between Little Baddow and other parishes as to which parish was responsible for certain of the poor. In 1729 there was a disagreement with Orsett about Ann Dale after the overseer had entered in his book "Charges with Ann Dale going to Oset" 6s9d; "A horse to carrey Ann Dale" 2s 6d. and also "gave shoyer to loocking after Ann Deale" 7s. The overseers spent several pounds defending their case at Quarter Sessions after Orsett appealed.

In 1746 the occupant of The Cock must have been in difficulty for the overseer paid £5.12.6. "for redeeming Petter Fosters goods". The same was done later for other people.

The first account book thus shows the Poor Law in action in the parish probably much as it had been since 1601 – the population had increased little and the needs could not have greatly altered. The next hundred years was to see some change, perhaps typified by the cessation in March 1730 of the occasional purchase of tobacco and pipes – a kindly gesture which the parish could no longer afford.

On 11th April 1748 the overseers began the new account book (which they had bought for 4s.) On that day the people receiving the weekly collection were Widows Dawson, Bruster and Snelock, the lame woman, Widow Cockley's children and the Widow Oliver and her children. Widow Dawson and the Lame woman had long been receiving the allowance; Widows Bruster and Snelock for about seven years. The Cockleys had been thrown on to the care of the parish in 1740. The home seems to have been broken up after the breadwinner died for the overseer entered in the book "Recd. for Cockly goods £4.17.1" and the children were boarded with the Ketchers.

The widow must have found work as she did not receive a pension for the first few years. One child died but the overseers bought many clothes for the other – Mary, Isaac and James. The last payments on behalf of the boys were made in 1752 but Mary received clothes for another year. Their mother died in January 1753, the overseer paying for her coffin and "two yeards of Bayes to Bury Wido Cockley in". In the 1780s and 1790s occasionally Isaac Cockley was in want. Widow Oliver first received her weekly dole in April 1745 when her husband died. Her children (both girls) received far fewer clothes than the Cockleys; they were living in their own

home, their rent being paid to Mr. Pledger for them, and by 1753 were out of the care of the parish.

At the end of 1750 the parish was burdened with the care of five orphan children whose parents died within a few days of each other. Benjamin Harrington, overseer, told the story in his ill-spelt accounts. On 10th Novembr he "Gave Reaf Teyler when seck" 5s; on 17th "Gave Wedow Teyler when seck" 3s. and paid 8s. "for Nussen of Reaf Tiler and wife". He then paid 10s. for two shrouds and 4s. "for laing of Reaf Tiler and his wife forth 2 affadue and seting up 4 nights". Next he paid 16s. for the two coffins and 6s. to "Abram Cass for making 2 graves for Tiler and his wife". Finally "Bear for the brenges" (beer for the bearers) cost 8s. Before he had finished with these payments he was making arrangements for the children so suddenly orphaned. The goods their parents left were sold for £9.10.4., but this was very soon spent on their keep and on clothing; they seem to have needed almost complete outfits. Thomas Saward took the eldest boy, Ralph; Dame Haward took John; Widow Tyler (no doubt their grandmother) looked after William; and John Bearman (their mother had been Mary Bearman) fostered the girl, Mary. Elias Pledger appears to have taken the youngest, Thomas, for whom Mrs. Bruce covered a stay and made a "scurt" and for whom "leeding strings" and " a frock and hat and payer of shoues" were bought. The weekly lodging allowances varied between 2s.3d. and 1s. In early 1753 Thomas was moved to the care of William Bowles and Ralph to Isaac Pledger. In October that year the overseer endeavoured to get the eldest boy off his hands "pd. To charges for going to Maldon Ralfe Tiler to try to let him" 1. 6d. whether or not he succeeded that time the overseers were still buying clothes for him for another two years. In 1757 the overseer paid Mr. Hodges £5.5.0. "for taking William Tylor and finding him with cloth for seven year to this inst." Probably he meant from this inst. as Widow Tyler had been receiving payments for looking after William. By this time all the children except Thomas must have been found work for they disappear from the accounts. At sometime widow Haward had taken charge of Thomas but the overseer entered in the book that he had "Agreed with C. Limner for keeping Thomas Tyler a year at £1.16s. (and the parish find him with cloaths) from January the 1st 1760". The following year the vestry "agreed to allow Thos. Tyler a coat a vescoat a shart a pair of stockings a pair of shooes a hat for the hole yeare". After a few years he too was earning his own living.

In July 1754 died Robert Paveley, leaving a widow, four children aged between fifteen and eight and another son born a month after his father's death. He had been provident enough to pay into a Chelmsford Club and the overseers had continued his subscriptions during his sickness in 1752. In January 1753 they gave him malt and hops and that April some money when his wife lay in; the child died. Later in the year he was again ill, the overseers paying his Club money and making him occasional payments until his death. There must have been a coroner's inquest for the overseer paid "part of the Charge of the Jurey and Docter for to Burry Robert Pavely". He also paid 3s. "To Charges at Chelmsford receve the monny of the Club for Wido Pavely". She was thence forward given 4s. a week, her rent and extraordinaries, like fuel and many clothes for her children – three girls and two boys. Elias Pledger, overseer, bought a tub for her – perhaps she took in washing – then she was given a spinning wheel, and seems to have been able partly to support her self for the rest of her life.

As her children in turn became self-supporting Widow Paveley's allowance was reduced. When the youngest boy was nearly twenty years old he was in want and given occasional payments, and four years later "a cofen for Tom Pavely" was bought. Widow Paveley herself, however, lived on into old age, receiving 2s. a week, with some extra help, and nursing and washing when she was unwell, until in 1795 she died and was buried at the parish's expense. She had been a widow on parish relief for forty-one years.

The period of Mrs. Paveley's widowhood saw changes in the condition of the poor and in the duties of the overseers. They were used to making payments to people who were temporarily in distress, but in 1758 for the first time Elias Pledger had to pay several sums to Edward Davey "when he had no worck". Unemployment was to become a perennial problem for the later overseers, who were obliged to try to obey the precepts of the Elizabethan Poor Law to set the able-bodied poor to work as well as continuing the comparatively simple duty of relieving the impotent.

Some of the able-bodied were occupied in cultivating the town field "in spade husbandry". Members of the Saward family, carpenters, were paid from the Poor Rate every few years "for Raling in of Graveel Pett", so it is certain that the poor must have worked there during the eighteenth century and without doubt on the roads as well, as the surveyors' accounts show that they did between 1814 and 1834. Elderly men like John Barker, who had a pension of 2s. 6d. a week, were paid for various jobs in connection with the Poor House and the poor. Men were sometimes given a tool – a spade, a scythe, hedging gloves etc., - which must have enabled them to take a job they would not otherwise have been able to do. John Sweeting, who was a shoemaker, in 1763 was given one guinea to buy a lathe: two years later he was able to take an orphan boy as an apprentice, for which he received two guineas. The overseer in 1775 felt it worth while to give one guinea to "Martha Gillet for to go to London to git her self a place of sarves" (service), and a few years later he "Gave Hanah Harved in want wenn vent to Londen" 6s. The overseers do not appear to have encouraged membership of a club or friendly society: the only poor man other than Robert Paveley shown by the accounts to have belonged to one was Thomas Peacock between 1763 and 1785.

The impotent poor were often the sick and in these cases the able-bodied (though sometimes elderly) poor could be set to work curing or nursing them. Payments to amateur doctors and nurses are very common, such as:-

	s.	d.
To Ann Browne for cuering of Widdow Ailets hand	5.	0.
Paid Dame Brown for looking after the wid.Sweeting leage	7.	6.
Paid Mrs. Spilman for bleding and for stuff for the lame girl for a paid in her seid	3.	6.
Paid Jn. Knight for the curing Lanes head	10.	6.

(This was not a success, but as the head had been "cured" by other people during the previous eight years, this is not surprising).

Sometimes payment was made in kind: Dame Root for instance was allowed "Old Stockdales Cloaths for nursing him", after his death. These amateurs were not always poor people – William Calcraft, papermaker, in the latter part of the century had notable success as a healer.

Overseers supplied medicine such as "a Botl of Daflixer" (Daffy's Elixir, a popular remedy), "a botl drops" and often a "Bottle of Stuf" or "physick". Jack Beadle was given 6d. "to cure the Ague". Widow Milton when she was ill was bought half a pint of brandy and some sugar, Steven Sullen a bottle of port, Widow Anderson a bottle of wine and half a pint of brandy, and there were several similar instances.

Many local women were competent to act as midwives but sometimes a qualified midwife had to be sent for from a distance, as in 1757 when Mrs. Griffith lay in-

	s. d.
Paid Mrs. Williams for Grefeth Wife	7. 6.
For faching of Mrs Williams to Griffeth wife And caring her home	4. 0.

After she had gone, Dame Hollingham was engaged to nurse the patient and Griffth was given several Payments. Mrs. Griffith had difficult confinements, each one necessitating the services of a midwife and then a nurse, until her death in 1764. For other women someone would be paid "foragoing for the Mid Whife" or a horse hired to "fich and Cary" her. As was not uncommon, two and a half months after the midwife had been fetched to Mrs. Bowles in 1766, the child died and the laying out, affidavit, shroud, coffin and burial were all paid for by the parish. At her next confinement Mrs. Bowles, in spite of the midwife and Dame Hollingham's nursing, herself died and the overseer paid her funeral expenses.

The overseers called in a doctor only when necessary, as when 1s. 5d. was paid "for Docters stuff for the children at John Mellers when they had measles2. On another occasion in 1741 John Josling, overseer, "paid the Surgen for Criss Spilman" £1.11.6d. and charged 1s.6d. "Expences for going to the Surgin with Spillman. In one case crutches were provided and in another a steel truss, presumably on the advice of a doctor. In 1750 Dr. Maurice Pugh, surgeon of Chelmsford (who had married Hannah Harrington of Little Baddow, buried in the churchyard in 1769) was paid £7.7.0. One year Doctor Hancell was given £1.11.6. "towards bying him a horse". In April 1751 Dr. Mayhew was paid £9.10.0. , Dr. Green £10 and Dr. Dunkley 3s.6d. for the previous year. The vestry must have thought this excessive, for a parish doctor was appointed and the following April £3.10.0. was paid to him for one year's work. For a few years Dr. Wood of Danbury was paid a salary of £3 or £3.3.0. a year. The agreement made with Dr. Raven in April 1768 was written in the vestry minute book. It stated "I do agree with the Parishoners of Little Baddow to attend the poor of the said Parish for one year to come when sick or lame within 5 miles of the said Parish by Order of the Overseers (midwifery excepted) and the said parishioners do agree to pay to the said D. Raven the sum of three guineas for the said years attending the poor". Dr. Raven continued attending the poor until about 1785 when Dr. Tweed succeeded him.

In difficult cases a second doctor might be called in or the patent might be sent to hospital, usually to the London Hospital in Whitechapel Road. In 1760 for instance

the overseer "paid Stephen Sullinger charges for going to London with the Wido Milton" when she was ill.

Most illnesses were unnamed by the overseers in their accounts, but smallpox was an Exception. The accounts tell the story of one case –

Paid for nursing at Whites wen the Smallpox was there 2 weeks	£1. 0. 0.
And for coffen for White	8. 0.
Paid Sam Crampton for his horse cart man and selfe and Sam Browne	
For caring of Whitte to the Grave	5. 0
The Clarks fees	3. 4.
For candle	1d.

The worst outbreak seems to have been in March 1761 when John Baker, overseer, charged "Ex Spences for hors and self for pervading a place for the pepel wich had the smallpox " 4s. and "Paid Wm. Broox of Sandon for nursing the smallpox his bill" £10.10.0. In 1766 the two Eaton girls (the one who was blind lodging with Mrs. Sharpington in Chelmsford and the other with "Old Mother Waller") caught smallpox and the second girl was sent to the pest house. Both recovered.

By this time inoculation was being practised and John Baker tells the story of another outbreak in the highly individual spelling of his accounts of 1775 –

Gave John Claxton for showing nurse Witcham the whay to John Swetings	6d.
Paid Marrey Wictham for nursing and enoculaten of John Sweting family	£1. 2. 0.".

Paid Mr. Jardon a bill for licker for the use of John Sweting famley	18. 10d.
Paid John Barker for going for erents for them	3d
Paid Thos. Sarward for macking a cofing for Jn. Sweting whife	9. 0.
Paid Mr. Hodges for thre yards of bays for Jn. Sweting whife	3. 0.
Paid Wm. Bruster for Degin the grave for John Sweting whife	3. 4.
Paid Mr. Jerdon for caring of the corps to the ground	2. 0
Paid Mr. Jerdon for licker	2. 0
Paid to Jn. Birchell a shilling for assisting of John Sweting wife	
To the ground	1. 0
The seam wheak that John Sweting whife whose bearrid gave him in want	6. 0

The cost of funerals was increasing mainly because of the price of coffins, which rose from 8s. in 1738 to 10s. in the 1780s, 10.6d in the 1790s and 12s in 1800. The payment for laying out remained at about 2s. though Sarah Pledger, overseer in 1768, paid 1s. and then "Gave the Women sixpence to drink". Elias Pledger three years later paid Dame Duke 6s. "for the use of a sheit for the laying out of Rd. Hayward" and this happened on other occasions. In 1787 John Balls was paid 1s for shaving William Bruster and John Keys after their deaths. The beer for bearers usually cost 2s.. and so did two yards of bays for the shroud. Mrs. Sweeting was exceptional in being allowed three yards. The church clerk's fee for digging the grave remained at 3s.4d. On a few occasions there had to be a coroner's inquest following the death of a pauper, though the reasons are not given in the accounts. When Ambrose Bently died in 1781 William Hart made two entries – "Paid at Gurdens for maintaining the jury on Bently account" 10s. and "paid Cable for going for the crowner and to wan

the Jury" 4s.6d. Gurdens was Jordan's Warren Inn, Cable was the constable and the crowner was the coroner.

Probably in Tudor times in Little Baddow the gift was make by some benefactor, whose name was soon forgotten, of a house and acre of land for the poor. The churchwardens paid the rent, 7d a year, and performed suit of court for it at Little Baddow manor court. It was generally called the Town House or sometimes the Poor House, and was used for housing the poor families. In 1680 John Elliott leased his house, the Hen , to the churchwardens and overseers for ten years, presumably to provide additional accommodation.

The Town House must have been old by the mid-eighteenth century and perhaps quite small. The early accounts hardly mention it. In November 1767 the vestry meeting agreed to purchase "the house whare Frances Lives for to convert into a Work House". Whether or not this was done (there is no further record of it), on 18th April 1768 at another vestry it was "agread to bild a house for the use of the Parish according to the Estament given in by Thomas Saward. The total sum £118.0.0." The overseer, John Baker, made an entry in the account book "Paid for Bear and brenches when toocke acavay of Bado Workhoos". 1s6d. Perhaps by "Acavay" he meant a survey. It was speedily built next to the original house at the vestry held on 4th September 1769 "Richard. Sorrell Church Warden settled the accounts concerning the building of the town house".

The amount he "Disbursted" was £126.4.5. for which a special rate had raised £129.10.0. On 30th September 6s. was spent "for moveing the poor to the town house" and 2s.6d. for Expences for the same" – probably beer. In December there was another removal costing 7s.6d.

The new Poor House proved a constant expense. Repairs had to be done, such as mending tiles and "Dawbin the Town House" (plastering). In 1773 lime, clay and mulch were purchased and Cornelius Limner was paid "for carting the matarels to the Town House" In 1787 12 bushells of lime, some sand, bricks and tiles were purchased and 18lb of iron – for unspecified purposes. Four years later 12 bushels of lime were used with clay, sand and 500 bricks and 200 tiles, which sound like an additional building. More bricks, tiles and lime were carted from Hatfield Peverel. Work was done on the chimneys, which were swept regularly, a casement was mended and windows glazed. Several times sums were expended "for fencing the yard in at the Poor House" or for mending the fence. John Barker and others of the elderly poor were paid from time to time for cleansing the drain and ditch. A pair of bellows was provided; the oven was repaired and given a new lid; 1s. was paid for hooping a tub; two staples and a hasp were bought – and, in 1788, a cow. Wood was regularly cut and carted usually by others of the poor "for the fokes at the Toun House", and, to an increasing extent, coal was sent there.

It is not easy to determine who were given accommodation at the Town House. The few people whom the accounts show to have been removed there were the elderly and sick. Widow Haward, who had undertaken the care of several orphans over the years, did not receive the weekly collection until about 1763 when she must have been elderly. In 1766 she was in want and her goods were removed to the old house, and presumably to the new house when it was built. Some years later the overseer

"Gave Mrs. Johnson servent to remove herself to the toune house"2s.6d. and then " Gave Mary Kees for looking after her" 2s. and "for washen the sheats" 3d. Old John Duke was moved to the house in 1777 and was no doubt still there when he died in January 1788. A few months after he had been moved there 4s. was spent for "macken the racks for Duks Chimby" (chimney) and "brick and lim and puten up the racks". These may have been for hanging his pots but perhaps he wanted to smoke bacon. In March 1789 Mary Haward, who was ill, was taken to the house and died soon after. She was probably Widow Haward's granddaughter who ten years previously had been sent as a young servant girl to Ulting. Christopher Turnedge was moved to the poor House and he may have been disabled following the curing of his thigh, some years previously. A probable inmate was William Bentley, who received the weekly dole. In 1784 he broke a window at the house, causing the overseer to buy "A chain for Bentley". He was, however, soon back to his work of cutting and carting wood for the Town House folks until his death two years later, although he must have absconded on the occasion when John Campoin spent 4s. "going after William Bentley with a horse cart". He may have been the village idiot.

In 1766 William Johnson, churchwarden, and Thomas Harrington, overseer, make inventories of the goods "of the poor which receive weekly collection". Five of these were elderly men and four were elderly widows, most of whom died within a few years. Some may have been living in the Poor House. Only three (Charles Crow, Widow Bruce and Daniel Root) had an upstairs room. John Stockdale owned very few goods – a bed and bedstead, two sheets, a coverlet, a chair, a frying pan and a skillet- but Messrs. Johnson and Harrington must surely have left out articles which were so old as to be worthless, or perhaps he was using goods which belonged to his landlord. Widow Paveley was credited with only a table, a hutch, two cupboards, a bedstead (no mattress or coverings mentioned), bellows and two spinning wheels. Widow Haward was no better off with a bed and bedstead, two sheets, one boulster, two pillows, a hutch, a frying pan, a warming pan and a reel. Her goods were removed to the Town House a month afterwards at a cost of 6d. Edward Hollingham had once been in a more prosperous state for among his possessions were comparative luxuries like a clock, two glasses, a pewter dish, two candlesticks, a fender, a bellmetal mortar, two cobirons and a spit, two joint stools and three tables. Widow Bruce too had some possessions indicating earlier comfort, such as ten chairs, a corner cupboard, a nest of drawers and a chest of drawers, a coal grate with tongs, poker and trivet, a gridiron and two spit racks. Daniel Root was the possessor of a tea kettle, Charles Crow of three oak tables, John Willcher of two beds and bedsteads and Widow Milton of a box iron, a balance and a bed rod (for hanging bed curtains) but otherwise their goods were the simple necessities. When widow Milton was ill from July to November 1757, nursed by Old Sarah Burr, and given money, food and fuel, she pawned some of her goods, later redeemed for 13s.6d. by the overseer. Six of the inventories included a few tools like an axe, spade, bill, mattock and hammer and articles like a tub, kneading trough, wash-tub and boiler.

Some of the articles listed in the inventories could have been supplied by the overseers. Blankets and sheets were regularly bought and on one day the overseer paid for three coverlets and a bedcord. Once Dame Hales was paid 5d. "for making a bead teak and putting the feathers in", and another time 2s.6d. was given "for macken a bed teck and bolster and sheet and straw bed". Even bedsteads were provided in rare cases and 1s. was paid for carrying one up to the Town House. One man was

given an iron pot and a pair of pot hooks. At least one of Widow Paveley's and Widow Milton's spinning wheels had been supplied by the parish and the latter's wash-tub was repaired by James Meagle, cooper, at parish expense.

The articles most frequently supplied to the poor were clothes, or the materials with which to make them. Some women could sew for themselves or were paid to sew for others. Sometimes a length of cloth would be bought and divided between several people. In one instant "a piece for gounds for the poor", containing 19 and three quarter yards, was obtained by the overseer and five women and girls had lengths from it. At other times overseers bought 12 ells (1 ell =1and a quarter yards) of cloth for linings and shifts, 22 and a half yards of drugget (coarse wool) for petticoats and gowns and 20 yards of check for aprons. Women's gowns often had short sleeves and were low cut, a kerchief being worn round the shoulders, and the skirt was sometimes open in front to show the petticoat or undercoat. The latter could be worn, without a gown over it, but with a bodice which might be hip length. Materials for these garments were wool, like bays, serge, drugget or cabblet, or linsey woolsey (linen and wool mixture) or dowlas (coarse linen), and the bodice was normally lined. Women kept money in a pair of pockets hanging from a tape tied round the waist under the outer garment and accessible through placket holes in the gown or undercoat. The undergarments were a shift and either cloth or leather stays (often called a pair of bodies). When stays were leather the shoemaker had to be employed to mend them. Caps (mop-caps) were worn indoors, while hats and bonnets were for outdoors. Ann Chambers on one occasion was given two night caps, another girl a blue mantle (which however might have been an apron), and another a cloak, but these items were not normally deemed necessary for the poor.

