

The Workhouse

On Sunday the 20th May 1787 the “Towns People” (of Stickney) met to consult about the building of a Workhouse at Stickney. At the meeting held at William Sharpe’s Public House, a bill of Four Shillings and Six Pence for refreshments was raised. At the Vestry meeting, mutual consent was giving for the immediate building of a Workhouse to begin. It was agreed that it was to be thirty seven and a half feet long by thirteen and a half feet wide. It was to have a brick gable end on the west side, oak posts, and clay and wattle to the sides. The roof to be thatched with reed and a floor laid with bricks and common glass in the windows.

Robert Dauber and Samuel Hodgkinson were the Overseers of the poor of Stickney at this time. The money was to be raised by an assessment of One Shilling per Pound collected from land and tenements of Stickney. On May 29th the plans were taken to Boston to be “Laid before the Bricklayers” This journey costing Two Shillings which would include the toll bars. Mr. Wells was paid Forty-Seven Pounds as work started on the building in August 1787. By November the building was nearing completion and was going to cost more than had been expected. At a Vestry meeting it was agreed that Robert Dauber would pay the builders settlement of Forty-Six Pounds upon completion in December, and he would be reimbursed when funds allowed.

Sarah Barker was awarded compensation in November of Five Shillings for the loss of twenty pecks of potatoes that were destroyed when the Workhouse was built on her garden. In March 1788 a bill was presented for Ten Shillings and Six Pence “*For making a Plan and measuring up for the extra work, and attending the workmen several times*” John Collingwoods expenses of Two Shillings and Six Pence were paid when he came to consult with the Overseers about the furniture for the Workhouse .