In November 1777 Hannah Haward was given by Thomas Hodges, overseer, from his own shop, 6 and a quarter yards of stuff (coarse wood) at 9d. a yard for a Widow Penney on the same day needed 8 yards of stuff at 10d. a yard and a shilling's worth of lining. A month later Hannah's sister Mary, being sent to Ulting as a servant, was fitted out by Mr. Hodges with a set of clothes. Her gown and bodice-lining required 7 yards of stuff at 6s.10d. and cost ls to be make up for her. She had 2 and a half yards of bays at 1s. a yard for an undercoat, and a pair of stays costing 7s. Presumably she already owned one or more shifts for none was bought. Two pairs of stockings (probably woollen) cost 2s. and elevenpence halfpenny, to handkerchiefs 1s and two and a half pennies, and two caps with borders 1s.2d. A coarse apron and strings was given her together with 2 and a half yards of check for two better aprons and the "Three tapes and strings for the check aprons". Either she or her sister had previously had a piece of material and binding for making pockets. This outfit, costing a total of £1.13.4., was completed by one pair of shoes and a pair of pattens (wooden overshoes with a metal ring raising them out of the mud).

Men wore breeches, very often of leather, which the overseers bought from the tailor. In 1794 a boy was given a pair of culottes and in 1816 a pair of trousers was provided. Shirts were frequently supplied, incidentally affording employment to the village needlewomen. The cloth, buttons and making cost about 3s. for a man and correspondingly less for boys. The type of cloth used was never stated, except a few times in the early nineteenth century when it was calico. Waistcoats were probably sleeved, at least until mid-eighteenth century. Perhaps these garments were not buttoned as, after John Clench's waistcoat was stolen in 1819, he identified it by the

fact that it had been too big for him so "he had set some buttons on it to make it button together about him". Coats (probably double-breasted and with set-in pockets) and jackets (often of leather) were provided. Once a "fearnought" jacket was bought, probably made of thick cloth with a long pile. Especially in the nineteenth century men wore smock-frocks, which were warm, almost water-proof, coverings for working in the open, costing about 5s. Shoes were sometimes bought second-hand by the overseer and some were high shoes (boots). One fortunate boy was given a pair of buckles for his shoes. Some men used pattens. Shoemakers were constantly repairing footwear, as when John Peacock was paid 4s. for "forepeasing and heelpeas and nailing 5 pair of children shoose". Men also required stockings – on one occasion "2 pair ribb'd stockings". Gloves were supplied for agricultural work like hedging. Hats completed the outfit, one man being given "A shilling to by him a hat" and one boy "a wooling cap" costing 5d.

During the period covered by the first account book the overseers were generous in giving food and drink to the elderly and sick, but after that little was given until in the winter of 1785 Catherine Stoneham overseer, provided some flour for two families who were in want.

No more was mentioned Until in the winter of 1795, which followed a poor harvest, the overseer bought 50 pecks of flour at 9d. a peck and 200 pecks at 10d. a peck. That summer and autumn "Mr. Hodges flower Bill" (Thomas Hodges of the Papermill) amounted in all to a total of over £17. The overseers continued distributing flour, even to giving "Dame Rance a peck of flour for laying out Old Thompson etc.," in 1799, but no other food was provided at that time.

As the Poor Rate rose it became ever more necessary to ensure that no one was being supported who did not belong to the parish. Under the Law of Settlement of 1662 and later amendments, everyone had their "place of settlement", but a settlement in a parish could be obtained in so many ways that it often took lawyers and Quarter Sessions to decide where some peoples' settlements in fact were. Sometimes all went well from the overseers' point of view, as when Isaac Pledger paid 6s. to a justice "for the Order he made to send Wido Lock home" with no further expenditure being involved. At other times people were taken to the local magistrate to be "examined as to their settlements" with a view to having an order made for their removal. William Gladwyn dealt with such a case when he "paid for the Order and Examination of Jas. Ratcliffe and the expences of carring him home to Romford" £3.9.8. Originally the overseer himself was supposed to escort anyone removed from the parish but later the constable usually did it. On another occasion Thomas Taylor paid 2s. "for two men swerin to thear sattelment" before a justice and 1s. "for Thear expences". On one day in 1788 8 men were taken to the justices for swearing to their settlements, all of whome living at Little Baddow, had come from elsewhere. In 1789 the overseer "Paid for a pair of orders for Mary Leach" and the same day" Horse and Cart to send Mary Leach to Woodham" (Ferrers) and "Paid the Constable for going with Mary Leach". A few weeks later he "Paid Constable for Driven Nan Hales out of the Parish". On other occasions people were sent back to Little Baddow, like the son of an unmarried and now deceased mother, William Bevis, aged four, who had been "left in the said parish of Witham". Little Baddow had to care for him until he could earn his own living. Christopher Bunting was apprehended in West Ham "as a rogue and vagabond viz. wandring abroad begging" and send back to

Little Baddow, where the overseers made him several payments. Sometimes payments had to be made on behalf of a poor person whose settlement was in Little Baddow but who was living elsewhere, like in 1765 "paid to the Overseer of Southmenester £2.15. being charges for John Browen for nursing and burel of his wife".

People who wished to obtain employment elsewhere than in their own parish were sometimes able to obtain a certificate from their parish, confirmed by two justices. William Calcraft did this in 1759 when he came from Lincolnshire to work at the papermill. His own parish acknowledged him and his wife to be their inhabitants and agreed to receive them back should they become chargeable. In view of the settlement laws, it was to the parish's advantage if the overseers could obtain apprenticeships or work for their orphans in other places, as Thomas Hodges did in 1794. He placed John Wyatt with a Maldon blacksmith for five years, paying £2.10.0. with the promise of another £2.10.0. at the end of three years, and the master to give the boy two suits of clothes at the expiration of the apprenticeship. The cost of the indentures and various unspecified expenses amounted to £2.16.2. At the same time Mr. Hodges disposed of Rachel Beadle more cheaply to the same blacksmith, who agreed to hire her for one year at the wage of one guinea, Little Baddow paying two guineas towards clothing the girl. Both would, at the end of their hiring, have gained settlements in Maldon and been the responsibility of that place if they needed relief.

In early 1795 there was a dispute between a Kent parish and Little Baddow about the Sweeting family, who had been adjudged by justices to be Little Baddow's responsibility. The latter parish appealed. Mr. Gepp of Chelmsford, Little Baddow's lawyer , incurred expenses of £18.2.0. which the parish paid in two instalments in June and October. He had all the legal documents to draw up, letters to write and subpoenas to serve. He had to make a journey into the Dengie Hundred to obtain evidence of James Sweeting's marriage to his first wife, a journey to Hatfield to interview the first wife, now re-married, and another journey to Little Baddow to serve a 'subpoena on the second wife, Elizabeth. Shortly before the case was due to be heard at Maidstone Quarter Sessions, "the pauper having absconded", Mr. Gepp was again in Little Baddow, consulting with Mr. Johnson Clark, church warden, and Mr. Thomas Hodges and "Drawing Advertisement to be inserted in the Chelmsford paper". This stated that James Sweeting, labourer, was "5ft. 5 in. high dark complexion rather lame being just recovered from a broken leg wrapped up in flannel, had on a thick (illegible) and round hat". It further stated that "Whoever shall give information of the said James Sweeting to the parish officers at Little Baddow so that he be apprehended shall receive ONE GUINEA reward or if the said James Sweeting will return to his home in the parish of Little Baddow he will be well received". James Sweeting, "having returned in consequence of the Advertisement", was served with a subpoena. Finally there was Mr. Gepp's journey to Maidstone, where the appeal was heard, "being necessarily from home 3 days" and "Horse hire and expences 3 days". Mr. Clark and Mr. Hodges must have attended the court with Sweeting and his two wives, for the overseer entered in his accounts "Expenses to Medstone £9". The court decided that Sweeting had been rightly removed to Little Baddow, but not his second wife and their three children, should have been left at High Halstow in Kent, which parish was to repay the £1.11.6. expended on them by Little Baddow. Unfortunately nothing is recorded of the fate of this separated family.

It is also obscure as to how an eighteenth century labourer came to have two wives, both living. Twenty years later the parish incurred similar expanses, but amounting to £35.9.1. in legal charges and £30.16.3 in other charges, for proving that Robert Thompson (born in Little Baddow and apprenticed in Maldon by the overseers) and his family belonged to a Northamptonshire parish in which they had been living. One cannot help but think that the money could have been better spent.

Occasionally the parish were unable to transfer responsibility such as when they had to pay for burying the "Woman that died at Bowles" who was entered in the Parish Register as a "poor strange woman". At other times they had to relieve people who were legitimately travelling, perhaps to their place of settlement, and passing through Little Baddow. Thomas Baker for instance gave 12s to "Parsons on the rode with a pass"; Johnson Clark "Gave pepple with a pass 1s. and "Releif'd a sailor with 6d. Elias Barnard gave 1s6d to "a family in distress to help them out of the parish".

Another matter of great import was responsibility for bastard children. The overseers were anxious to put the responsibility where they considered it belonged, and either to make the father pay for the maintenance of the child or to make him marry the girl. At the beginning of 1789, out of fourteen people on weekly collection, four were children of unmarried mothers. Early the next year Mary Boosey, who had received relief from the overseers of Little Baddow at various times, was with child and chargeable to the parish . The overseers obtained an order from a justice that all parish constables in the county were to look for and apprehend the reputed father, George Ward. He was quickly found and married and then the overseers obtained another order "to remove and convey" George Ward and his wife to West Hanningfield, where the churchwardens and overseers were ordered to receive them as that was their place of settlement. A wife took her husband's settlement on marriage. The Little Baddow overseer entered in his accounts, no doubt with great satisfaction at having so quickly rid the parish of a woman and child who might have been on their hands for years, "Expenses for taking marrying and carrying home George Ward £8.4.8." These expenses usually included the cost of the licence and fees, the ring and a modest repast.

Richard Sorrel, overseer the following year, used equal dispatch in another case. He wrote in the accounts "Paid for swearing Hannah Root and taking up John Binder and marrying them etc., £8.2.6". and "Paid Churchwarden and my own time going after and carrying home John Binder"£1.16.0. This time the couple remained in the village. Sometimes the man could not or would not marry the girl, as when the overseer entered in his book"4 Jan. 1796. At a Vestry held this day it is agreed with Mr. Jn. Baker for the sum of forty pounds for the maintenance of a bastard child by his son Jos. Baker upon Sarah Freeman twenty pounds to be paid down and the other twenty pounds at the expiration of one year in case the child should then be living". The child in fact died in June. In 1778 3s.2d. was spent on the "Jorney with horse and cart" to take Ann Meade before the justices and obtain a warrant for the arrest of the reputed father of her unborn child. A further 12s. was spent by James Jordan, Thomas Hodges and his son to "jorney after Levi Lambert". The child was born two or three weeks later and £4 was received from Lambert, who did not marry Ann Meade.

Several extraneous charges arose from time to time on the poor rate, amongst them the rebuilding of the Shire Hall in Chelmsford in 1789/90 to which Little Baddow contributed a total of £24.12.10. over the two years. Refreshment was supplied out of the Poor Rate "when thay went the Bounds of the paresh"; in 1777 this amounted to £1.1.0. but in 1810 it was £3.3.4. A more important charge was the Defence of the Realm, especially during the wars with France. In 1762 the overseer had paid 2s. 2d for "the Militia Act of Parliament" but apparently not until 1780 was any expenditure incurred. That year John Peacock was drawn by lot to serve in the Militia but the overseers paid £9.11.0. for a substitute to serve in his place. A similar thing happened two years later when John Hales was "chosen by Lot to serve in the Militia" but Jacob Warwicker of Boreham was "Sworn and Inrolled" as his substitute. The Deputy Lieutenants and justices ordered the churchwardens and overseers of Little Baddow to pay Hales £4.4.0. within four days, adding "Herein fail not". The overseer duly paid him "the half price of a substitute". Substitutes were found for other men, as in 1804 when William Spirgeon was serving for William Holmes, Mrs. Spirgeon being given 16s.6d. for eleven weeks; two years later he was still serving and his wife and child were being paid 3s. a week. In 1812 the overseers had to support "Embletons Wife and Child after he volunteered". On the few occasions when a man from Little Baddow served in place of a drawn man from another parish, the overseers of that parish would remit money for the support of his family. In 1798 John Orton, constable, was paid 5s. "for setting the Militia down" – making a list of the men liable for service. In 1813 he was paid £1 for four days' work making the lists and for spending one day in Chelmsford and one in Maldon "making the Local Militia Return". The return made in 1826 by Josiah Crane is, constable, exists, showing forty-six men aged between eighteen and forty-five, with their occupations and the number of their children. Six children under fourteen years of age exempted William Tracey, schoolmaster, from Serving.

Contributions had to be made to the regular services as well. In 1795 £16.12.0. was paid "for the Navy Men"; the next year £23.4.0. In 1803 £33.7.0. was paid for one man in the "Army of Reserve"; the following year an assessment at the rate of 3d. in the £ raised £22.4.0. "for the Fine impos'd upon the Parish of Little Baddow for not finding a man for the Army of Defence". In 1805 the parish paid £20.8.8. for one man for the Army of Defence. Occasionally a serving man or his family passed through the parish, such as the "three sailors with a Pass" to whom William Mihill, overseer, gave 2s., or the "Two Soulgers wives and five children " who received 3s.

The nineteenth century opened with much distress among the poor of the parish. Wages were not rising at the same rate as the cost of living, which had almost doubled during 1790s, due to some bad harvests and to the French wars. The wages of farm labourers had to be supplemented from the Poor Rate if they and their families were not to starve. The Essex justices fixed a "Table of Allowances", relating the fluctuating cost of bread to the amount by which wages should be supplemented. Those who were out of work were given sufficient to keep them and their dependents alive. In addition the overseers paid large bills for flour – on 4th August 1800 £64.10.9and a half pennies. was paid for four weeks' supply – but the accounts do not show to whom this was distributed. The overseer's total disbursements from Easter to Michaelmas 1800 reached £403.10.2 and a half pennies, doubling the previous highest figure for the same six months in 1795. It was to reach £432.9.1. for the

following six months. The expenditure did drop after this, however to an annual total generally between £400 and £600, until 1815 when it rose again, in 1816/7 (due to the bad harvest of 1816) reaching over £1,000 for the year. It continued not far below this figure, entailing a rate of 4s. or 4s.6d. in the £ each half year, until 1820, from which time up to 1834 it remained around £700 a year.

In 1803 the overseers were required to make a return to Parliament regarding their expenditure for the year ending that Easter. They said that twenty people were relieved permanently (on the weekly collection) but none of them was in the poor house – which must have been rather unusual. In the families of these people were six children aged under five and fifteen aged between five and fourteen. There were ten persons above sixty years of age or disabled from permanent illness. The overseers spent nothing on buying materials for employing the poor and so earned nothing by their labour. (There is no evidence that they had ever done this in two centuries of operating the Poor Law). There were no members of friendly societies among the Little Baddow poor.

In 1815 another return was required and the vestry agreed "to employ Mr. Archer or some other proper person to make out a list relative to the Expense of the poor and other purposes for three years past by order of Act of Parliament". Mr. Archer, the clerk to the Justices in Chelmsford, ascertained that there were five persons (and their families) who were relieved permanently and were living in the Poor House in 1813. By 1814 this figure had risen to six and in 1815 it was eight. The numbers receiving the weekly collection, but not living in the Poor House, were eight, nine and eight for the three years in question. Fifty persons were said to be members of friendly societies – which (if the figure is correct) must have been doing some recruiting since 1803.

The 1801 Census return gives the number of people living in the Poor House as twenty-six – nine males and seventeen females, including children. In the 1821 Census the names of the inmates were given. Thomas Willshire was there with his wife, like him aged between forty-one and fifty, and their son aged between eleven and fifteen, and three daughters all under fifteen. He was called in the overseers' accounts "Townhouse Willshire" to distinguish him from another man of the same name, and was a resident of the House for some years. The house also accommodated Joseph Baker aged about 55. He had been apprenticed to Thomas Hodges, at the Papermill, and worked for him for several years. He had then let himself to a grocer at Colchester for a year, following which, being out of work, be had received parish relief in Little Baddow, and was sometimes on the weekly collection when he was given work on the roads. Living with him were two women aged between fifty-one and sixty one no doubt his wife, one girl between sixteen and twenty, one man of thirty-one to forty and two boys between eleven and twenty. Widow Cooper was another inmate and was aged between fifty-one and sixty. She had been on the weekly collection since about 1800 and was among the women earning small amounts laying out the dead, making clothes, doing washing and so firth. The oldest inhabitant of the house, Widow Turnedge, aged between sixty-0ne and seventy, lived with another woman of twenty-one to thirty, perhaps her daughter. At the time of the 1831 census twenty-five people were living in the house, twelve of them males, of whom six were over twenty.

The pensions paid in 1800 to the twenty-three people on the weekly collection – many of them elderly, but some children and some mothers with children – were hardly more than those of half a century earlier so these must have been among the regular recipients of flour. The parish was however, giving a little more to foster parents – Mrs. Webb managing to have the 3s.6d. she was obtaining for keeping Susan Freeman raised to 4s., Mrs. Malt being paid 3s.6d. each for Matthew and James Freeman, but Thomas Loveday having to be content with 2s. for Robert Thompson (who was twelve years old and so must have been earning money towards his keep for the few months before he was apprenticed at Maldon). The flowing year Mrs. Malt had an additional payment of £1 "for washing and mending for Freaman Boy". The number of people being helped to pay their rent was rising; in 1818-1820 sixteen annual payments ranging between 10s. and £3.3.0. were being made, as compared with the two or three annually during the previous century. The poor were given more than their predecessors of articles like beds and bedding, wash-tubs, tools, wood and coal, shoes and clothes. In 1821 the overseer even "Advanced John Polly towards seten him in bussness" £2. The only John Polley in the village that year was a potash-maker. The poor received occasional charity, such as from the will of Johnson Clark, retired miller, who left five guineas to be distributed to the poor in bread on the Sunday after his interment in 1818. From the start of the nineteenth century the overseers' accounts are supplemented by minutes of the meetings of the Justices in Petty Sessions and by a number of "Pauper examinations" and other papers relating to poor relief. The work of the overseers was becoming increasingly to poor relief. The work of the overseers was becoming increasingly complex, both through the amount of poverty and by the additional duties in which they were involved. For an unexplained reason, but perhaps to lighten their duties, the weekly collection from about 1795 was paid to Mrs. Hodges (of Papermill) for transmission to the poor and she seems also to have paid out the supplementary allowances. Flour for the use of the poor was supplied by her and by Maximus Gage of the Rodney, who were in addition paid £2.2.0. in March 1801 "for there trouble of giving the poor the rice etc." This is the sole reference to rice. Later Mrs. Hodges was supplying bread as well as flour, but from about 1809 John Polley had taken over the provision of flour (which ceased soon after) and the weekly collection. The same year William Mihill was paid a salary of £15 "for serveing overseer"; if this was an experiment it did not continue, except that in 1824 John Simmons paid himself £10 for six months service, and in 1831/2 Elias Barnard received £20 for a year's salary. Otherwise the overseers were appointed and served as previously.

Among the extra duties assigned to the overseers was responsibility for the decennial census returns commencing in 1801. Johnson Clark in 1811 entered in his accounts "Paid for a book for the Population" 2s.6d., "Charg'd for self and Constable for the population" 12s. and "Paid…..for the Return and Oath Population" 2s.6d. Thomas Baker in 1821 charged £2.0.3., but in 1831 John Simmons and Elias Barnard were authorised by the Clerk of the Peace to reimburse themselves £3 jointly for their time and expenses. Between 1798 and 1805, when preparations against a French invasion were constantly under review, the churchwardens and overseers were required to assist the constable with local arrangements. Following the Reform Act of 1832 Elias Barnard had to pay 2s. for "Notices and Papers respecting the Reform according to act thereon" and he had some duties concerning it. He charged 7s.6d. for "Attending the Court at Chelmsford when the List of Claims to vote were revised".

In this period letters and parcels were very occasionally sent and received by the overseers; 1s. was paid to send a parcel to Ipswich and 9d. to receive a letter from there in 1816. When possible though a messenger was sent, such as "A boy carrying a note to Heybridge" 2d.

Apart from these additional duties, the work of the overseers continued much as it had done during the eighteenth century, except that there was so much more poverty to be relieved. Many parish children were cared for – and many died. The fortunate ones were apprenticed to a good trade. When apprenticing a poor child the churchwardens and overseers were instructed that "it is a very material part of the duty of the Parish Officers to enquire particularly into the character of the Master or Mistress to whose care such poor child is about to be committed". Apprenticeship did not automatically ensure work at a reasonable wage for the rest of the lad's working life, but it did give him a better chance than the majority of boys, like Thomas Young, who became an agricultural labourer at the age of eleven and was out of work receiving parish relief at fourteen in 1806.

Unemployment was a grave problem of the time which was never solved. Petty Sessions in 1815 recommended parish surveyors "to employ the necessitous poor on the highways to prevent their frequent application for relief". Roadwork could not absorb all the unemployed all the time and the overseers sought other solutions. They continued the policy of employing some of the poor to look after or do work for others, and also of sending some people to London to seek work. One of the latter was Thomas Francis who in 1826 was given one shovel and some money with which he departed. Within a few months however the overseers were having to reimburse the overseers of Bermondsey for expenses incurred for Francis and his family; nearly two years later he was brought back to Little Baddow. When he became ill he was sent to the London Hospital where he died.

In 1831, perhaps to alleviate unemployment a little, the overseers regained possession of the Town House field, which had been leased for many years, and paid some of the poor for digging, sowing "Black Oates", harrowing and hedging. In August 15s. was paid for "Cutting Gathering and Carting the Oates from the Townhouse field". The Following year it was dug, sown with peas, harrowed and hedged. The peas were hoed, cut, carted, stacked and thatched. The same year the vicar's field was dug for him by the poor (towards which apparently he paid less than half the cost) and another poor man thatched Mr. Lewin's malt-house, for which Mr. Lewin may not have paid at all.

With so many men and their families to support, or partly support, the nineteenth century overseers, like their predecessors, were extremely careful to ensure that they did not provide for any whose "settlement" was not in Little Baddow. Men moved about obtaining work where they could, and those who intruded into Little Baddow were taken before magistrates to be examined as during the previous century. One overseer paid £8.6.6. "Expences at Rodney Dec. 11th 1806 Swareing people to their Settlements". On this occasion twenty-two people were examined; three years later ten people were sworn on one day, also at the Rodney.

The law of settlement, with its many complications, still resulted in making life hard for the poor. Mary Cooper, for instance, was born in Little Baddow, where her

mother was widowed in about 1800, when Mary was eleven years old. Widow Cooper received a weekly pension until at least 1833 and lived in the Poor House for a number of years. At the age of eighteen Mary was sent to work for one year at the George Inn at Southwark, thus gaining a settlement in that parish. She returned to Little Baddow in 1809, but, on needing relief, was removed to Southwark, at an expense of £1.0.6. to the parish. In January 1812, aged twenty-three, Mary was "apprehended in the Parish of Little Baddow…as a Rogue and Vagabond, videlicet being found in the said Parish of Little Baddow after being legally removed there from for which she was committed to the House of Correction.." Quarter Sessions then ordered that she be "examined and passed to her Settlement". A justice accordingly ascertained that her settlement was in Southwark and required the Keeper of the House of Correction to convey her to the "Town of Bow…that being the first Town…through which she ought to pass in the direct way to…Southwark…and to deliver her to the Constable or other Officer of such first Town…together with this Pass and the Duplicate of the Examination of the said Mary Cooper taking his Receipt". From there she was to be conveyed to Southwark and "delivered" to the parish overseers. A surgeon certified that he had examined Mary Cooper and found her "in good health and able to be removed without danger". So a daughter was separated from her mother and family and any hope of a decent life.

An example of a whole family involved in removal from the parish occurred in 1825 when William Sampson, labourer, "at the time a prisoner in His Majesty' Gaol at Chelmsford" for felony, was brought in custody to the Shire Hall to be examined as to his settlement. Petty Sessions decided that his wife (Hannah Balls of Little Baddow) and their youngest child must be removed at once to Hatfield Peverel. His nineteen-year-old daughter, being ill, was to be left in Little Baddow until fit to be removed, when the Hatfield overseers were to repay the expenses incurred on her behalf. Further consideration was needed to decide to which parish the fifteen-year-old son, an agricultural labourer, belonged.

The overseers had to spend more money in alleviating sickness that ever before. Doctors seem to have been called in rather more often than they had been in earlier periods and their fees were of course higher. Items such as the following were fairly frequent –

Pd. Docter Gackes for Doctering of Bickmore and his girl.	£1.16.6.
Do. Doctor Morris for putting Thos. Wilcher wife to bed And doctoring her.	1.17.0.
Do. Dr. Blacth for tenden Turnidge child	4.6.
Dr. Cremer a bill for attending Ollivers wife	3.15.6.

These expenses were additional to the official parish doctor'salary, who in most years was paid "for extra attendance on the poor".

Dr. Thorpe, the parish doctor from 1809 at a salary of eight guineas a year, lived in Maldon, necessitating the payment of sums like 4s. "for going to Dr.Thorps at Maldon for Bunton 4 times" and 1s. to James Dowsett for fetching medicine. Another time 1s. was paid to "Dowsett Boy for his cart to Maldon with Rumsey boy". One year a Witham doctor was employed, entailing entries like Paid Bibes boy going to Witham 9 times" 4s.6d. In 1833 an agreement made with "Messrs. Thorpe and Son sergons " was entered in the vestry minute book. They agreed "to attend the poor in and

blongen to the said Parish…..in all cases of Surgery operations Midwifery and Medical Treatment and all casuilteys for the sum of £18.18. yearley,
To attend all the Poor within the distance of 4 miles of the Rodney…"

Village women were still relied on for nursing by less often for effecting cures, although there were such examples as "curing the girl Bickmore's toes" and "Paid the woman for doctring Wm. Days leg". Old David Saward, aged well over eighty, was sharing a house with a middle-aged couple – the Freemans – and a young couple – the Bakers – who were paid by the overseer for looking after him in his last illness. Mrs. Freeman arranged his funeral and was reimbursed for it. Women still acted as midwives, like Mrs. Rumsey who was paid sums such as 7.6d. for "Delivering Sarah Wested with two children", and 5s. for "Putten Turners wife to bad". She was generally useful on many occasions, as "sitting up with Gage laying him out and cleaning the house up" and giving board and lodging to a "woman taken ill on the road". For nearly twenty years until about 1830 Mrs. Maddocks was the parish midwife, paid regularly for "Labours" and "Midwifery".

A few people were able to pay only part of the expenses of sickness and burials, in which case the overseer would make up the difference, as when Jeremiah Pledger "Gave Passfield towards doctors bill" 10s.6d. and "Thomas Wilshire towards his wifes laying in" 16s., and more for the laying out and burial fees. On another occasion £1.8.0. was paid "Towards the wid. T. Sawards funeral". Money was given to Samuel Purkis when he had a "lame hand". When "Jennings and family ill", they received help, including 6s. for "3 Leeches for Jennings girl" – a reminder of one of the remedies still practised. These were expensive leeches as French's wife had had an unspecified number for 1s. 6d. Sometimes as in previous years, food and drink was given in sickness –

Pd. Orton for 4lb. Of Mutton for Blakes when ill	2s. 4d.
Pd Dennis for meat for Bunting	2s.6d.
Pd. For a cask of Porter 9 Gallons at Mr. Dixons for Jacob Jarvis	15s.0d

Unusual items were occasionally purchased like the "Bathing Machine for Old Gibson" for 7s.

More use was made of hospitals than in the earlier period. In 1817 the overseer paid £1.10.0. for Expences taken Homes to the London Hospital"; he recovered because a few months later there was bought "a pair of wheels" and "An axletree for Holme's cart". Another overseer paid 4s. 2d. for "Expences of Sarah Bird going to the Hospital". And £3.16.0. three weeks later when she left. The following year she was laying out Dame Sturgion, so she too recovered. In 1822 Richard French was given 10s. towards his expences at the London Hospital and 7s. for his coach hire, while John Gibson was paid 1s. for "carting French to coach". Coaches ran daily between Chelmsford and London. When Margaret Smee was ill the overseer sent twice for Dr. Thorpe, paid Smith 5s. for the use of his house and gave 19s to the "setters up" for the sick woman. It cost 8s. to take her to Witham where "Mr. Tomkin charge for Mat Smee at the Witham Dispensary" was £4.14.0.

William Grimstone had his legs amputated; in 1810 the overseer was buying "Woll for pads for Grimston Lags", then "Grimstons Wooden lages and sterapes" and

paying Mrs. Linsell for "Doing for Grimston". In 1821 the blacksmith was paid for "shoing Grimston stump".

Funerals were a constant drain upon the funds, but never apparently did the overseers economise. A coffin was always provided and the shroud was not omitted. After 1814 this did not have to be of wool so inexpensive calico was used. A horse and cart were provided where necessary, but usually four men were deputed to carry the coffin to the church, for example "gave 4 men to cary her to Church" 4s. A hand-bier is never mentioned but may well have existed. For reasons which are not given, there was a greater number of instances than in previous times when an inquest had to be held following the death of a poor person.

The overseers in some years made a "return for Idiots", or a "Lunitck Return", and in 1822 took Samuel Wisby to Petty Sessions as a Lunatic Pauper. It was proved that he was at times dangerous and he was therefore ordered to be locked up pursuant to the Statute. The chain, lock and staple cost 5s.6d.

The nineteenth century overseers were as anxious as their predecessors to marry off any pregnant girl and were willing to spend some money and time in arranging it. Isaac Barnard for instance in 1808 took Frances Gowlett to Petty Sessions to swear to the father of her child and obtained a warrant against William Campion. His expenses were –

Paid for marrying Wm. Campion	15. 6.
Do. The licences and ring	£3.15. 6.
Do. Expences at Chelmsford	5. 6.
Gave Gowlet	2. 0.
Expences at Rodney	11. 6.
My Expincis horse and cart and Orton	15. 6.

(Orton was the constable)

In some cases no marriage could be arranged. Jane Blanks swore before Petty Sessions to the father of her child and then a few weeks later said she had been intimidated by the real father and told to swear another man. The magistrates were perplexed as to how to deal with her case and no note was make by the Clerk of the outcome. After Elizabeth Nunn had had a daughter in May 1820 she accused James Saward, carpenter, of being the father. He denied it at Petty Sessions but was not believed so a Filiation Order was made. He was ordered to pay 3s. for maintenance of the baby since its birth, £2 for the expenses of the birth, 10s. for the Filiation order and 3s. weekly for the child's future maintenance. The mother was to pay 1s. weekly. In September Saward was still denying paternity and refusing payment, but when threatened with imprisonment and the committal order was actually drawn up, he gave in. The overseers' accounts show that he did in fact pay for a year or two when the child probably died. Other men went to prison rather than pay, in the case of one of them the Constable charging 2s.6d. "to take John Sampson from the Shire Hall to the Gaol". Another who preferred prison to paying caused Hannah Oliver to go to Petty Sessions for redress, as the overseer had refused her relief. For years the parish was having to remit 1s. a week to the parish of Little Easton for a child of Robert Blake of Little Baddow who could not pay it himself.

In 1804 John Turner, labourer, absconded, leaving his wife dependent on the parish relief. The overseer obtained a warrant from Petty Sessions for his apprehension and return. Some years later another John Turner was "neglecting to maintain his family – spending his money in alehouses etc." Petty Sessions committed him to prison for a month as "An idle and disorderly pauper who took it into his head to go out and get drunk for a week and permitting his wife and family to become chargeable to the Parish". In extenuation it should be said that he had suffered unemployment and some dreary work on the highways during the previous few years. John Hinton was in the habit of disappearing. In November 1806 the overseer paid £1.7.6. for the warrant and for his and the Constable's expenses before Hinton was safely "put in Prison". Mrs. Hinton was given regular payments while her husband was missing and in prison. He went twice more, causing similar expenditure. Later he was taken to Petty Sessions "to be punished for refusing to continue in a Service where he had been placed by parish officers", but on promising amendment he was discharged.

Some of the poor attended Petty Sessions to complain about their treatment by the overseers. In one case the overseer was told "that he must have the habitation complained of cleansed etc.," Thomas Francis alleged that the overseer had refused "to make a Tenement habitable after placing him therein" and had not given him the relief he was entitled to according to the Table of Allowances. In another case the overseer stated that he had not granted relief because "the Pauper is a worthless girl, will never keep her place – and throws herself on the parish". The Bench ordered her to be "set to stone picking and only allowed what she earns". One man wanted better wages and refused to do the work set him by the overseer. He had previously been described as an "Idle and disorderly Pauper", a man "who spends more time at the Penitentiary than at home and yet does not mend". On one occasion the same man "finding a warrant was issued against him on Friday last left the parish and was found in a state of vagrancy", that is "lodging on the steps of a house in the night at Chelmsford". Finally in 1833, after many convictions and imprisonments, he was committed to Quarter Sessions as an "Incorrigible Rogue", but his fate is unknown. Another pauper who refused either to work or to contribute towards the maintenance of his daughter while her husband was in prison, was himself sent to prison for two months. Mary Rumsey appeared before the magistrates to complain that the overseer refused to "Bury Junipers child dead at her house". He was ordered to do it. George Moody asked for relief on the grounds that his wife was dead and he had four children, but the justices decided his case was not made out at present, though the overseer was directed to "watch it". In 1807 an individual Justice must have been appealed to for Josiah Crane is paid 3s. to "Dame Turnage for the Boy Bob by order from the Justice".

As the nineteenth century advanced, it became apparent that the "welfare state" set up by Queen Elizabeth's Parliament was inadequate for contemporary problems. William 1V's Parliament therefore in 1834 passed the Poor Law Amendment Act which established a revised system of poor relief. The last entry in the last vestry minute book records for meeting's authorisation to Mr. John Simmons, farmer of Little Graces, churchwarden, to collect the rate, pay the poor and other outgoings and adjust the accounts up to March 25th 1835. They were in fact anticipating the formation of the Chelmsford Union, for which the fist meeting of the Board of Guardians was not held at the Black Boy Inn, Chelmsford, until Saturday, 15th August 1835. The elected Guardian for Little Baddow was John Simmons, who must have

had to act as overseer until the Union commenced operation, which event the poor might well have awaited with some not unjustified trepidation.

Chapter Two

Education.

If there ever had been a school in Little Baddow before the seventeenth century it was no doubt a small one taught by the vicar himself. Perhaps there was such a school in 1532 when John Buschep in his will left to his brother's "child which ys brent and marred in his one hand vi s. to fynd hym to scole with". He would probably be taught to read, write and cast accounts – useful for the future life of a child with a mutilated hand. The first record of a school in the village is of the short-lived one taught by Thomas Hooker and John Eliot, suspended ministers, in 1630, before they left for Holland and the NewWorld. The pupils of this school, which tradition says was at Cuckoos, are unknown but they must have been the sons of Puritans. The wealthier villagers from the sixteenth century could have sent their boys to neighbouring grammar schools, such as Chelmsford or Maldon, where they would have obtained a classical education – at Chelmsford grammar school the classics were taught free but parents had to pay for the "3 Rs". This might explain the uncertain spelling in English of many men when they attained office as churchwardens or overseers of the poor. Some perhaps had spent only a year or two at school, while other yeomen and artisans could not even sign their own names. On the other hand, some of the poorer men could write, so there may well have been a school at times from the seventeenth century, such as a dame school, to which some boys were sent briefly.

Ability to sign one's own name did not necessarily imply ability to write any other words, but probably did. Some people may have been able to read but not to write. Evidence is sparse, but between 1814 and 1839 forty-nine of the poorest inhabitants of the village (including some who formerly lived there) made statements to the justices regarding their circumstances. Thirty-four of these people made their marks and fifteen signed their names. Of the fifteen women, five were able to sign.. This means that about two-fifths of the men could sign and a third of the women, so it seems that girls of poor families had nearly as a good a chance of getting some education as their bothers. Of the forty-nine interviewed there were ten who had been born in Little Baddow and who could sign their names, four of them women. Perhaps these had attended the Butler Charity School in the village.

This school had been founded under the will make in 1717 of Edmund Butler, a nonconformist, who left land in trust for educating and providing clothes for poor boys and girls of Little Baddow and Boreham. Nothing is recorded of the school until 1770, when the vestry meeting of Little Baddow resolved that an account of their disbursements should be demanded from the trustees. A Return made to Parliament

by the parish officers in 1786 stated sourly that the only advantage the parish had yet received was "teaching 6 boys and 6 girls, finding them books, and clothing them, once in 2 years, very coarsely".

The vicar of Little Baddow in 1808, replying to an enquiry by the Archdeacon, wrote "Twenty children are educated in each Parish, clothed once in two years. The children may remain four years at school and be clothed twice in that time, but they seldom remain more that 2 years and are succeeded by others. The children are taught to read and write – and if they continue longer than two years – to Cipher. The School here is taught by a woman with a salary of £15 per annum, house rent and firing, and liberty to teach what number of scholars may offer…" At the same time the vicar of Boreham alleged "All the Trustees are Dissenters and great abuses are know to exist. I hope some means will be devised of obliging them to lay their Accounts before the Parishes annually…" In 1815 John Tyrell of Boreham wrote to General Strutt that he was fearful "that neither of these Parishes have any power to investigate the conduct of the trustees to compel them to show how they have disposed of the produce of the Lands…..or of the Timber they have cut down…"

William Tracey, a schoolmaster aged twenty-seven in 1862, had lived in Little Baddow since 1819, having previously been in Danbury, so perhaps he was master of the Butler Charity School.

A report of the Charity Commissioners in 1837 gave the first real details of the school. It stated that John Hedgecock had been schoolmaster since 1831 and had no usher or assistant. His salary was £25 a year, with a rent-free house and half a chaldron of coals (over half a ton) every winter. He had twenty-five pupils, thirteen boys and twelve girls, who were not generally admitted under the age of seven and never under six and did not stay later than thirteen. Twenty of the children were both clothed and educated and the other five educated only. The Trustees appointed both master and scholars and provided all the books for the girls but copy-books only for the boys. School books in 1835 had cost the Trustees £5.8.9. The Butler Charity boys were taught, without any distinction, in the same class with the boys of the Lancastrian school in the parish, of which Mr. Hedgcock was also master. (The Lancasterian or British school, affiliated to the British and Foreign Schools Society, had been established recently by members of the Congregational Chapel for the education of children "of the labouring or other poor classes of inhabitants"). The boys attended school in the Lancastrian schoolroom from 9 till 12 and 1.30 till 3.30 in winter, and until 4.30 in summer, and learnt to read, write and cipher. Mr. Hedgecock's sister-in-lay, Miss Shirley, without salary, taught the girls to read, sew and knit. The Trustees bought the worsted for them to knit their own stockings. If the girls wished to learn to write they paid 2d. a week – four girls were currently doing so. Every child leaving the Charity School who could read was given a new Bible. (The Bible presented on 1st July 1840 to Josiah Smith, aged nine or just ten, who became a miller, has survived).

The Trustees paid £3.9.0. annually for a pew in the Independent meeting house, for the use of pupils whose parents were dissenters, and £4.5.0. annual rent for the master's cottage. The Commissioners reported that the Trustees had exceeded the £1 allowed for the dinner at their annual meeting, and had expended money on the

occasion of fitting on the clothes and shoes of the children, but that they had now undertaken to discontinue these practices as they were not strictly regular.

Picture of British School.

The British School after it had become the Memorial Hall.

The schoolroom in which John Hedgecock taught the British and Charity Schools may have been the one at Coldham End, first recorded in a deed of 1846, with a cottage for the master and some outbuildings, which housed the schools until their closure in 1895. It was owned by the British School, not by the Charity. The schoolroom was 32'8" x 16'10" in size, and, like the attached cottage, was brick-built and tiled. Records of the British School have not survived, but the annual accounts of the Trustees of the Charity School from 1853 until 1895 are preserved.

These accounts show that George Voce from Lancashire was schoolmaster from at least 1850, receiving a salary from the Charity of £35 p.a., plus £5 for supervising the Boreham Charity School, which was taught by a woman. Whether he received any salary from the British School managers is not shown. He taught the boys and girls reading, writing and arithmetic, and the girls in addition were instructed in "plain work" by Mrs. Voce. Mr. Voce seems to have resigned soon after his wife died in 1859 and to have been succeeded by Joseph McVittie from Scotland. After 1866 the teachers must have been appointed and paid by the British School managers, for the Trustees simply paid an annual amount of between £40 and £52 to the managers for educating the charity children. From about the same year the teachers were women.

Each "clothing year" (alternate years) ten boys and ten girls were provided by the Trustees with items of clothing. Women in the village were paid for making some of the boys' suits (probably those for the smaller boys), and dresses, bonnets, cloaks, stays, shirts and chemises. Other boys' suits were ordered from tailors, shoes came from the village shoemakers, and hats, stockings and gloves were purchased from shops. In 1854 the Trustees paid £2.3.0. for refreshments for the children, excusing this, in a note on the back of the accounts, by saying the children "are detained the whole of two days in fitting on the clothes, shoes etc. and attending the cutting out etc." The following year, when shoes and stockings only were provided, 8s.3d. was spent on refreshments.

The Trustees purchased books, copybooks, cards, slates, pens, ink and "worsted for children to knit with". The Bibles for presentation to the pupils leaving school cost 5s. each, and in most years 10s. was spent on "Rewards for children". A bookcase for the schoolroom was bought in 1856. Coal was an annual item, as were land tax, poor rate, highway rate and fire insurance. The Trustees continued paying for a pew at the Chapel. From 1881 the funds available to the Trustees did not permit of the purchase of clothing, but thirty children were educated, and stationery, coal, Bibles and Rewards were still provided. The Trustees also paid £1 per annum to a pupil teacher for two years and £2 for a third year. The schools received an annual government grant which varied from year to year.

In May 1895, when the schools were closed, the children were transferred to the nearby National School. There is no record of the number of children on the roll at

that time. The British School premises were leased partly to the Parish Council and partly to the County Police and ultimately sold to the Council. The charity income was devoted to grants to children for higher education, apprenticeships and other educational purposes. A bequest left to the Congregational Chapel by Jeremiah Pledger in 1857 was applied to similar purposes, including the Sunday School.

Another school, for the children of Church of England parents, was in existence in the village by 1836 when Frederick Phillips was appointed schoolmaster, assisted by his wife, Caroline, who was left destitute with three small children when he died in 1842. In 1846 there was a Mistress, paid a salary of £25 per annum, with an Assistant Master, and in addition one male and two female unpaid instructors, probably for the Sunday School. Twenty-five boys, thirty-one girls and sixteen infants attended the Sunday and weekday schools, the Sunday School being held at the Church. The school was probably accommodated in a room in the schoolhouse (site unknown), as it was from 1847 when a house with land (on the hill just below the almshouses) was purchased from Joseph Pledger to replace the earlier one. A school trust deed was executed in August, 1846, and in April 1847 the school was united to the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church, with Lord Rayleigh and the Rev. Ady as Managers. It was thereafter known as the National School.

The National Society was asked for financial help in building a schoolroom to be attached to the newly acquired schoolhouse, as, it was asserted, the accommodation in the house was very cramped, especially for the girls and infants, and it was impossible to have a mixed school. It was proposed to provide accommodation for seventy children in a room measuring 26and a half' x 16', giving 6 sq. ft. per child. Lord Rayleigh had allocated materials worth £20, a further £3 in materials and labour was promised, and subscriptions in money had raised £31. As £300 had been praised locally for the purchase of the house it was proving difficult to obtain more. The Diocesan Board had made a large contribution towards the £300 and now gave £15 towards the new building. The National Society agreed to provide another £15, and eventually it proved possible to cover the entire cost of £122.14.2. for the school building and £5 for the Fittings. Capt. Johnson, churchwarden, made a note in his account book that the school had cost £15.8.0. from the Church Rate. The building by "a most intelligent respectable builder in the parish" was finished on 12th May 1851. It remained the schoolroom for over a century.

By at least 1850 Benjamin Horth from Norwich was schoolmaster , assisted by Mrs. Elizabeth Lewin. He was also postmaster for the village, the schoolhouse being used as the Post Office. Mr. Horth died in 1859 and his widow, Susan, conducted the school, assisted by other teachers, until 1866 when her third son, Charles, became the master at the age of twenty. He continued his own studies, obtaining qualifications in drawing and attending a botany course. He was already a certificated teacher. He succeeded his mother at the Post Office on her death in 1872.

The teachers received support, encouragement and assistance from Archdeacon W.B. Ady (the Rector), a Manager and the driving force behind the school for forty-one years until his death in 1882. The scholars in respect followed his funeral procession from the Rectory. His wife and daughters took an active interest in the school, often visiting and sometimes taking the scripture lessons. The Archdeacon's successor as

Rector, Rev. F.T. Tayler, gave similarly of his time, while others of the Managers, like Admiral Johnson (who died at the end of 1880 aged ninety-one "a veteran of H.M.S. Victory Trafalgar 1805"), kept in close touch with the school.

The Government, recognising the deficiencies in the general education of the people, in 1838 set up a Committee of the Privy Council to administer an annual education grant. They appointed inspectors, those for the Church of England schools being clergymen. The Rev. Ady wrote that Her Majesty's Inspectors had visited Little Baddow National School from 1846. The school records show that from at least 1874 they made an annual inspection in May, generally two inspectors taking nearly a whole day. The annual government grant made to schools after 1861 (under a "Revised Code" embodying a Parliamentary Commission's recommendations) depended largely upon the result of H.M.I's examination of the children and on the average attendance – a system of "payment by results". Between the years 1871 and 1881 the local grant varied between £47.15.0. and £21.15.0. A small income was obtained from "school pence", the fee paid by parents for each child's education, from 1847, when the amount was fixed at one penny per week, until 1891, when such payments were abolished by Parliament and elementary education was made free. There is no record of whether the fee was increased, but children outside the village had to pay extra – in the case of a few pupils from Woodham Walter it was as much as 6d. in the 1880s. The Managers must have relied heavily upon voluntary subscriptions from parishioners to provide sufficient funds to run the school, but no accounts have survived. When major repairs or alterations were required the Managers had to apply for grants to the Diocesan Board and the National Society. The teacher's salary in 1882, when it still depended on the result of H.M.I's examination, appears to have been £100 per annum, and was perhaps a combined salary with his wife. In 1908 it was £90 for a bachelor master and £30 for the infants' teacher (an unqualified teacher).

In 1879 Mr. J. Spencer Phillips of Riffhams paid for re-decorating the schoolroom, which was done in stone, pale blue and white, giving the room a "cheerful aspect". He also provided new desks for master and scholars, a table for needlework, some pictures, maps and framed texts, a blackboard and a kindergarten box of material. Mr. Charles Horth met him in London and they made their choice at the National Society's Depository. The schoolroom was next re-decorated in 1883. In 1891 H.M.I. drew attention to the condition of the walls, door and floor, and repair work was done. H.M.I. also commented on the small and inconvenient infants' room, measuring 13'3" x 8', in the master's house; in 1894 they said that twenty-four infants were present in the room which had cubical space for twelve, and further that, if a suitable room were not provided, no grant would be paid to the school. In 1896 H.M.I. were able to congratulate the Managers on the provision of a new infants' room and the enlargement of the main schoolroom, necessitated by the admission of the British School children when their school closed in 1895. The infants' room (for thirty-six children), attached to the main schoolroom, was to be equipped with desks and hinged forms, a graduated gallery with backed seats, an alphabet stand, form and colour sheets, large pictures of animals, plants, trees and common employments, and a museum cupboard for objects used in collective lessons. The infants' gallery was removed in 1910 (when educational theories had changed) at which time H.M.I. said that, as no direct sunshine entered the room, there should be a window in the south wall.

The school was heated originally by open fires which were lit by the children in rotation before school in the mornings. These were replaced by show combustion stoves; a Tortoise stove was installed in the main room in 1888. When these wore out in 1913 they were replaced by hot-water pipes. Ventilation was defective and H.M.I. said in 1910 that windows should open at the bottom and should be given "hopper inlet ventilators". He also said that the new desks expected for the main schoolroom should be placed so that the light came from the side. A new drainage system was installed in 1878 after a diphtheria epidemic. The "offices" in outbuildings were separated from the playground by a fence. On 14th November 1881 there was "a terrific storm of wind …..doing much and memorable mischief everywhere – blowing down the out premises of the school and the large tree near". In 1910 H.M.I. commented that the offices were still treble- and double-seated. In 1905 the managers found that the school floors were scrubbed only four times a year; they ordered the caretaker (the first mention of such a person) to double this. The schoolroom was used for various parish purposes, such as occasional church services, meetings, concerts and other entertainments, for which the children, at least in Mr. Charles Horth's time, used to re-arrange the room.

Among smaller items of school equipment were the bell, the clock which needed occasional repair, pegs for the children to hang their hats and bonnets and a flagstaff. There must have been buckets for the water drawn from the well for drinking and washing.

The day-to-day life of the National School is documented from the School Log Books written up by the Principal Teacher at least once a week. Charles Horth confided his thoughts and opinions to his logbook as to a diary. The teachers following him were brief in their entries. Mr. Horth's logbooks show him to have been a dedicated and conscientious teacher, ahead of his time in his ideas and methods, much hampered by absenteeism but with a real interest in his pupils. He was master for twenty years.

At the start of the first available book Mr. Horth in 1874 was being assisted in his teaching by Frederick W. Clench, in his third year as a Pupil Teacher and aged fifteen or just sixteen. He was the son of William Clench, a coachman, and, with Mr. Horth's tuition, gained a place at a teachers' training college in 1876. Mrs. Horth took the needlework and sometimes helped with other subjects. There were a few monitors who taught the younger children and were themselves instructed by Mr. Horth after School most days. Among these was Clara Raven, aged thirteen in 1874, whose father farmed at Gibbs. Mr. Horth, after a slight illness, said "Clara Raven a voluntary teacher helps me very efficiently. She has been the mainstay of the teaching during my indisposition". Owing to her mother's ill-health she was needed at home and had to leave school in 1875. Charlotte Loveday, who lived with her grandparents at Wickhay cottage, became a monitor at the age of twelve in 1876, left the following year but returned in 1879 as paid monitor for the instruction of the infants. Mr. Horth wrote that she was "a painstaking teacher and already is making great improvement in the Infants". After a few months, however, she left to become a nurse at Winchester and was succeeded by Annie Bertha Clench, aged fourteen, sister of the Pupil Teacher. She continued to teach the infants for thirty-five years. Of her Mr. Horth was able to state "The Infants appear to take delight in their work under Bertha Clench". Later H.M.I. were to remark on her "quiet but effective

influence" on the infants who were in the "kindly hands". After three years she was being paid 3s. a week. She never obtained any teaching qualification. Charles Watts, aged eleven or just twelve, from 1879 helped with the teaching with a view to becoming a pupil teacher, which he achieved at Great Baddow in 1882. This unqualified teaching necessitated "the careful supervision of each individual child by the head teacher".

Mr. Horth was succeeded in 1886 by James Porter who stayed for two years, after which William Thomas was Principal Teacher for twenty years.

When provision was made in 1851 for seventy children in the new National schoolroom the village population was rising, but in fact from that time it gradually dropped, and the number of pupils therefore decreased. Children were sometimes admitted at the age of three, but by 1910 the age had been raised to five. In 1865 the Rev. Ady reported to the National Society that fifty-seven children were enrolled and the average attendance was forty-two. He said that six children of dissenting parents attended, while some years previously, when there was an inferior teacher at the British School, twenty-six children had been sent to the Nation School. A school started in Woodham Walter in the early 1870s took the children who formerly had had to attend Little Baddow School. In April 1881 the number on the register was forty-six and the average attendance for the preceding year had been 28, but by 1885 the number on the register was seventy-four and the average attendance was about fifty. When the British School children joined the National School in May 1895 the average attendance rose to seventy-two. At the beginning of 1914 there were eighty-five on the roll; in 1928 the number was eighty-four. In the last years of the school which was closed in July 1960, the numbers were just over sixty infants and juniors.

Children who lived on the outskirts of the parish, two of three miles away, had to start early in the morning to arrive at school at 9 o'clock. As Mr. Horth said, they "live so far away and are so small". They had to take their midday meal with them. During the winter months these children were allowed to leave school before the normal time of closing at 4 p.m., but even so they tended to stay away. From about 1880, for all pupils school in winter started half an hour earlier in the afternoon (at 1.30 p.m.) so as to close at 3.30 p.m. In any case no lighting was provided in the shoolroom, making it difficult to see at the end of winter afternoons. Lateness in arriving at school was not uncommon and once Mr. Horth wrote "The excuse recorded in the late book are very various and absurd".

Inducing the pupils to attend school regularly was a continual problem. Government legislation in 1876 established that all children should receive elementary education, imposed additional restrictions on their employment and set up school attendance committees. In 1880 education to the age of ten was made compulsory; this was a new concept to parents and difficult to enforce. Not until May 1921 was there a day when every pupil was present. The Attendance Officer made fairly regular visits to the school, sent notices to or visited persistent offenders and, when all else failed, served summonses on parents. Mr. Horth remarked that attendance flagged "whenever this functionary omits his visit but that his notices "seem to be treated like waste paper". The Officer himself considered his powers insufficient to improve the attendance. In one case the local Attendance Committee, after being informed that a boy's parents intended to continue resisting their order to send him to school

regularly, “recommended their officer to act upon Dogberry’s advice “leave him alone’”. One boy sent word that he was at liberty to attend two days a week and absent himself on three; two sisters were sent on alternate days. When the magistrates ordered the parents of one boy (who had been bark-stripping) to send him to school, they kept his younger brother away to do the work instead. Prizes were occasionally given for good attendance, especially after 1900, when books were awarded, and in 1905 the Managers decided to make the presentations more public than they had been.

A major factor affecting the attendance was the weather. As Mr. Horth wrote, “every time there is actually or even a prospect of a flood it affects the attendance, especially because the floods rise so rapidly”. On another occasion he wrote “very deep snow: only a fireside school”, and in some winters for days children were unable to reach the school because snow had “completely blocked all communication”. Floods and snow were having almost the same effect up the 1950s. Teaching had to be accommodated to the weather. In July 1880, during the “attendance depression” at pea-picking time, the weather was sultry so that teaching of the few pupils still attending was “carried on out of doors ‘sub tegmine fagi’” (under the shade of the beech tree). The following winter, when for nearly a month snow and floods kept many children from school, at one period “the cold being so intense the children have to be kept very close to a good fire”. During one heatwave Mr. Horth wrote “few complaints of headache and fainting occur”.

Illness sometimes reached such proportions as to necessitate closing the school, as in a diphtheria epidemic of 1878. There were suggestions that the school well and the drains might be connected with the epidemic and so a new drainage system was installed. Eventually the doctors gave permission for re-opening the school and advised burning sulphur in the schoolroom beforehand. It was then however that the two deaths from Diphtheria occurred – two small boys in the Loveday family. Mr. Horth wrote “the event has much alarmed the inhabitants of the parish”, but in fact the epidemic was over. Other illnesses abounded to that every year there were entries like “Whooping cough increasing: attendance decreasing”, “The sickness ‘mumps’ is going through the school”, “Many children have bad colds” and measles had “panicked the attendance”. In 1880 when measles seemed to have reached Little Baddow from Hatfield where the school had been closed for a month”, Mr. Horth said that as much work as possible was being done in school consistent with keeping warm the children who were still likely to fall ill and “We try to make them cheerful by singing plenty of light songs”. Children were vaccinated – in 1877 the parish doctor was doing this on Wednesdays.

In the 1890s influenza seems to have been the main epidemic, as in 1897 when it was in most of the village homes, with a large number of parents ill and nearly half the children. Ringworm too was fairly common about this time. In 1900 there were again measles, whooping cough and then scarlet fever with parents “frightened to send their children to school”. Periodical inspections of heads in the early twentieth century brought to light children whose hair was “infested with nits” and a girl with a “large live parasite” in her head and “insects crawling on her clothes”. All these children were sent home immediately. Accidents sometimes kept children away from school, examples being “swallowing a tin whistle and being unable to get quit of it”, “to recover fright from a fire which broke out …in their shop”, “cutting himself

with a chopper" or falling out of trees. There were also the malingerers: Mr. Horth wrote in 1885 of the Easter Monday treat, that it was "a talisman for bringing out the absentees who fear they are not quite well enough for school".

The "pernicious effect" of agricultural employment on the school attendance was what gave all the teachers the most concern. There were many persistent offenders among the older boys but young children too were often at work. In March 1874 three children, aged six, seven and nine, were kept from school to scare birds from fields, and Mr. Horth regretted that the practice had re-commenced of employing girls for this work. Later in the same year young children were keeping birds from the ripening cherries, currants and other fruit and from the cornfields. The Attendance Officer used to interview farmers who were employing young children contrary to the Agricultural Children Act of 1873, to little avail. Children of all ages were present in the fields pea-picking and haymaking, and in fact so many went pea-picking every year that from 1878 the Managers allowed them to go for a fortnight and kept the school open for those few who wished to attend. Eventually the school was closed, often for a month, as soon as pea-picking started, but even so Mr. Horth complained that "Children seem to do as they like as to the time they stay away for pea-picking and haymaking", and one boy "never returns to school till sent for ". The Harvest Holiday lasted four or five weeks, according to how quickly the harvest was gathered, for children helped in many ways – working in the fields, carrying food and drink to the workers, looking after the homes and babies and then gleaning at the end. From about 1905 this holiday was called the blackberry or fruit-picking holiday and it seems that childrens' contribution to the harvest was mainly confined to fruit.

The year 1879 had some unusual weather, delaying the harvest, so that Mr. Horth noted "This is the first time on record of the school going so late into the autumn before taking the Harvest Holiday", which lasted from 4th September to 6th October. A few weeks later he wrote "It appears that the dry weather of October setting in after such a wet summer had encrusted the earth so as to make it almost impossible for the drill to sow the corn and recourse had to be had to the old system of Debbing and Dropping". Schoolboys were employed to help with this work. During the following March children were "picking turnip tops for the Covent garden market. This is a new kind of employment brought about by the severe frosts of the winter".

Some of the other employments which claimed the services of school children were acorn and chestnut gathering, potato-picking, stone-picking, bark-stripping and holly gathering. As Mr. Horth was aware, labourers' wages were so low that the parents needed the money their children could earn. One boy, member of a "struggling family" was often at work because his father said he could not afford to keep him at school. Girls were often kept at home to do housework.

Another occasion which emptied the school was the paying out every November of the Clothing Club money, after which most children went with their parents to Chelmsford to buy clothes. Boys wore hard-wearing tweed or corduroy suits, white shirts with Eton collars and hob-nailed boots. Girls wore white pinafores over their long dresses and their boots were lace-up for school and button-up for Sundays.

The children usually had a fortnight's holiday at Christmas, reduced to one week if school had been closed for an epidemic. Good Friday was a holiday, but not Easter

Monday until the 1880s, when the Monday and Tuesday of Whitsun week were often given as well. August Bank Holiday at first was a half-holiday but soon became a full day. On Ascension day the children attended church in the morning and were free for the afternoon. The children also attended special services at the church like Harvest Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday and other services during Lent.

Truancy was an occasional problem. Three boy truants were felt by Mr. Horth to have been sufficiently punished by their parents, while another met his deserts when he fell in the brook. The Rev. Tayler one day brought in two boys who had been found roaming about the Village. The Attendance Officer warned two others "against a repetition of their untimely indulgence of fishing and bird nesting propensities".

From 1876 "labour certificates" were given to children allowing them to leave school to start work if they had attended a sufficient number of times and were able to pass H.M.I's annual examination in the qualifying Standard. In 1876 a nine-year-old boy was able to satisfy these requirements and duly left school. This must have been a good intelligence wasted in labouring work. After 1880 the child had to be at least ten years old. Any pupil failing the examination had to stay at school another year, but no child could be forced to stay beyond his fourteenth birthday. At least one boy regretted his eagerness to begin work:- "13 May 1888 Edward Denny who went to work last week had returned to school tired of stone-picking." 20 May "Edward Denny is gone to work as garden boy at Woodlands" 10 June "Edward Denny returned from work." On 29th July harvest began with Edward Denny absent from school this time he seems to have remained at work.

When pupils <u>were</u> at school Mr. Horth and his successors had a continual struggle to get them up to the level required by H.M.I. in the annual inspection and examination. The "3 Rs" were always having to be given priority over other subjects.

A typical entry from Mr. Horth was "the essential subjects so much behind what they ought to be, owing to the bad attendance in the summer, that it is expedient to waive the singing again for Arithmetic and Reading". He regretted that "so much pressure had to be applied to the ordinary subjects little opportunity is afforded for general knowledge lessons." He found Arithmetic the most difficult subject, especially among the girls. He wrote despairingly "I cannot yet understand the cause of Essex children being so averse to cultivating reckoning powers." He felt there was "such a thing as hereditary talent. The generality of village parents are able to read, but very few know much about calculating." The infants used slates for learning to form their letters (sharpening the pencils on the brickwork), but the older children used pens and paper, copying books and arithmetic cards. Writing did not come easily and the spelling was rather poor.

One girl of five years was taken away after being at school for a fortnight, because she had not been taught to read in that time. Mr. Horth was informed that her mother could teach her to read in a week. Reading aloud was given a good deal of attention, the Inspectors at the examination looking for emphasis, expression, intelligence and distinctness. An exchange of reading books was made with Danbury Boys' school in 1880, "much to the delight" of the pupils: no doubt they had grown bored with the same ones month after month. The children learned and recited poetry and one year

a prize was offered for this. The other subjects attempted – English literature, Grammar, History, Geography – suffered from lack of time to devote to them. The children had history and geography readers, the latter covering chiefly the British Isles, Europe and the Colonies. Drawing, for which there was an annual examination in March, seems to have been a reasonably successful subject. Singing, for which the school became noted, was generally of a fair standard and the scholars gave occasional concerts and sang carols at Christmas. The school had a harmonium; in 1897 a concert was held to help purchase a new one. The children had a daily scripture lesson, sometimes taken by the Rector or by ladies of the parish. The infants were given object lessons on such things as A Letter, A Slate, The Cat, Cotton, Wild Flowers, The Carpenter's Shop, Winter, A Railway Station.

The girls spent one and a half hours daily on needlework from 1875, because the Archdeacon had received complaints from parents. Mr. Horth considered seven and a half hours a week too much, but conceded it to be necessary for the girls' future prospects- most went into domestic service. Mrs.Horth usually gained praise from H.M.I. for the standard of the needlework. Some of the older girls went once a week from 1909 to cookery classes, first at Great Baddow and later at Chelmsford, being taken by the carrier. Physical education was apparently ignored, though the boys played some cricket. Marching and physical exercises are mentioned in 1894, but it was not until 1902 that the boys had their first lesson in drill from the local policeman. By 1911 physical training was taken daily.

The children were given some home lessons (especially scripture) and a few books for general reading were available. Mr. Horth procured copies of the School Newspaper and Boys Own paper monthly from 1879, which he found gave a stimulus to the reading in the upper Standards. In January 1882 volumes of both papers for 1881 were presented to older scholars with the best attendance and conduct during the previous year. A school library was set up in 1915, partly comprising books given by Miss Kirwin, a retired hospital matron, and partly books bought with money from the Butler Charity.

The climax of the year's work was the visit by H.M.I. a time of great tension for both teachers and pupils, because the school's grant and the number of children who could leave school depended on the result. One year Mr. Horth and the Danbury schoolmaster examined each other's school a week or two before the Inspectors were due in order to give the children a practice examination. The report of H.M.I. when it arrived, was copied by the Rector into the Log Book and its recommendations and criticisms carefully attended to before the next inspection. A less awe-inspiring event was the annual Diocesan Inspection to examine the children's religious knowledge and to set the syllabus for the forthcoming year's work.

Talks by outside speakers were very rare: the Rev. Tayler spoke about childrens' clubs in 1883; from 1905 there were regular talks on hygiene and occasional ones on temperance by Band of Hope speakers. In 1915 Miss Boldero spoke to the scholars "on their position and work in the State". Mr. Horth, however, during his time at the school, tried to widen his pupils' horizons as well as those of their parents. In January 1877 the children were given tea and then "were amused with an exhibition of Magic Lantern views". From early 1879, using his own "Lime Light apparatus", he gave an evening "Limelight exhibition of Dissolving views" every month during

the winters. One month the subject was "Native life and scenery of Africa" after which several children wrote "an excellent composition on Livingstone and Stanley Travels". Free tickets were given to scholars who did well in their work, and there was always a crowded room of children and adults to gaze at pictures illustrating Capt. Nares' Arctic Expedition, Egypt and its Monuments, The History of England, the Zulu War and the Heliograph, Irish Scenery, A trip to Russia, The Bernese Oberland, visit to Zoological Gardens, The Soudan War and other similar subjects. On at least one occasion a guinea from the proceeds was given to the Village Coal Fund.

Treats were few and far between but the children made the most of them. There was an annual school treat given by the Rector, usually at the Rectory but sometimes on the Rodney hills, and also an annual Sunday school treat. The Rev. Ady had been a Manager of the school for forty years in 1881, which may explain Mr. Horth's entry in the Log book in early October 1881 –

"Thursday was a red letter day for the school. Standards three, four and five and six were excursioned to Southend reaching that county renowned watering place just at high tide – near mid-day. After a feast of good things the curate gave them all a coin to spend, and a book might be composed of the results of this liberality. The purchases were in great variety – the same with the taste displayed, and the uses, and remarks respecting them. A beautiful moonlight evening saw them home safe about 9 o'clock. The smaller children were entertained at the school by ladies."

The children signed a memorial of thanks to the Archdeacon and Mrs. Ady, to which they received a "very affectionate reply". It is unfortunate Mr. Horth did not mention the method of transport used, as it might have been the first ride on a train for many children.

The following year Miss Livermore of Woodlands "sent a letter to the school asking acceptance on Good Friday of a bun and a penny for every child. It was respectfully accepted for Monday next to prevent the association of Good Friday with a treat…the children…returned a vote of thanks to Miss Livermore". The next three Easters Miss Livermore made similar gifts, and the day usually included sports (one year the older boys and three local schoolmasters playing in a cricket match) and was ended by a magic lantern show. New Year 1885 was celebrated by a Christmas tree, tea and the magic lantern, the gift of "Tofts gentry". That year the Rev. Tayler took the choir to Clacton at the expense of Miss Livermore. The same lady provided the treat for New Year 1886, when the children were "well regaled with a delicious tea", sang carols and received presents from the tree "each child receiving something useful as well as something amusing." In 1905 the Managers decided that all treats given to children in future must be during school holidays, so that details were rarely entered in the log books.

Occasional local events always proved irresistible: "A treat given to the Maldon children on the Rodney took from school all my children". Fetes at Boreham and in neighbouring park, a circus procession in Chelmsford and a sale in the village produced the same exodus. The Managers often bowed to the inevitable and gave a holiday, as in 1880 "to enable the children to attend a Bazaar held at the Rodney for the assistance of the Missionary Fund of the village", in 1890 when the Prince of

Wales visited the Agricultural Show at Chelmsford and in 1896 for the first Little Baddow and Danbury annual Flower and Vegetable Show, held that year in Danbury Palace Park. Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 must have been popular among the children for the school was closed for a week. When the coronation of Edward VII had to be postponed because of his illness, the day's holiday was not revoked, the food which had been prepared was partaken of , but the sports were cancelled. From 1884 Miss Clench and some of the older girls belonged to the Girls' Friendly Society and attended the meetings and teas.

In November 1875 Admiral Johnson wrote "I authorize Mr. Horths having Mr. Spalding the Photographer at the school to take the children to insert in an album intended for a wedding present to the Archdeacon's daughter". The album cost £24, of which £16 had been raised by past and present scholars, while "the gentry" had contributed the remainder. It was presented to Miss Jane Ady in the schoolroom.

All the teachers had their share of difficult children. In Mr. Horth's time those who did their work carelessly were usually kept in after school to do it again. A boy "who gives a good deal of trouble to his teachers" was sometimes put on a stool in the corner of the room, and a girl suffered the same fate for "a morning's idleness". Another girl "who refused to cease idle laughing in an Arithmetic lesson…was kept after school to see me make this entry in the Log Book. She promises not to repeat it". Three boys were "to do sums all day for telling untruths to hide laziness." Mr. Horth added "I do not think myself that too much work tends to cure laziness but the necessities of the examination compel me to adopt this course." Mr. Horth seems rarely to have used the cane, but a boy who refused one morning "to take his turn at lighting the fire and sweeping the school", not the first time he had refused to do "the necessary industrial occupations incident to small national schools", was punished lightly with the cane on his hand. His mother came to apologise for him afterwards. One winter after snow there were complaints about children making slides in the road and two girls who had been sliding in the dinner hour "were sincerely sorry on learning immediately afterwards that a gentleman's horse was thrown down on the slides." One boy's misdeed was "cutting buttons from another child's dress in order to add to his stock of buttons for button-playing."

A relation of some girl pupils complained to Mr. Horth that they learned improper words at school, but he knew that the family wished to send the girls to a Danbury school "which goes by the name of a Middle Class School and where no attendance is enquired about or Registers kept or indeed anything worthy the name of instruction imparted". Finally a note was received to say that, as the girls were "obliged to mix with society inconsistent with their position", they were to be withdrawn. Another girl was withdrawn because her grandmother "doubted the cleanliness" of the children – "a charge totally unfounded" wrote Mr. Porter.

Relations between the National and the British Schools between 1874 and 1895 were not good. According to the National School Log Books, right was on the side of that school, but the opinion of the British School teachers is not known. Mr. Horth often denounced "poaching" by the mistress of the British School, alleging that she advised his pupils "to do things contrary to discipline to provoke punishment", whereupon she would engage not to punish them if they went to her school. In the case of one girl he said that the mistress promised to teach her special kinds of needlework and to

board and lodge her while her mother was ill, and "As a pretentious compensation there was sent to me in her place a child to look after of three years of age." The British School mistress encouraged National School children to go to her school in the dinner hour to sign "the blue ribbon pledge" and to learn pieces for recitation at public meetings held at her school once a month. Mr. Horth considered the education received at the British School to be "wretched" and that his night school was largely composed of ex-pupils trying to make up its deficiencies. In the cold October of 1880 boys of the two schools fought a snow-ball battle and the mistress of the British School complained that in their victory over her boys the National scholars "had overstepped decorum". In 1895, when the "top school" was closed, the pupils were transferred to the National School.

For any lads who wished to continue their educations, Mr. Horth held a winter night school. Girls did not attend. In 1873/4 twenty-four boys attended on two evenings a week from October, and eighteen of them took the examination in March 1874. On the other hand one lad spent several winters trying to learn to read. The night school earned government grants varying between £3.16.11. and £11.13.5. and usually had over a dozen pupils. Mr. Horth had a few assistants for the teaching, such as Fred Humphries, former pupil at the day school and in 1875 page and groom lad to Admiral Johnson; Mr. Pryor, butler at Tofts, and Mr. Loveday, "a working man". The Archdeacon entertained the scholars to supper at the Rectory every September. The lads were sometimes troublesome going home from night school and one year the Police Officer was asked to keep an eye on them. The following year Mr. Horth did not hold a school, partly because of the bad behaviour and partly because he was not well, but it was recommenced in October 1878, though hampered by the diphtheria epidemic. One year, a night school evening falling on 5th November, the lads did not attend "as they make an annual bonfire". In October 1881 the Congregational Minister started an "opposition night school" at the Chapel, but this is the last heard of either school.

Little is known about any private schools there may have been in the village, but William Parry, minister of the Chapel, kept a small school between about 1780 and 1799, possibly moving it into the manse when that was built during the 1790s. His successor, Stephen Morell, revived it but not immediately, judging by the census return for 1801. The return of 1821, however, shows living at the manse ten boys under twenty years of age, six of whom were aged between eleven and fifteen. A few would have been Mr. Morell's own sons but most must have been boarders. The 1831 Census shows only one boy under twenty, probably the minister's youngest son. An older son, Thomas, kept a boarding academy in Danbury, to which the sons of leading Essex nonconformist families were sent. In 1861 Thomas, having succeeded his father as minister, had five pupils boarding at the manse, aged between ten and fifteen, and born in Chelmsford, Sandon, Boreham and Norwich. He had given up the school by the next Census. Church of England parents who wished their children to be educated at private schools would have had to send them outside the parish. Elm Green School, for juniors, still flourishing in the 1970s, did not start until the 1930s.

The village school (the combined National and British Schools) was taken over on 1st October 1903 by the new County Education Authority, who required repairs costing £30 to be carried out to the building. Holidays were fixed at nine weeks for the year

– two weeks at Christmas, two days at Easter and Whitsun and the remainder for pea-picking, gleaning and blackberrying. Discipline deteriorated owing to Mr. Thomas's failing sight and hearing (and his drinking) and he was forced to retire in 1908 on a breakdown pension. A son of Mr. Charles Horth was appointed, but withdrew on finding the salary was less than he was receiving in Kent, so the Managers chose Mr. George T. Taylor. He proved to be somewhat lax in discipline; H.M.I. said "children chatter during lessons".

Patriotism was encouraged at this time; in 1912 a flagstaff was erected and the scholars celebrated the "safe return of the King and Queen from India" in February by singing the National Anthem round the flag. Empire Day was celebrated that year and succeeding years with the children gathering round the flag and receiving special lessons and talks.

(Photograph of The Congregational Chapel Sunday School Treat 1904. Photographed at the Rodney Pleasure Ground. Rev. James Burgess with the beard. Miss Pledger on his right.)

As soon as war started in 1914 the 6th Gloucester Regiment was billeted in village homes and some of the soldiers slept in the school, which in the Christmas holidays was used as their hospital. On 31st March 1915 many children went to see "the departure of the troops for the front". Owing to continual adverse reports from H.M.I., Mr. Taylor was asked to resign, and Miss Clench also resigned. Mr. And Mrs. Barker, both certificated teachers, became master and mistress from July 1915. The school and the schoolhouse were insured against enemy bombs. The school garden was measured out into twelve plots for which the boys drew lots and the Butler Charity lent them gardening tools and a shed. Mr. Barker joined the Army in 1916, leaving the school to be carried on by Mrs. Barker, with Mrs. Hockley as supply teacher for the Infants. The children were given extra holidays for pea-picking, fruit-picking, potato gathering and blackberrying. In 1917 a Penny Savings Bank was started. The children gave a concert and knitted for the Red Cross and they brought eggs and flowers for the military hospital in Chelmsford. The war ended as an influenza epidemic was going through the school.

Soon after Mr. Barker returned from the Army in 1921, he and his wife left the school and Mrs. Hammond was appointed, with her daughter as assistant teacher. After an unsatisfactory tenure, Mrs. Hammond resigned and Mrs. Turner (to be the last Head Teacher and one of the most successful) was appointed in 1930.

Between the wars there was more concern shown for the physical health of the children, though the school still had to be closed for the same illnesses. There were frequent visits by doctors, nurses and health visitors and there was a dental clinic. Cod liver oil and malt was given free to some undernourished children and others went to the seaside holiday home. Pupils who ate their dinners at school were given cocoa at 1d. a week from 1930 and from 1934 milk was provided for any child at half penny a bottle. More time was given to games like cricket, football, and netball, and matches were arranged with other schools. The school's athletes competed at their own sports day and travelled to meetings of the Essex Schools Sports Association. Some young people went camping; many had bicycles. Local Boy Scout and Girl Guide troops, re-started at the end of the war, did much good work.

Teaching methods changed, the large schoolroom was divided by a screen in 1930 and there were three teachers. Scholarships enabled an increasing number of children to attend the Chelmsford grammar schools. Broadcasts to schools were used in the classrooms from 1932, relayed from the wireless set in the Head Teacher's house, for electricity was not put into the school until 1937. Annual prizegivings were held , with songs, dances etc., by the scholars, and a concert every December, usually in the Memorial hall. Empire Day was still an important occasion, with the children saluting the flag, singing patriotic songs, listening to addresses by the Rector and others, and having a holiday in the afternoon. On Empire Day 1923 the Rector lent a gramophone so that the children and parents could hear messages recorded by the King and queen. Holidays were given for royal occasions, like the weddings of Princess Mary and the Duke of York. Children went to such events as the Agricultural Show, a circus, and a Womens' Institute handicrafts exhibition, all in Chelmsford, and to an air display at Great Baddow. In the village they went to a rehearsal of a play by the "St. Roger Folk" when each child received a bun and an apple, New Year treats, Sunday school treats, W.I. treats and other events. School photographs were taken in most years. At Harvest Festival time children brought fruit, vegetables and flowers to school for sending to local hospitals.

The Second War began with the arrival of one hundred and thirty-five children evacuated from a Tottenham school, who were taken into village homes. The school building was shared, the local school using it in the mornings and the Tottenham school with their own teachers in the afternoons. By the following April, the forty-four remaining evacuees were able to use the Manse schoolroom and so the village school became full-time again. A canteen at the Memorial hall, run by volunteers for the evacuees, was taken over by the Essex Education Committee for all the schoolchildren, with the local Headmistress as supervisor, and employing a paid cook. After Dunkirk children were instructed to carry their gas masks, the windows were taped and netted, and sand, hose-piping and a long-handled shovel were supplied in case of fire. A girl had to leave school as her mother , a German refugee, was not allowed to remain in the district. During the Battle of Britain there were many air raid warnings. One day aeroplanes were fighting overhead and bombs were dropped at Danbury, while the children were under the desks and tables. An air raid shelter was constructed the following spring. Some older boys helped to make brooms for fire-fighting, should crops be fired by enemy action. Boys and girls gathered blackberries and hips for the preserving centre in the village and also worked in the fields. They helped with the collection of salvage, and one day with the breaking up of some old school desks, taking the metal to the salvage dump. The school and canteen were kept open during some holidays for pupils who wished to attend. American troops who were stationed at Tofts in 1942 arranged a New Year's entertainment for the children. The school raised £14.3.0. during "Wings for Victory" week, and £21.5.6. during "Salute the Soldier" week. Children on a nature walk with the Headmistress saw a flying bomb destroyed by a fighter. Eventually the school was closed for VE day and the Union Jack was flying from the flagstaff for the first time since 1939.

The post-war period was one of re-organisation and change. The older children were sent to Maldon Secondary Modern school and the remaining fifty or so infants and

juniors taught by only two teachers. The school, it was understood, would be closed when a new one had been built at Danbury. Holidays were to be in line with town schools. Children who lived more than two miles away were now brought by taxi. Miss Fox left after teaching at the school for fifteen years; Miss Shipman retired from the post of caretaker after twenty-five years and Canon Berridge was given a presentation on his last visit. Mrs. Turner in 1955 celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of her appointment. On 31st August 1960 the school, with sixty-three children on the roll, described in 1956 by H.M.I. as a "good and happy village school", was closed.

Chapter Three

The Victorian Village and afterwards.

A mediaeval peasant returning to his village at the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign would not have noticed much in Little Baddow to surprise him. He would have seen more and different houses, cleared land and commons under cultivation, a busy canal wharf beside the mill, a chapel as well as the familiar church, two schools, a few new crops like potatoes and turnips, perhaps a threshing machine. The tools and skills of the agricultural workers, the carpenters and smiths, the shoemakers and tailors, would have been familiar to him, and he would have felt at home in the beerhouses. He would have recognised the sounds and smells around the village. It was during the second half of the nineteenth century that changes started to come – male suffrage, compulsory schooling, a Parish Hall for recreation, a Post Office, machines on the farms, bicycles making the outside world more accessible. Until the War of 1914-18, however, the traditional way of life continued and the village community, based on all the families who had lived there for generations, linked by ties of relationship, still held firm. It was from this community, similar to what their remotest ancestors had known, that young men and boys went out to the mud and blood of the trenches and battlefields of Europe. Those who came back were changed by what they had endured and they wanted a different way of life from the one into which they had been born.

When the nineteenth century opened there were many families whose names had been woven into the village history for a century or more. Prominent among these were the Fosters, who had been at the Cock since at least 1650, and the Sawards, in the village for nearly as long and at Gibbs for much of that time. Other familiar names were Cockley (who gave their name to Cockleys cottage), Duke (who left theirs at Dukes Orchard) Gibson, Horsnell, Orton, Peacock, Perry, Rumsey, Sweeting and Willsher. Most of these did not survive long past 1800. Among the farmers, who generally stayed no longer than one or two generations, were Baker, Barnard, Hodges, Livermore, Simmons, Sorrell, Taylor, but above all Pledger, inhabitants for as long as the Fosters. Some who came for a relatively brief period after about 1750, but who nevertheless make their marks, were Jordan and Gage (innkeepers at the Rodney),

Calcraft (papermakers), Blanks (blacksmiths, two of them church clerk) and Dennis (butchers). Newcomers towards the end of the eighteenth century who were to stay for a hundred years or more included Balls, Bickmore, Clench, Jarvis, Linsell, Loveday, Lucking, Maddocks, Nunn, Pryor and Perkins. Around 1850 more new families arrived in the village, such as Enefer, Humphreys, Joslin, Mason, Miles, Mulley, Oliver, Parmintor, Swallow and Watts, some of whom remained past the middle of the twentieth century.

The chief landowners in the village were the Strutt family throughout the century, although their personal contact with the place lessened after the death of General Strutt in 1848. The Abdy and Bridges families, lords of the manors of Bassetts and Graces, maintained even less contact. Leadership of the community was taken by "gentry" such as the Rev. Ady, Admiral Johnson, the Pledgers of Hammonds, the Phillipses of New Riffhams (just in Danbury) the Tweeds of the Hall, the Joslins of Phillows, the Bolderos of Woodlands and the Woodhouses of Tofts.

As a background to the social history of the nineteenth century we have the decennial Census of the population, the first of which was taken for the parish of Little Baddow by William Mihill, Overseer of the Poor, on 10th March 1801. The questions to be answered at every house in that year were simple: The name of the householder; the number of persons, and whether male or female, in the house, the occupations pursued, under three headings – 1. agriculture, 2. trade, manufacturing or handicrafts, and 3. all others. As Mr. Mihill included all the household, babies as well, in the occupation figures, it is impossible to determine how many people were actually so engaged, but it is obvious that agricultural employment far outweighed all others.

The total population was 456, comprising eighty-six families living in seventy-one houses. The average size of household was 5.3 persons. The details for 1811 are not available, but on Monday, 28th May 1821, the third Census was taken. Similar questions were asked and showed 87 families engaged in agriculture, twenty-seven in trade etc., and four in other occupations. The total population was now 579, with 307 males and 272 females. The average size of household was 4.9 with most families consisting of from two to eight persons. In addition the ages of all inhabitants were entered in columns, giving children's ages to the nearest five years and adults to the nearest ten. The totals of the columns as follows:-

Males	Age Group	Females
38	under 5	38
44	5 - 10	41
*40	11 - 15	29
32	16 – 20	25
41	21 – 30	46
40	31 – 40	35
28	41 – 50	22
17	51 – 60	15
19	61 – 70	18
7	71 – 80	3
1	81 – 90	-

* includes about 6 pupils of Mr. Morell at the Manse.

Perhaps a number of girls between eleven and twenty had gone into service in the towns, and in the 16-20 age group some of the lads too may have left the village in search of work. If so, judging by their elders, both returned in their twenties to marry. The drop in the number of people aged over forty-one years probably shows the early death rate but may also reflect emigration from the village of people in their twenties and over during the hard times of the 1790s. This would have affected the number of children born at the time and might provide an alternative explanation for the low numbers in the 16-20 age group – but this is all speculation.

John Simmons and Elias Barnard went round the village on 30th and 31st May 1831 collecting facts for that year's Census. This time the age statistics were not asked for, but the form provided columns for some different information. There were 285 males and 263 females, making a total population of 548, 165 of the males being aged upwards of twenty years. There were about fifteen farmers, either employing labour or working the land themselves, and one hundred agricultural labourers. Seventeen men were engaged in trades or handicrafts; nine were clergy, schoolmasters or men of independent means. Labourers, other than agricultural, numbered fourteen; male servants over twenty years of age numbered twelve, and under twenty, five; and there remained eleven other males aged over twenty. The final column showed twenty-one female servants.

The General Register Office in 1840 issued instructions for taking the Census, one of which stated that an enumerator's district should not be larger than "an able-bodied and active man visiting every house therein can go over between sunrise and sunset in a summer's day" and another directed that he "must civilly ask permission to see the master or mistress of the house". On 7th April 1851 George Voce, British schoolmaster, duly visited every house collecting the name of the head of the household, the names of every other person living in the house on that day, with their relationship to the head of the house, and their sex, status (married, unmarried, widow or widower), age, occupation and place of birth. It must indeed have taken him from sunrise to sunset.

The total population of the parish was at its highest for the nineteenth century –622 – of whom 320 were males and 302 females. The age groups were as follows:-

Males	Age Group	Females
53	0 – 5	62
33	6 – 10	37
34	11 – 14	2
34	15 – 19	27
27	20 – 24	22

23	25 – 29	16
22	30 – 34	19
21	35 – 39	17
11	40 – 44	15
8	45 – 49	17
13	50 – 54	10
10	55 – 59	6
11	60 – 64	15
6	65 – 69	7
12	70 – 79	6
2	80+	3

It is difficult to determine why, when the males outnumber the females in many age groups, they should be so few in the 45-49 group, who were born between 1802 and 1806.

Ninety-four heads of families had one or more sons or daughters (of whatever age) living at home at the time of the census. Of these, twenty-six parents had one child at home and twenty had two children. Forty-six householders had between three and six children; one had seven and another eight. As the census form did not include the number of offspring not living with parents, these figures are no guide to the total size of families. Some householders were caring for step-children, nephews and nieces, grandchildren and others.

The number of houses with children aged fourteen or under (of whatever relationship to the head of the family) living in them was eighty-nine (out of a total of one hundred and thirty-two houses), made up as follows:-

29 houses with 1 child aged 14 or under
19 " " 2 children " "
13 " " 3 " " "
12 " " 4 " " "
11 " " 5 " " "
4 " " 6 " " "
1 house " 7 " " " Total number of children = 240

Of these children, over one hundred and forty were stated to be, or can be assumed to have been scholars; the remainder were either at work or babies. Ten were the sons or daughters of "gentry" families, so that about one hundred and thirty must have been enrolled at either the National or the British school. Most children aged three and under were still at home, but three aged two and four aged three were put down as scholars, while of the four-year-olds eight were scholars and only three at home. After reaching the age of five all children were attending school. Of the older boys, nine aged fourteen were at work and none at school, three aged thirteen were working and three at school, four aged twelve were at work and four at school, two aged eleven were working and four at school.

Girls left home to go into service at about the age of twelve, for only four of that age were still at school and none aged thirteen. The two aged fourteen put down as scholars may have been paid monitors at the schools – one in fact was lodging with the National schoolmistress. There were three girls of thirteen living at home. One

was the daughter of a widow with five younger children, including one less than a month old, and another was described as a farmer's servant, so she must have gone to the farmhouse daily. Five fifteen- or sixteen-year-old girls were at home, and must have been either out of a place or helping to run the home.

Further analysis of the returns shows that in April 1851 no one under the age of twenty was married, but most were married by the age of thirty and few remained unmarried. The marital status of the different age groups was as follows:-

	Male			Female		
Age Group	married	unmarried	widower	married	unmarried	widow
15-19	-	35	-	-	28	-
20-24	4	23	-	9	13	-
25-29	12	11	-	13	3	-
30-34	17	5	-	16	2	1
35-39	16	3	2	14	1	2
40-44	9	-	2	13	1	1
45-49	6	2	-	11	4	2
50-54	13	-	-	7	2	1
55-59	7	1	2	6	-	-
60-64	11	-	-	10	-	5
65-69	3	3	-	4	-	3
70-79	5	1	6	3	-	3
80+	1	-	1	1	-	2

There were 132 households in the parish, their average size being 4.7 persons.

4	households	consisted	of	1	person
15	"	"		2	persons
29	"	"		3	"
20	"	"		4	"
20	"	"		5	"
10	"	"		6	"
18	"	"		7	"
12	"	"		8	"
2	"	"		9	"
1	"	"		10	"
1	"	"		11	"

The four people who lived alone were two widows, one widower and one unmarried dressmaker aged twenty-nine. The two-person households were generally an elderly couple or an ageing parent with an adult son or daughter. A few of the three-person families consisted of grandparents bringing up a grandchild. Twenty-four lodgers (most of them unmarried agricultural labourers) were accommodated in eighteen households. A few heads of families were giving a home to relatives such as the four

who had one parent living with them, six who had a brother or sister and four with a son- or daughter-in-law. In two of the houses, where there was a baby of under a month old, there was an elderly widow living temporarily as a "monthly nurse" or midwife.

Of the six hundred and twenty-two people living in Little Baddow in April 1851, three hundred and twelve had been born in the village, one hundred and sixty-five had been born within five miles of it and ninety-three within 5 to 20 miles distant. The birthplace of 38 was elsewhere, but usually in Essex or adjoining counties. A few came from further a field such as from Lancashire, Isle of Wight, Ireland and Malta. Fourteen did not know their precise place of birth, but most of them said it was in Essex. In some cases the steps in a man's career can be traced by the birthplaces of his children. James Kimm, miller journeyman, for instance, himself and his wife born in Suffolk, was in Little Horkesley when his eldest son was born, in Wormingfield for the next two children, in Aldham for one child and had been in Little Baddow for about four years during which the youngest children were born.

A few disabilities were mentioned on the forms, such as the man of twenty-eight described as "Idiot has fits", while another a former shopkeeper aged sixty-seven, was blind. The oldest inhabitant in 1851 was Mary Pullen, widow, victualler at the Rodney, aged eighty-nine. Her stepdaughter, the assistant publican, and her husband, were living with Mrs. Pullen. Only a year younger was Taversham Nunn, a native of Helions Bumpstead, who had been in Little Baddow for at least fifty years.

On 11th April 1861 young Benjamin Horth, National School Teacher, make the rounds of the village homes and on the 5th of April 1871 Thomas J. Joslen, farmer of Phillows, did the same. They both asked the same questions as George Voce had asked. Mr. Joslen wrote down in addition the addresses of the households he visited. The information had to be divided in each Census between the houses in the township and those in Middlemead Hamlet, and so the final order in which he wrote up his forms may not have been the order in which he actually went round the parish. His itinerary (as he entered it on the forms) began at Hammonds and along the lane to the Mill, then the length of Holybreds Lane from the Hall to the Cock, up North Hill, to the two schools and the almshouses. From there he visited the houses at the top of Coldham Lane and then went along the road towards Danbury, down to Old Riffhams and on to Great Graces. He then returned by way of New Lodge and the Chapel, finishing with Well cottage, Clarks and Twitty Fee. He dealt with the houses in Middlemead by commencing as the Papermill, climbing up to the cottages around Wickhay Green (here giving names to only a few), to Warren Farm, Tofts and Old Bassetts. He then covered the road to Woodham Walter, starting at Petfield and finishing at the Old Rodney.

At the time of the 1861 census the population was 605, comprising 310 males and 295 females in 131 households with an average size of 4.6 persons. Ten years later the numbers had dropped slightly, to 602, and this time the male and female population was exactly the same – 301. There were 133 households, the average size being 4.5 persons. The statistics were generally similar in 1871 to those for 1851, except that there were rather fewer children in 1871 – perhaps 115 at the two schools. These children started school later; no two-year-olds were at school and only two aged three. More than half the population was born in Little Baddow; of the rest, 254 people were

born in Essex and thirty-six elsewhere. Nobody was unable to give his or her place of birth.

The population continued to fall until in 1901 it reached 510, after which it rose steadily, exceeding the previous highest figure by 1921 when it totalled 671. By 1971 it had reached 1510 persons living in 515 houses.

The Loveday family was perhaps a typical Victorian one. The 1851 Census shows that John Loveday, born in Little Baddow in 1817, his father a native of Boreham, was a farm bailiff, having previously worked in Danbury and Great Baddow. His wife, Ann, two years younger, was born at West Hanningfield. They had five children by 1851 (four daughters and one son) the eldest, a girl, aged ten. Ten years later the son, now aged nineteen, was an agricultural labourer living with his parents, but all four daughters had left home, one of them, aged eighteen, living as a house-servant with Charles Lucas, a farmer in the village. By now there were three more daughters and two more sons, all at school. John Loveday was described by the Census enumerator as a grocer and labourer; the enumerator in 1871 put him down as "Gardener etc." and by this time, if not before, the family was living in Wickhay cottage. In 1871 the three sons, all unmarried, were still living at home – the eldest now a carpenter, the next a labourer and the youngest a groom. Two of the daughters included in the 1861 Census were still at home, one aged fourteen working as a domestic servant and the other at school. There was also at school the youngest daughter aged eight and a granddaughter Charlotte Loveday, aged seven, born in Lambeth, who must have been an illegitimate daughter of one of John Loveday's elder daughters. John and Ann Loveday therefore had ten living children in all, Ann bearing them every two or three years between the age of twenty-two and forty-four. There was a twenty-two year gap between the eldest and the youngest, who can hardly have known each other.

The homes of the prosperous villagers were increasing in comfort during the century and also in the number of domestic servants employed. The 1851 Census shows no male and only twenty-three female servants, but by 1871 there were some grooms and gardeners and fifty-six female servants. The Rector (living in the Rectory built in 1859) kept the largest indoor staff in 1871, with a ladys-maid (the only one in the parish), cook, parlourmaid, housemaid and kitchenmaid.

(Picture of Old Rodney)

The Manse was looked after by one general servant. The Pledgers at Hammonds kept two general servants, while presumably Robert Kemp, a groom and gardener, living in one of the cottages, also worked there. The Speakmans at Holybreds, with five young children, had a cook, a housemaid, and a "Preparatory Governess" aged nineteen. Simon Snow at Coleraines employed another governess for his nine year old daughter. Joseph and Maria Yell at Great Graces employed a general servant, a nursemaid for their four-year-old son and, temporarily, a monthly nurse for the new baby. At New Lodge Andrew Marriage, a bachelor, had a housekeeper, a general servant and a groom. Tofts was occupied by the housekeeper and her daughter. William Clench was a gardener and a coachman; possibly the Rector or Admiral

Johnson were the only persons in the parish fortunate enough to possess a coach and employ a coachman. Fifteen other houses in the village had at least one fulltime living-in servant and in addition there was a number of women and girls living in their own homes who worked as daily servants. One of them called herself a "charwoman", the first instance of the word. Eleven women were nurses, living at home going out when required. The number of independent dressmakers and laundresses working in their own homes or going out daily had diminished – it was among the duties of the general servant to do some sewing and the laundry.

The homes of the poor, on the other hand, were little less squalid than they had ever been. Some of the old yeoman's and husbandmen's houses, shorn of their lands, had been divided into two or more homes for labourers' families, like Apsfields, Pattentees, Old Riffhams, Little Graces, Ropers, but even small cottages housed two families, or a large family who yet made room for relations or lodgers.

As late as 1913 the Parish Council found that as few as nine cottages had three bedrooms, forty-two had two, but some (which must have been at least thirty) only one. The Congregational Minister said that some people were housed in a manner in which others would not house their dogs. A few years previously a labourer with his wife and five children had been found living in a field, his three beds and some furniture covered with a cloth and two sheets of galvanised iron; he said that that covering kept the wet out better than the cottage from which they had come. In 1913 the Rural Council was proposing to build six cottages, realising it was cheaper to build homes than to keep people in the workhouse. Discussing the size of the proposed cottages at a public meeting one man said some people would prefer to pay an extra 1s. a week to have a parlour, but a working man said that most would prefer to pay 3s.9d. a week and not to have a parlour.

(Labourers' wages were then 15s. –18s. a week). The rejoinder was that if 4s.9d. were too much, they could take in lodgers.

In the first years of the twentieth century a water supply had just been brought to standpipes outside some houses, and a few larger houses built at this time even had bathrooms, but many people had to use the old wells, dips, ponds or brooks (and the privy at the bottom of the garden) that had served their ancestors. Until nearly 1900 there was a well-borer in the village. Electricity had yet to come and gas never did come. The firewood, which had been freely available to the poor for heating and cooking until the early until the early nineteenth century enclosure of the commons, was largely replaced by coal, which had to be bought. Few cottages had an oven. Lighting, when essential, was still the glow of candles or oil lamps.

Drawing of plough

Agriculture during Victorian times and up to 1914, employed most of the population, directly or indirectly, as it always had done. In the first part of the century about two-thirds of village families were directly employed in agriculture; in the later part about five men were in agriculture to every two in other work. In 1851 there were sixteen farmers and one hundred and thirty-five agricultural labourers; in 1871 there were sixteen farmers and one hundred and eleven labourers. Farm tenancies tended to change fairly quickly in Victoria's reign and the labour forces varied according to the

farmer. Holybreds, when held by the Pledgers at the time of the 1851 Census, employed forty men, but when held by H.H. Speakman, in 1871 employed only eleven men and three boys; New Lodge under John Simmons, in 1851 gave employment to eleven labourers, but, in the tenancy of Andrew Marriage, in 1871 employed twenty-seven men and thirteen boys. Few labourers were boarded in the farmhouses, as they had been in earlier times. Landless labourers increased in number as the large farms absorbed the small holdings.

Agriculture gave work in addition to a steward who looked after Tofts and its land, and one or two farm bailiffs, such as George Enefer at Holybreds and George Collins at Phillows late in the century. The first farm bailiff in the records was William Burr in 1826, who was called by the old Essex name of "looker". Some agricultural labourers specified on the census form that their particular job such as stockman, ploughman, carter, herdsman and a drover (whom the enumerator noted was "Imbecile"). A few men described themselves as "horseman and horse breakers", such as Daniel Bacon who lived at Parsonage farm and William Perry, both in 1871. Gamekeepers were employed throughout the century.

Some labourers supplemented their wages with other work, like Samuel Howard, William Thake and Thomas Brown, who kept beerhouses, while many wives and children took part in farming operations, especially haymaking, harvesting, gleaning, fruit-picking and pea-picking. Most boys became agricultural labourers as a matter of course and the girls, after a few years in service, became labourers' wives. Although the farmers and their workers had some machines to help them, most farm work was done by hand in the traditional ways, with horses supplying the power. Until the First War a horseman was expected to work from 4 a.m. to 5 p.m. six days a week, and to look after his horses on Sundays, for under £1 a week plus a few perquisites. Farm workers dissatisfaction with their wages and conditions and the formation of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union in 1872 affected the local workers, the master of the National School in 1874 noticed "the unsettled state of the agricultural portion of the inhabitants of this parish".

The heavy Essex land was particularly affected by the excessive wetness of many seasons after 1874, especially during 1879. At the same time grain and meat were flooding in from North and South America and New Zealand. These two factors were largely responsible for the "agricultural depression" which started in the 1870s. In 1189 the local school managers said that the parish was very poor and there was "agricultural distress". Farmers were in difficulties and land values declined. The population of the village fell during these troubled years, the surplus labour force seeking employment elsewhere in better-paid work than agriculture. Industries were growing fast in Metropolitan Essex and also in Chelmsford, so that workpeople were in demand.

Most of the ancient trades and handicrafts continued to be practised in the village during the nineteenth century. When Huskards mill ceased making paper just before 1820 it reverted to corn-milling. The miller became a coal merchant as well, in 1871 employing four men and one boy. Little Baddow mill, belonging to Piggot Bros., was run by their managers, Joseph Phillips and his son of the same name, from about 1830 to the 1870s. In addition to being busy millers they were merchants, dealing in

goods landed at the canal wharf, such as coal, oil-cake, guano and timber, for which they must have employed several workmen. The two mills between hem employed five or six assistant millers until local corn-milling came to an end by the 1890s, the work by then being done in larger centres. Little Baddow mill was burned down and never re-built and only the coal merchant's business continued into the twentieth century. George Smith, tenant of the house and wharf in 1895, opened a refreshment house there, later it was a small shop. Huskards mill manufactured carbons for the first electric searchlights until in 1905 it too was burned down. Mills, being normally of wooden construction, were vulnerable to fire.

Blacksmiths had always been important in the village economy and were to remain longer than most artisans. The last two of the Blanks family were still plying their craft when the 1851 Census was taken; the Maddocks family lasted about ten years longer. Both families gave employment to a few men. John Riley set up business in 1845 as a wheelwright in his "wheelers shop" at Heards, later re-named the Forge. He was also a breeder and dealer in gold and silver pheasants. He was succeeded at the Forge by the Everett family, well known in all aspects of village life until the mid-twentieth century.

Picture of Albert Everett

One of their pre-1914 smiths was reputed to be able to shoe any horse. It was a flourishing agricultural engineering business, for carts, ploughs and all farming implements, until Mr. Albert Everett, one of the founder's sons, growing old, gave up the heavy work. He died in 1962; his sister, Emily, who had done the clerical work, in 1966; and the business came to an end.

Of another ancient craft, that of carpenter, the most important by mid-century was Thomas Jaggs, licensee of the General's Arms. There was at the same time another master carpenter with an apprentice, two carpenter journeymen and a retired carpenter. End of century carpenters included Charles Shipman, John and Edward Bearman and George Ager. The latter was a coffin-maker and undertaker, using a hand-bier to wheel corpses to the church.

George Hills from mid-century was a master shoemaker, his wife working with him as a shoe binder. Other members of his family were in the same business employing several men, three of whom in 1871 were single men from elsewhere lodging in the village. By the early twentieth century the trade had died out – people bought their footwear in Chelmsford and at least one shoemaker had to become just a repairer. This was Thomas Peacock, at his cottage above the new Rodney, who is remembered for his near waist-long hair and beard. He had begun his working life as a servant to General Strutt at Tofts; the General died in 1848 and in the 1851 Census return Thomas is shown as a shoemaker aged twenty. After the first War an ex-serviceman set up a boot-repairing business in a hut near the almshouses.

Tailoring too was a dying trade – John Gibson, aged seventy-three in 1851, was the last – but there was one tailoress that year, six dressmakers, a staymaker and two

needlewomen. Twenty years later there were two dressmakers, a fancy worker and plain needlewoman. One or two dressmakers were at work in the twentieth century.

At the time of the 1851 Census Widow Mary Pullen was the licensee at the Rodney (having taken over from her husband in the 1820s) and Samuel Howard was at the Queens Head, opposite what by 1871 had become the new Rodney, where Charles Smith, from at least the 1830s, had been baker, grocer and beerseller. He was succeeded by his son Herbert until Sidney Wager took over in about 1905. They were the chief commercial bakers in the village, although other people baked bread on a smaller scale. William Thake and his wife kept a beerhouse and shop in Chapel Lane, which in 1871 had been taken over by his nephew, Thomas Brown whose daughter Rebecca was the beer retailer into the new century. Malting had not been carried on in the village since mid-century and probably little brewing was done.

Three or four shops, in addition to the ones at the beerhouses, were kept by women such as Caroline White, wife of a miller, in mid-century, and the wife of Samuel Oliver, agricultural labourer, at Little Graces in the 1870s. James Edwards, around 1845, was a grocer and cheesemonger. The 1851 Census shows Sarah Sorrell and her son Hyram as grocers; in 1861 another son, Stephen, was both a miller and grocer, assisted in the shop by Hyram. By the next Census Stephen had died and his widow was married to Samuel Campion who was running the grocery side of the shop while she ran a drapery side. Widowed again, she became postmistress and her shop remained the Post Office in the charge of her nieces for over forty years. The shop itself lasted until 1970, when Miss Julia Sorrell retired. Hyram was still in 1871 described as a grocer's assistant but was boarding at the Queens Head, by then occupied by James Gibson. This beerhouse later became Dowsett's shop and, just before the first War, his step-daughter, Miss Edith Langford, started her long career there as a shopkeeper. Another shop, the Brambles on North Hill, was kept by Miss Boreham in the early twentieth century, and there were a few cottages which sold goods like sweets and soft drinks. These shops were very different from the early workshops, selling goods make on the premises; these later ones must have included amongst their wares foodstuffs imported from all over the world.

(Photo of Miss Langford and of Miss Sorrells post office.)

The post office came to Little Baddow in the 1850s and was at the National School, Mr. Benjamin Horth, the schoolmaster, being "receiver". Letters were received from Chelmsford at 8 a.m. and the collection box closed at 6.30 p.m., every day except Sundays. Chelmsford was the nearest money order office until the 1870s when it was Danbury, which soon became a telegraph office in addition. Mrs. Horth became postmistress on her husband's death and then her son Charles was postmaster until 1886. The 1871 Census shows a boy of fourteen as a letter deliverer. Little Baddow Post Office moved from the school to Mrs. Julia Campion's shop, where she gave letters from a newly instituted second delivery to callers at 2 p.m. and issued, but did not pay, postal orders. Letterboxes, placed near the General's Chase and the Congregational Chapel in the 1890s, were cleared at 6 and 5.40 respectively. By 1899 Mrs. Campion was in charge of a Post, Telegraph and Express Delivery Office, at which her niece, Miss Elizabeth A. Sorrell, soon succeeded her. There were now

two collections daily, except Sundays, and a third letterbox had been put opposite Gibbs. By 1912 letters received on Sundays were given to callers but not delivered to houses, and there was one Sunday collection. There were two daily deliveries. Miss Sorrell resigned as Postmistress in 1930, and the Post Office was transferred temporarily to the Memorial Hall and eventually to the newly built shop on North Hill where it has remained.

In the middle of the nineteenth century Miscer Bundock was the village carrier, going to Chelmsford on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday every week. For a few years around 1860, Charles Foster of the Cock went as well on Fridays. The village was less well served after that for from the late 1860s James Mulley of Bellvue cottage seems to have been the sole carrier, visiting Chelmsford on Tuesdays and Fridays only. By 1890 the position had improved, for George Everard went in daily, while Mulley still went twice a week. In 1902 Mrs. Edward Clarke joined them, going in on Fridays. The Parish Council paid her amounts like 4d. for carrying a parcel, 2s 6d. for a safe and 3s. for taking the Parish Clerk and his books to the audit. By 1906 she and Mulley had both given up, though Everard continued, charging a fee for doing shopping or errands for people not wishing to travel in themselves. This was still horse-drawn transport; it was not until after the War that Mr. Stracy instituted his motor-bus service. It was possible to obtain transport on canal barges, a bus service ran between Danbury and Chelmsford and trains could be joined at Chelmsford or Hatfield Peverel. Some winters intrepid young people skated along the frozen canal. In the years before the first War there were several private two-wheel conveyances but no carriages. Even Mr. Woodhouse and his family from Tofts, like nearly everybody, walked to church every Sunday. The Rev. Tayler, old and frail, was driven there by a parishioner.

There was enough work in the parish for one bricklayer with a labourer, and for most of the first half of the nineteenth century this was Richard Saward whom the Census of 1861 stated to be still working at the age of seventy-one. Probably Joseph Lucking had been his employee and was then his virtual successor. Late in the century James Woodward was called by the new name of builder. In 1851 Joseph Brown from Braintree was a thatcher working with an apprentice on probably mainly agricultural thatching; twenty years later, aged seventy-three, he lived in one of the almshouses. Around 1900 Adolphus Enefer, among a number of skills, included that of thatcher. Samuel Purkis was a well-borer for many years until in 1871 he had retired and was living with his son who was carrying on the trade. Henry Skinner described himself as an excavator in 1871 and probably worked on land drainage.

The building of the railways in the 1840s might have provided work for a few men. The canal gave work to a lockgate keeper, which was the prerogative of the Balls family until the 1861 Census gives the name of William Marven, who by 1871 had changed his occupation to “navigator seaman”.

The amateur parish constables were replaced by constables from the County Police Force established in 1840. No policeman is included in the census returns of 1851, 1861, or 1871, but in June 1876 the National School log book stated that “Police Constable Augur has left Little Baddow” and that his two children’s places at school had been filled by the two children of his successor, Police Constable Denney. The next recorded policemen were P.C. Hagger, well-respected in the early twentieth

century, P.C. Hammond during the first War and P.C. French for a year of two after the War. These three lived in the cottage attached to the old British schoolroom, and were the last constables stationed in the village.

The armed forces took a few men away from the village, some of whom came back as pensioners. John Oliver (born Hatfield Peverel) was living in one of the almshouses in 1851. He had been in the 8th Regiment of Foot (the King's Liverpool Regiment) which must have been recruiting in Essex when he was young. As he was seventy-two in 1851 he must have fought in the Napoleonic Wars and served with the Regiment in Gibraltar, Malta, the Ionian Islands and Canada. Robert Tweed (born in Chelmsford), farmer at the Hall, was a retired Naval Commander. Admiral William W.P. Johnson, as a boy of fifteen had been at the Battle of Trafalgar, and was the son of a former vicar of Little Baddow. The 1861 Census included William Lucking (born in Little Baddow aged forty-one) who was a Greenwich pensioner from the Royal Marines. In the same year Hannah Perkins was living with her parents-in-law while her husband was in the Marines. A Chelsea pensioner aged fifty-eight and a pensioner aged twenty-eight were also in the village, though neither had been born there. In 1871 the eldest daughter of William Clench, living with her parents, was a soldier's wife, with one child born in Aldershot; perhaps her husband was overseas. In the first years of the twentieth century a veteran of the Crimea kept the Generals Arms.

William Calcraft (grandson of the papermaker and amateur doctor) born in 1800 in Little Baddow, became a shoemaker, then drifted between various occupations until he became assistant to the public hangman of the City of London. In 1829 the hangman died and Calcraft took his place. He retired in 1874 with a pension from the City. He was said to be a kindly man, fond of children and animals.

Records at the turn of the century give a few new occupations. The 1899 Kelly's Directory gives the name of B.C. Scott, M.R.C.S.Eng., at Holly cottage, possibly the first doctor to live in the village. The son of Samuel Howard of the Queens Head left the village and became an Inspector on the Great Western Railway. In 1907 Walter Warsop set up his cricket bat manufactory in Little Baddow, from where he and his father had for long been obtaining willow wood for making bats in London. This was in the tradition of the earlier workshops, giving employment only to himself and his sons. In 1908 a sanatorium was established behind Bowling Alley House, overlooking the Chelmer valley, for the open air treatment of tuberculosis introduced by Dr. Lyster of Great Baddow. Mrs. Lois Peacock was matron.

Facsimile of Warsops cricket bat factory.

Though many men must have cleaned their neighbours' chimneys in their spare time, the first chimney sweep to attain a Directory entry was Samuel Martin in 1910.

Other occupations first recorded around 1900 were a pig-killer (whose charge was 2/6d. and a pint of beer), a roadman, a huckster (known for his resemblance to the South African, Paul Kruger), an "odd-job man" and one woman who kept a guest-house. Retirement from work was becoming a possibility, enabling a draper (Mr. P. Boldero), two hospital matrons (Miss Pyne and Miss Kirwin), a carver and gilder (Mr.

E. Hopwood), and then increasing numbers of others, to spend their remaining time in Little Baddow, actively in most cases.

In 1900, and doubtless in other years, a "Tradesmans' dinner" was held at the Generals Arms. Following the dinner there were toasts and songs "mostly patriotic".

2 photos

Church and Chapel were in the charge of exceptional men during Victoria's reign. The Rev. W.B. Ady was in the village in 1839, perhaps as curate to the Rev. A. Johnson, who was then over ninety. He became vicar in 1842, on the death of Rev. Johnson, rector from 1857, and Archdeacon of Colchester. He was of a strong character and a driving force in the village and was followed by men with an equal concern for their parish like the Rev F.T. Taylor (1852 – 1915) and the Rev. J. Berridge (1915-48). At the chapel the Morells father and son, of French Huguenot extraction, ministers between 1799 and 1877, set a high standard maintained by their successors, including the Rev. J.H. Stanley (1886-1901) and the Rev. J. Burgess (1902-16).

Following the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, there was a meeting in December 1838 of the tithe owners in the parish, these being the Rector, the Vicar, Sir Brooke W. Bridges, Jeremiah Pledger and Peter Wright of Hatfield Peverel. In May 1839 the Tithe Commissioners approved the apportionment for commuting the tithes of Little Baddow parish into rent charge based on the current corn prices. This rent charge was not abolished until 1925. The schedule and its large-scale map detailed the owners and occupiers of every house, cottage, workshop, garden, orchard, pond, private road and piece of land in the parish. The exact acreage and the amount of the rent charged were given for each item. The use to which the lands were put was stated (arable, pasture or wood) and the fields and woods were named. Most of the land was arable, the pasture lying along the river and the Sandon Brook. The parkland around Tofts and a few fields around Graces, Riffhams and Bassetts were also described as pasture. The only other area of pasture of any size (which Thomas Dennis, butcher, used for grazing) lay on the east side of Wickhay Green. The woodland was distributed about the parish (much as it still is) with Blakes wood being the largest area.

The rector's farm was always in the hands of tenants and the mediaeval vicarage house had ceased to be the home of the vicars. In 1810 the Rev. Johnson (who had moved to Woodlands from Coleraines) wrote that the vicarage was "Ill constructed throughout and incapable of any improvement….All the timbers decayed – originally nothing but Lath and Plaster". The Rev. Ady lived at a cottage (now called Fir Tree cottage) at Wickhay Green in 1839 and from there may have gone to Walters cottage. In 1859, two years after he had become rector, he was able to move into the new rectory built in Coldham Lane. The old vicarage seems to have been occupied by agricultural labourers until at least the 1870s.

An ecclesiastical census was taken on Sunday 30th March 1851, for which the Rev. Ady stated that fifty-two people had been present at the morning service and 130 at the afternoon one, and that there were sittings in the church for two hundred. Sunday school had been attended by fifty children in the morning and fifty-two in the

afternoon. The average attendance during previous months he gave as sixty (morning) and 130 (afternoon) and for the Sunday school sixty-one (morning) and fifty-nine (afternoon). He added a note to say that there was a good deal of illness on 30th March and the brook dividing the parish in two had over-flowed. This could have been the brook which crossed the road at Cuckoos. The Sunday school, in addition to these factors, had been affected by the absence of four children employed in scaring birds. The Rev. Stephen Morell did not give his attendance figures for 30th March, but said that the average for the preceding six months was "170 all the 5 times including the evening lecture at the school room". Two years previously at a Diocesan Visitation it had been said that there was ample room in the church" as there are so many dissenters". In 1862 however the church sittings were increased to 250, of which 174 were free; and the average number taking communion was thirty-eight. The village population in 1861 was 605.

Churchwardens during Victoria's reign included J.P. Simmons of New Lodge, Capt. Johnson (Admiral from 1862), James Tweed of the Hall, Simon Snow of the Papermill and Coleraines, A.W. Craig of Tofts, J.J. and A.E. Speakman of New Lodge and Bateman Hope of Tofts. Lazarus Blanks, blacksmith, had been church clerk for fifty-one years and was succeeded in 1839 by William Lindsell, agricultural labourer, until his death in 1846, when a member of the Blanks family served for a few years. At this time the annual salary for the office was £5.5.0. In 1852 William Lindsell, son of the previous William and also an agricultural labourer, became clerk and remained in the office until his death in 1911 aged 83.

Picture

Documents show the Victorian churchwardens continuing the work of their predecessors. In 1845 one of the bells, which had been thought for many years to be cracked, was found instead to have a broken clapper. Thomas Dennis provided a stove "to consume its own smoke" in 1847. The church plate that year consisted of one flagon, one chalice and one paten, all silver gilt; forty years later there was an extra chalice and paten and a silver alms dish. The churchyard fence was renewed between 1853 and 1855, and in the latter year Lord Rayleigh gave "the piece of land abutting the road, between the Church porch and Baddow Hall" as he considered it originally belonged to the churchyard. This land was cleared dug and hedged with quickthorn. The same year saw the chancel roof under repair and the following year the nave roof received attention. In March 1855 a form of prayer was bought for an abundant harvest and "Blessings on our Arms" (the Crimean War). A stone chimneypiece was put in the vestry room at a cost of £1.18.6. in 1860. The Rev. Ady wrote to the Archdeacon for advice when some parishioners wanted to erect a screen inside the church door to keep off draughts. He objected "on account of its being a barbarism which will spoil a pretty interior" and also as he was doubtful of the legality of expending the Church Rate for such purpose. The Archdeacon recommended a compromise. The church insurance was raised from £600 in 1879 to £1,000 in 1885 and £1,600 in 1901, in which year the tower and vestry were out of repair, the walls being cracked by settlement. Lord Rayleigh gave another piece of land to enlarge the churchyard in 1910, for which £60, collected in the parish, was spent on levelling and putting it in order. It was consecrated by the Bishop of Barking. In the 1920s the Tortoise stove which had heated the church for many years was superseded, and the gallery, installed just over one hundred years before, was

removed. In 1922 the wall painting of St. Christopher was found under the plaster, and in 1924 a fund was launched for the restoration of the bells and their mediaeval frame.

Records of the Chapel during Victorian times are sparse. A visiting missionary preacher in 1840 wrote "The weather intensely cold, but the congregation warm…some of the richest men in the neighbourhood were teaching in Sunday School". Two endowments were received, the first by Jeremiah Pledger's will of 1854 which gave £800 to the minister and £400 for the Sunday school and for repairs to the meetinghouse. William Ling of Mowden hall, in 1875 left by his will £328.5.0. in trust, the interest on which was to be given to the poor members in coal and flannel. In 1886 it was written "Paint, pews, doors, windows, floors, everything about the place was in a most dilapidated state". Necessary repairs were carried out by Baker of Danbury at a cost of £304 and finished in May 1888. A new organ was installed in 1898. In 1906/7, to celebrate the bi-centenary of the building of the chapel, the members raised the money to erect a room for the Sunday school. It was opened with a special service and a tea to which three hundred people sat down.

The Sunday school was conducted at that time and for many more years by Fred French, assisted by Miss Annie Raven, and then for even longer by the Misses Marven. David and then Jospeph Marven held the church secretaryship from 1919-1969. Other families who gave long and devoted service include Clark, Hood, Martin, Paterson and Wakeling.

Antipathy between Church and Chapel, moderated at times, sprang up again in mid-nineteenth century, according to the Rev. Stephen Morell, who circulated a letter to all parishioners in 1845. (see p.11-13 of "Little Baddow United Reformed Church" : Rev. Dr. R. Buick Knox 1976.) He deplored the new zeal in the established church (arising from the Oxford Movement) which, he asserted, led their members to put pressure on poor families to conform. He alleged that some had been ejected from their homes and others had been compelled to remove their children from the British School and to send them to the National School. He urged them to resist such pressure, which was not compatible with their rights of conscience.

In the twentieth century attempts were made to improve relations. In 1918 came the first real move when the rector pronounced the Benediction at the funeral of the minister's wife. The two choirs united to sing carols in 1922 and the two Sunday Schools held a joint outing to Clacton in the summer of 1925. Joint services were held for Armistice Day in some years and one for King George V's silver jubilee in 1935. Friendly relations have been sustained and enhanced ever since.

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Administration of the village by the manors had long ceased by 1837, and the death of General Strutt in 1848 virtually brought to an end involvement in village affairs by the lords of the manors. The manor houses were occupied by tenants, except for a brief stay at Tofts in 1871/3 by the Lord Rayleigh who was later to win the Nobel prize for Physics. The Court Baron of Little Baddow manor continued to meet very infrequently into the twentieth century but its business was confined to property

transfers. The Rector, the Minister, the farmers and a few men of independent means maintained law and order both by reason of their positions as Justices, Managers of the schools and almshouses, Guardians of the Poor and Overseers, as well as their powers as ministers of religion, employers of labour and landlords. Central government and the county government had taken over most of the powers previously wielded by the manors and parish. The ordinary villager, who had had his say under manor and parish, must have felt helpless in the nineteenth century. It was not until the election of 1885 that he acquired the right to vote for his Member of Parliament; it was moreover a secret ballot so that his employer need not know how he voted.

Elected County Councils were created in 1888 to take over some of the functions of the Justices in Quarter Sessions and in 1894 the Local Government Act set up elected District Councils and Parish Councils. Women as well as men were granted the right to vote for and to be elected to the new councils. The powers of the parish councils were limited by the fact that they could expend no more than a 3d. rate, but the ordinary villager could feel that he or she had elected the members and that they were not imposed from above.

On 4th December 1894 the first Little Baddow Parish Council met, the elected councillors being the Rev. F.T. Tayler, Rector (Chairman) ; the Rev. J.H. Stanley, Minister; James Everett, agricultural engineer, James Mulley, farmer and carrier; William Raven and Joseph Speakman, farmers; Robert Williams, oil and colourman, and Edward Wright, Army pensioner (later appointed Clerk to the Council). Mr. Speakman remained on the council until 1931. In the first twenty years their minutes covered matters like the allocation of wood from Poors Wood to the poor; the almshouses; the upkeep of footpath, bridges and styles; postal arrangements, water supply schemes; arrangements for celebrating national events and the fitting up of the Parish Room.

The old Rodney and the Hockham Hills had long been places of recreation, but the opening of a parish room was an innovation. Although few entertainments took place in the schoolrooms, not since the Middle Ages, when the church almost certainly performed this function, had the villagers been able to gather together, under cover, for leisure activities. The Parish Council rented the British schoolroom when the school closed in 1895 and solicited voluntary subscriptions to establish it as a parish room in commemoration of "the Queen's record reign of 60 years".

It was fitted up as a reading and recreation room with pianoforte, bagatelle, chess, newspapers and facilities for concerts, lectures and meetings. Mr. F. French was appointed secretary and caretaker at £3 a year, plus 1s. an evening. The new Parish Room was opened in November 1897 with a concert of vocal and instrumental music, contributed by the Misses Soffe, Byford and Wood, and Messrs. Pledger, Plummer and Gamble. Mr. French gave a recitation and Mr. James Tweed "rendered the old-fashioned song entitled 'The steam arm' in fine style and fairly brought down the house". Miss Stanley played all the accompaniments on the pianoforte. In the early years there were twelve lessons in dressmaking, a series of lectures on "Popular gardening and the Cultivation of Hardy Fruits" and another on poultry, besides many more concerts. The Rev. Burgess, Congregational Minister, protested against the use there of playing cards, but the Council overruled him by five votes to his one.

Village life included some never-to-be-forgotten events. One such was on 29th December 1875, the occasion of the marriage of Archdeacon Ady's youngest daughter. The weather was fine, the church was still bright with its Christmas decorations and after the service the girls of the choir strewed flowers in the path of the bridal pair. The wedding breakfast was at the Rectory where, in the place of honour among the presents, was a massive gilt-edged, leather-bound volume with silver gilt rims, clasp and shield. In the lower half was a miniature musical box. The upper half was an album to hold one hundred photographs, each leaf of which had a hand-painted flower border. Photographs of the National schoolchildren, former pupils and other villagers who had subscribed to the gift were already in place. A "Paris glass of the latest fashion" to examine it more closely and an illuminated address completed this elegant gift. About ninety scholars and former scholars were regaled with tea and cake followed by amusements at the schoolroom, while the coachmen and drivers bringing all the guests sat down to a Christmas dinner at the Generals Arms, at the expense of the Archdeacon.

Queen Victoria's Jubilee in June 1897 was celebrated with sports held at Little Baddow Hall, by invitation of Mr. Tweed, followed by high tea on the lawn for about four hundred adults and children. Lord Rayleigh lent Town House field for a beacon fire to conclude the proceedings. The arrangements make by the Parish Council to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII (postponed because of the King's illness) were carried out except for the sports. All the villagers were given tea at the old Rodney, every child received a coronation mug and 6d. and each poor widow received 5s. Finally "some innocent games were indulged in".

Facsimile of ? not clear but probably related to next paragraph.

Less innocent activities, caused partly by the unemployment and poverty of the 1830s, led to local gentry and well-to-do farmers in 1837 forming the Great Baddow Association for the Prevention of Crime and Prosecution of Felons. The Association offered rewards to persons "giving information as shall lead to the Conviction" of anyone stealing or damaging property such as grain, animals, shop goods, carts, timber, fruit, vegetables and eggs, within a radius of twelve miles. The reward notices were posted about the area after a crime had been committed. Several Little Baddow people joined the Association – General Strutt, Isaac Ager, Isaac Flory, William Jaggs, Henry Joslin J.P. and Sarah Simmons. In spite of the formation of the County Police Force in 1840, this Association lasted until at least 1870, although more as a dining and drinking club in its last years.

Quarter Sessions records for Queen Victoria's reign bring to light some transgressions. In 1840 for instance John Andrews forced open the kitchen window of the house where William and Rebecca Perry lived (probably Hammonds cottage), while they were absent during the day. He took from a cupboard a watch, which he later left for repair with a watchmaker in Maldon. He was taken into custody for another housebreaking offence and information was obtained about the watch. William Perry went to Maldon with Ethelbert Smith, constable, and identified his property, which he said he had had for twenty years. At Quarter Sessions Andrews was found guilty on three housebreaking charges and transported for life.

One night in February 1842 Mary Pullen and her daughter, Mary Nunn, both widows, locked up and went to bed at the Rodney public house. Some time later they heard noises and suddenly three men burst into their bedroom and "held their bludgeons up while we were shrieking". The men said it was " money they wanted and money they would have". The women gave them the contents of their pockets - £3.10d. – and said there was a little more in the bar. Then men went downstairs and after about an hour one came up, "bid me good morning", shook hands and all the intruders then left. Just before six the next morning the women went downstairs and found the bar window, giving on to the garden, broken and off its hinges, and bottles of rum, brandy and gin missing, together with biscuits, sugar, cheese and apples. They called in a neighbour, Mr. Saward, who sent for Mr. Tucker, the policeman. The latter found a few pieces of biscuit in the road and concluded the men had gone to Danbury. Here he heard they had been seen making for Maldon and ultimately he caught up with two of them at the White Hart at Hazeleigh, asleep with their heads on the table. He found broken biscuit in their pockets, handcuffed them and took then along the way to Chelmsford. After a while they turned on him and he drew his staff. In the struggle they all went into a field where he slipped and they fell upon him, beating him with their fists and his own staff, shouting that they would kill him. Fortunately a man driving a wagon along the road went to the policeman's assistance and together they put the prisoners into the wagon and took them to Chelmsford. Here the Superintendent of Police took their shoes to compare with footprints in the garden of the Rodney; they tallied exactly. Both prisoners were transported for life. The third man seems to have escaped retribution.

The same year Joseph Phillips, looking out of his window at Little Baddow mill in the night, saw two men in a barge close to his coal yard. He went down and saw in the barge a pair of wheels and an axletree, which had been in his yard for some weeks. One of the men admitted they had taken them, put them back and asked Mr. Phillips to "forgive" them, but he went to Chelmsford the next morning and obtained a warrant. They were sentenced to three months hard labour at Springfield gaol.

In April 1875 a coroner's inquest was held at the Generals Arms before a local jury of which Simon Snow of the Papermill was foreman and Mr. Horth, the schoolmaster, was a member. Mrs. Pledger at Hammonds had in her employ a young cook who was pregnant when engaged, although Mrs. Pledger did not know it. One day the girl said she did not feel well and went to her room, where her mistress took her some gin and water. Two hours later Mrs. Pledger going there again saw the girl lying on her bed, heard a noise and found a newly-born baby, with blood on his mouth wrapped up in a closed box on the floor. Mrs. Pledger sent for the midwife and doctor but the baby died within an hour. The jury gave a verdict of "wilful murder" and the cook, as soon as she was well enough, was sent to Springfield gaol to await trial. Three months later at the Crown court when she was found not guilty, as the court considered the baby's injuries could have been caused accidentally at the time of birth.

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Queen Victoria's reign opened with the New Poor Law in its second year of operation. In August 1835 the Board of Guardians for the Chelmsford Union, in which Little Baddow was included, had held their first meeting under the new system.

John Simmons was elected the first parish Guardian. Local Justices were ex-officio Guardians. The Union was divided into four districts, the second of which consisted of Springfield, Boreham, Great Baddow, Sandon, Danbury and Little Baddow, and a district Relieving Officer to administer the revised law was appointed at a salary of £80 per annum. Local unpaid overseers collected the parish Poor Rate.

The Board of Guardians (all of whom were unpaid) worked hard to start the Union operating quickly and efficiently. After the first few weeks they met weekly on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 6 or 8 p.m. with an adjournment of one hour, to receive Relieving Officers' reports and appeals from paupers, and again for three to five hours on Fridays to deal with all other business.

Under the new Law no "outdoor relief" to paupers in their own homes was to be given, but any poor person requesting relief was to be placed in a workhouse, together with any dependents. The Board appointed a committee to inspect and advise on the use of the existing workhouses until a new large one could be built. The committee swiftly presented its report, recommending that the aged and infirm should go to the poorhouses in Great Baddow, Springfield, Writtle and Ingatestone; the unemployed able-bodied males of thirteen and over to the Chelmsford workhouse; the able-bodied females of sixteen and over to Great Waltham and the children to Buttsbury. Children under seven were to be kept with their mother where "practicable". The Buttsbury house was to be called the "Asylum for Children" where the young people could be taught reading and writing, "trained in early habits of morality and industry", and the boys accustomed to outdoor work while the girls learnt household work to fit them as "useful servants". Advertisements were put in the papers inviting tenders for the supply of food and clothes to the workhouses.

In November it was decided that depots for flour would not be required in Boreham, Sandon and Little Baddow, for as the paupers there were almost all aged, they would require bread rather than flour. When the system was operating, bread was delivered to Little Baddow between 9 and 10 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. The churchwardens and overseers in the various parishes were instructed to compel certain people to contribute towards relief of their relations – in Little Baddow mother of Sarah Crow (of a family who had had occasional relief since at least 1750) was so ordered.

The Board dealt with many details of the equipment of the workhouses, for instance deciding that all beds, except for the aged, sick and infirm, were to be of straw in sheeting bags. Later, when it was found the beds at Waltham were too thin, the inmates were employed in picking coir rope "which forms an excellent material for paupers beds". Men's clothes were to be leather jackets and breeches, baize waistcoats, worsted stocking, three quarter shoes and hats. The men and boys at Chelmsford were to be employed in grinding corn. The Asylum for Children was to be equipped to accommodate thirty-two boys and thirty girls. Amongst the articles required for the girls' hall were two large tables, forms, stools and chairs, a Dutch clock, a large desk for the Mistress, coal box and a towel roller. The boys' hall, similarly fitted up, was to have rails and pegs for the hats and there was to be a washing trough in the yard. Tin bowls, iron spoons, knives and forks, half-pint mugs and plates were to be supplied for meals. Books and slates, a mangle and kneading trough for the girls and implements of husbandry for the boys were for their

instruction. After the children were installed, they were employed in knitting and making nets for a few hours every day, and the girls who helped with washing were given 2 oz. of tea.

The records do not disclose how many Little Baddow children were put into this asylum, nor whether any of their aged grandparents went to the Springfield house which was reported upon in November 1835. It was stated that the inmates "appear clean….decent and orderly"; the aged females were employed at needlework but no occupation was provided for the men.

The cistern was to be moved from the wall of the yard "as it affords facility to the paupers to climb over the wall". The interior was to be cleansed and "whitewashed with hot lime as it is very much infested with bugs". The dead-house was a shed at the back.

The Board recognised they must proceed with some caution "taking into consideration the great changes now effecting by the New Poor Law and the expediency of creating as little excitement as possible in the minds of those in whose cases the greatest changes will be made". The relief of the unemployed, the under-paid and the unfortunate in their own homes, as had been the custom for centuries, ceased (although it was later revived for a few special cases). The workhouses were made especially Spartan and strict to deter people from asking for relief. If they did not want to enter the workhouse, with all it entailed, it was believed that they would go out and find work. The prosperous felt that it was the fault of the poor themselves that they were poor.

All the parish Overseer had to do was to collect the Poor Rate and later to relieve, under instruction from the district Relieving Officer, the few, mostly aged, who were allowed to remain in their own homes. In 1851 there were three such people in Little Baddow, one of them John Thorogood, aged seventy-one, formerly an agricultural labourer, lived with his wife, aged sixty-one, a former tailoress, and their unmarried daughter of thirty-three, who was a dressmaker. Sarah Turner, a widow of seventy-three, lived with her son aged twenty-seven and a grandson aged twenty-four, both unmarried agricultural labourers. The third was Mahala Lindsell, a widow of forty-eight, whose four sons were agricultural labourers and living with her. It is difficult to understand the basis on which relief under the New Poor Law was being paid in the latter two cases, especially as there would seem to have been more deserving cases, such as that of Jane Thorogood, a widow of thirty-two, working as a laundress and looking after her three children aged between eight and three, a sister aged eight and an agricultural labourer lodger. The 1871 Census describes ten persons as paupers, two of them widows aged eighty-eight, four more widows aged between seventy-six and eighty-three, a widower of eighty-one, an invalid of seventy and a man and his wife aged seventy-two and sixty-eight. It seems therefore that by this year outdoor relief was being given only to the aged, according to the strict reading of the Law. Mr. T.J. Joslen of Phillows was Overseer for forty-three years, retiring in 1903, when his place was taken by Mr. Thomas, the schoolmaster.

At the end of the century the New Poor Law was still operating, but the rules about outdoor relief were being relaxed so that in some cases money, food or clothing was

given to men with families, as under the Old Poor Law. Such assistance was dispensed at a relief pay station (site unknown) in Little Baddow. The Parish Council at its first meeting asked the Board of Guardians to alter the pay station so that the poor bread could be delivered at the cottage occupied by Mrs. Marsh (possibly opposite the Rodney) for convenience, but the Board refused. To encourage the poor to help themselves, Clothing and Coal Clubs were started in the village in mid-century and received much support.

The Little Baddow Poorhouse continued in use after the new Law came into operation, although some parishioners wished to sell the house and land to reduce the Poor Rate and to pay off the parish's contribution towards the building of the Union Workhouse. In 1841 over £9 was spent on repairs, partly recouped by the sale of stone to the district surveyors of the highways and to a few farmers for road-making. The surveyors in 1842/3 bought 381 loads costing £4.15.3.; these must have been picked from the fields by the parish paupers. At a vestry meeting in 1849 Lord Rayleigh proposed a scheme for inviting subscriptions to repair or rebuild the Poorhouse, each subscriber, for every £10 subscribed, to be entitled to one vote for the tenant of each cottage. The tenants were to be chosen from "deserving Poor natives and inhabitants of Little Baddow who have not received Parish Relief since the formation of the Chelmsford Union". If any money had to be borrowed for the repair or rebuilding the inmates were to be charged a small rent until the debt had been liquidated. The records are silent on the outcome of this proposal. Another vestry meeting in 1887 decided to build an additional house "exactly similar in every respect to the present almshouses". The contract was given to Mr. Baker of Danbury who built the new cottage on to the end of the existing terrace of four at a cost of £82.5.0. Other work was done such as erecting a fence to keep cows out of the gardens, levelling the embankment and building sheds. The tenants (mostly elderly) were asked to pay a nominal rent of 4s. a year, while concerts were held to raise money. In 1892 the meeting discussed the water supply pump and the closets and "it was decided that we should view the premises. We accordingly toiled up Coleman Lane under the broiling sun and found the state of the closets." It was arranged for them to be attended to during the next few days and the sanitary authorities were asked to clean out the well and fit a lid to it.

The tenants were the fortunate few – there must have been many people who had to end their lives in the workhouse, while others had to find a place in the overcrowded homes of their children. One woman, aged fifty-nine in 1888 and crippled with "rheumatic gout", was enabled to retain her independence through the grant of an annual pension from the Royal Hospital for Incurables, obtained for her through the good offices of one of the Rev. Thomas Morell's daughters. She was Sarah Phillips, widow of the manager of Little Baddow mill, whose only son had died at the age of nineteen. She was living with a widowed sister-in-law in part of Cuckoos, the other portion of which was occupied by a "looker", George Enefer. She died in 1908. The last days of less fortunate people were transformed when the old age pension was introduced, though the humiliation of receiving charity and the spirit of independence fostered during the worst years made some elderly people at first too proud to take it.

The Poor Laws were not repealed until 1929 but they had virtually lapsed before that; the twentieth century welfare state was taking over from that established in the sixteenth century.

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The War of 1914-18 was the dividing line between two very different worlds – the old way of life was dying by 1918. Class barriers were coming down and life was easier for the "under-privileged". Never again would the schoolmaster cane a boy in front of the class because a gentleman had complained that the boy had not touched his cap to him in the road. This happened just before the war and was probably exceptional, but it does illustrate old attitudes. By 1918 wages and conditions on the land had improved, the work becoming less hard with more machines to do the heavy tasks. Because of the national neglect of agriculture after the war, however, much land was turned over to fruit farming and other land went out of cultivation. The other village employments too were coming to an end so that, when manufacturing industries expanded in Chelmsford, many young men preferred, or were forced, to journey there every day by bicycle or the daily mechanised bus service which was extended to Little Baddow after the war. The bicycle and the bus gave everyone more mobility while increased literacy and cheap newspapers enlarged their horizons. The population increased, many newcomers arriving from other parts of the country, often from towns, and having no ties of relationship or common origin with the native villagers. In time they outnumbered the villagers, but as many stayed for only short periods, the population was always changing.

The end of the first War found women in a better position than when it began. Those aged over thirty were granted a Parliamentary vote, of which Miss M.J. Pyne is said to have been the first woman to take advantage. During the was they had had to undertake many jobs previously thought of as men's; locally the Strutts had pioneered at Little Baddow Hall the training of women for all types of land work. Little Baddow Women's Institute was founded in 1918, bringing together women of all ages, whether educated or not, rich or poor, to discuss and work for what they wanted and to enjoy themselves. One of their first triumphs was the obtaining of a parish nurse (shared with Boreham) who in 1922 made nearly seven hundred visits and in 1925 about two thousand.

Picture of transport (Mr. Stacy's bus)

The Mothers Union started in 1928. The first woman on the Parish Council was elected in 1928, and Miss Emily Everett, of the Forge, became the first woman Parish Clerk in 1923 and Clerk to the Parish Council in 1925, remaining in office until 1956.

Village organisations started or re-started after the war, especially when the Parish Council had bought the Old British School (which they had been leasing) and had repaired it and fitted it up as the village hall. Everyone worked to raise the necessary money for the purchase and the repairs, and for a porch to be erected as the parish memorial to those who had died in the war. Seventy-eighty men were in the Forces, of whom fifteen did not return; their photographs were placed in the hall. The building was re-named the "Memorial Hall" and was opened with a flourish in February 1922, followed in June by a pageant and fete at Tofts to clear the debt. The

attached cottage, which had been occupied by the village policeman, was vacated, giving more space. The ex-servicemen's Club used one of the rooms. A library was started in an upstairs room in 1924 with 140 books, which rose to over 500 by 1926, many of them gifts. Later the County Library provided the books. Other rooms were allocated as a music room, a green room, a committee room and the Boy Scouts' and Girl Guides' meeting room. A disused army hut was erected in 1928 behind the Hall for the Scouts. Most of the village organisations held meetings, whist drives, dances, sales of work or concerts in the Hall. Entertainments were given by the St. Roger Folk (a drama group), the school children and others. A local woman artist painted the Seven Ages of Man over the proscenium arch of the stage. The Hall was wired for electricity in 1933, after which the old oil lamps were sold.

The Council purchased a cricket field and there were clubs for cricket, hockey, football and tennis. The Hockham Hills were acquired by the parish and continued to be used as a place of recreation, although litter was becoming a problem so that baskets and notices had to be provided. The Parish Council, in cooperation with the village organisations, made arrangements for celebrating the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935 with children's sports, tea for the children and over-60s and a dance in the evening. The coronation arrangements in 1937 included the provision of three commemorative seats in the village.

Amongst amenities reaching the village between the two wars, roads were surfaced, electricity, water and drainage were brought to many houses, more council cottage were built and a telephone kiosk was placed outside the Hall. Individuals started purchasing wireless sets, gramophones, vacuum cleaners, electric cookers, cars and many more articles to make life easier and pleasanter.

When the second War was imminent a First Aid Post and Wardens' Post were set up at the Hall. The Billeting Committee used the building when the evacuees arrived from Tottenham, and then it was used on Sunday afternoons for their visiting parents. Villagers joined the Air Raid Precautions services, collected salvage, paid into National Savings, obeyed the instruction to "Dig for Victory", started a Pig Club, contributed to "Salute the Soldier" and other appeals, picked fruit and made preserves, knitted comforts for the men in the Forces, and contributed to the war effort in many ways. The W.I. was well to the fore in all this activity. A certain amount of social life continued, with the Social Club, Village Arts Club and others arranging events when possible. A few echoes from the past occurred: curfew was imposed in 1940; the Parish Invasion Committee was a reminder of the preparations against invasion by Napoleon; the instruction to the Parish Clerk to pay 1d. each for rats' tails recalls the payments made for foxes and badgers. Some bombs fell in the parish doing little damage, until in 1944 a "flying bomb" landed on Dukes Orchard, killing Mrs. Gregory Nicholson, who for many years had been a leader in village activities.

The question of a new hall was considered and postponed by the Parish Council in 1939. As soon as the war was over a fund was started for a new building, to which the Council asked all organisations to contribute, and sites for it were discussed. The proceeds of a pageant "Essex through the Ages", in celebration of the Festival of Britain, went towards the fund, as did the proceeds of a fete in 1957, a Country Market in 1958 and of many other events. The burning down in April 1959 of the

old hall made the matter urgent. Further funds were raised and a new hall was quickly built on the same site and opened in November 1960. The memorial porch, salvaged from the fire and renovated, was placed in front of the Hall as a memorial to both Wars. The old National School, closed in 1960, some years later was re-decorated and furnished for use as a parish room, with the infants' room converted into a small chapel. The playgroup for pre-school children moved there and so once again the building was used for children.

Amenities making life easier came after the war. Electricity was put into the almshouses, paid for by a private donor, other houses received electricity, water and drainage for the first time, the bus service was extended down North Hill, a fortnightly refuse collection was instituted, old peoples' bungalows and more council houses were built, a children's playground was provided, a telephone kiosk was placed at Wickhay, the County Library supplemented the books at the Hall with a mobile library service. Most of the old societies resumed and some new clubs and services were started, among them the Over-Sixties Club, the Open Group, the Baby-sitting Service and "Meals on Wheels".

Village conservation had become an issue before the war; in 1936 the village fought the proposed conversion of Colam Lane into a traffic route. The County Council asked for a list of buildings of historic and artistic interest and of trees to be protected. This helped to make people more conscious of their heritage. The Parish Council had always make sure footpaths were kept open and signposted and that stiles and footbridges were in repair, but during the war these matters were neglected. In 1949 the councillors themselves perambulated all the footpaths to find out what needed to be done. A proposal to open gravel pits near the church resulted in the formation of the Little Baddow Preservation Society in 1954. This was revived in 1968 as the Conservation Society. The village enters the annual "Best Kept Village" competition, sometimes successfully.

In the interests of efficient farming, some hedges have been destroyed, but some of those remaining testify to the early origins of many fields and lanes, corroborating the evidence of documents and maps. Much previously cultivated land has reverted to grass and woodland, which provides space for leisure activities like walking, riding, camping and nature study, while other portions have been built upon. The woodland (part of it owned by the National Trust) is no longer managed as it used to be, so that the trees grow tall. This has resulted in the curtailment of some well-known views over surrounding countryside. The local hunt sometimes meets in the village, forming a link with erstwhile lords and poachers alike. Although the canal no longer carries the commercial traffic of earlier times, it does carry pleasure craft, and its banks serve as a holiday playground and in part as a nature reserve under the care of the Essex Naturalist' Trust.

During the last sixty or seventy years all the small workshops that used to be so busy about the village have closed down one by one until the last, the forge, also went out of business. Now few requirements can be satisfied within the confines of the parish. Apart from some fruit and vegetables, food eaten in the village is not produced there. Most shopping has to be done elsewhere. The delivery vans supplying the two remaining shops and two public houses bringing milk, bread, greengrocery, meat, and

even books, to individuals, come from outside the village. Nearest in spirit to the ancestral villagers are the Rector and the Minister, treading in the steps of their predecessors, and the workers on the land, however different may be their methods and crops. Agriculture is still the main employer of labour, for, of the small proportion of inhabitants who work within the parish, most are on the farms and fruit farms. Some women do domestic work for others. The rest work in Chelmsford or other towns or in London; the car-borne "commuter" is the typical modern villager. Since 1960 even the younger children join the daily trek out of the village to go to their school in Danbury. Except for vehicles rushing to and fro, Little Baddow on weekdays must be a quieter place than it has ever been in its long history

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Picture of cottage 1888