

GBR 39: Board of Guardians Minutes, Berwick-upon-Tweed Union. Summary catalogue entries.

LEVEL	REF	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DATE
Volume	GBR 39	Berwick Board of Guardians minute book outlining the business of the Guardians in administering Poor Relief in the Berwick-upon-Tweed Union	<p>During the period covered by this volume, the following served as Guardians or paid officers of the Union:</p> <p>Guardians 1843-1844: The elections for this year are missing.</p> <p>1844-1845: John Archbold (Twisel) [Twizel]; Adam Bell (Tweedmouth, farmer, East Ord); Robert Carr (Felkington, farmer); Alexander Christison (Berwick, grocer, Bridge Street); Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke] (Berwick, physician, Bankhill); Edward Davidson (Berwick, Hide Hill); Nathaniel Dodds (Shoreswood, farmer); John Dunbar (Lonend [Loanend], farmer, Bankhead); Francis Forster (Berwick); William Heron (Tweedmouth, farmer, Unthank); Thomas Hownam (Berwick, farmer, Baitscross); James Laing (Tweedmouth); John Laing (Cornhill, farmer); John McGregor (Ancroft, farmer and miller, Bridge Mill); John McLeod (Norham Mains); Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt] (Tweedmouth, farmer, Spittal Hall); Thomas Pinkerton (Ancroft, farmer); Alexander Robertson (Tweedmouth); Ninian Sanderson (Berwick); Thomas Scott (Kylloe); Alexander Smith (Norham, farmer Gallowgate [Galagate]); John Todd Smith (Holy Island); Thomas W Tait (Berwick); George Weatherhead (Berwick); John Wilson (Berwick, ironmonger, Bridge Street); George Wood (Longridge, farmer, North Longridge).</p> <p>1845-1846: John Archbold (Twisel) [Twizel]; Adam Bell (Tweedmouth, farmer, East Ord); Nicholas Bell (Horncliff [Horncliffe], baker and seedsman); Ebenezer Black (Grindon, farmer); Alexander Christison (Berwick, grocer, Bridge Street); H G C Clarke [Henry Clarke] (Berwick, physician, Bankhill); Alexander Crossman (Berwick/Holy Island, grocer, Berwick); Edward Davidson (Berwick, Hide Hill); John Dodds (Berwick, saddler, Marygate); Nathaniel Dodds (Shoreswood, farmer); Charles L Gilchrist [Charles Gilchrist] (Berwick, grocer,</p>	11 April 1843 - 27 Jan. 1846

			<p>Marygate); Robert Guthrie (Tweedmouth); George Hogg (Kylloe); William Heron (Tweedmouth, farmer, Unthank); Thomas Hubback (Berwick, draper, Marygate); Alexander Laing (Duddo, farmer); James Laing (Tweedmouth); John Laing (Cornhill, farmer); James Lisle (Felkington); Alexander Lowrey (Berwick, farmer, Castle Hills); John McGregor (Ancroft, farmer and miller, Bridge Mill); John McLeod (Norham Mains); James Marshall (Berwick, grocer, Bridge End); Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt] (Tweedmouth, farmer, Spittal Hall); James R Nicholson [James Nicholson] (Thornton, farmer); Thomas Pinkerton (Ancroft, farmer); William Richardson (Lonend [Loanend], farmer Mount Pleasant); Alexander Smith (Norham, farmer Gallowgate [Galagate]); George Smith (Berwick); George Wood (Longridge, farmer, North Longridge).</p>	
Item	GBR 39/1-2	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 11 April 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; James R Nicholson [James Nicholson]; Nicholas Bell; Robert Carr; William Heron; James Turnbull; James Laing; James Black; Alexander Laing; John Wilson; Alexander Christison. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Notice of marriage was read for: Jane Davidson and Andrew Gray.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Miss Anderson (bread); Mather Sanderson (potatoes); Alexander Smith (meat); Alexander Darling (bread); George Hay (oatmeal); George Weatherhead (groceries); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Balmer & Wood (wine and Whisky etc.); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk, flour etc, teasing oakum, repairs clothes and shoes eggs for Susan Bradford and another); Thomas Melrose (stationery);</p>	11 April 1843

			<p>James Jeffray (stationery); Knight & Co. (books and papers); John Anderson (coffin); Frederick Mallett (Poor Law Gazette); Alexander Meikle (shoes);</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Ann Gibson (Norham); J Sloane (Berwick); Mary McGall (Berwick).</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: the Clerks, W & E Willoby; the Auditor Matthew Patterson; the Relieving Officers James B Atkinson; John Anderson; William Dods; the Medical Officers Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton; Master of the Workhouse John Purdie.</p> <p>Agreed that Messrs Willoby [Clerks] be paid for their work and expenses in conducting the elections of the Union.</p> <p>Additional Justices for North Durham. In response to the Marquis of Londonderry's letter, the names of the following were put forward as fit and proper persons: Henry Knight Gregson (Lowlin); John Robertson (Tweedmouth); William Murray (Marshal Meadows); Ralph Forster (Sanson Seal); John Walker (Cornhill); Thomas Hodgson (Morris Hall); Thomas Friar (Tweedmouth).</p>	
Item	GBR 39/2-6	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 25 April 1843.	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; William Heron; James Turnbull; James Laing; John Wilson; Alexander Christison; Nathaniel Dodds; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; William Elliott; Thomas Hubback; Adam Bell; Thomas W Tait [Thomas Tait]; James Marshall; Thomas Fender; Thomas Pinkerton. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: Jane Davidson and Andrew Gray.</p>	25 April 1843

		<p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Master of the Workhouse [John Purdie] (milk, clothing, repairing clothes, teasing oakum, mangle, rope, sand etc, eggs, beer etc.)</p> <p>The account from The Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum in respect of Catharine McKay (Berwick) was paid.</p> <p>Payment was received from A B Gowan for oakum.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Elizabeth Dunn (Berwick).</p> <p>Reported that the instalment due in January from the Trustees of the late Treasurer had not been received. Ordered that the Clerk should request its payment (£300) by 8 May 1843 or proceedings would be taken to compel payment of the whole.</p> <p>The Overseers for Tweedmouth were authorised to recover a part of the legacy to which George Davidson (currently in a lunatic asylum at the expense of the parish) was entitled.</p> <p>The Overseers for Berwick were authorised to request the attendance of two witnesses from Hull, whose evidence was needed in respect of the removal of Charlotte Andrews and her family from Berwick to the parish of St. Mary's Hull.</p> <p>The plans presented by the Workhouse Committee for the ground plan and fitting of the interior of the school were approved and to be carried into effect.</p>	
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			<p>Complaints had been received from residents of the Greenses who were overlooked by the windows of the rooms of the Workhouse occupied by the mothers of illegitimate children. They had been annoyed when passing on Sundays by the improper language used by the women, who were at the windows. The Workhouse Committee were to investigate and take measures to deal with it.</p> <p>The tenders for supply of coffins for the next 6 months were presented and that from John Robertson was accepted.</p> <p>The Chairman [Alexander Robertson] and Alexander Lowrey presented their report on Vagrancy, requested by the Board on 28 March 1843. They presented Regulations for the relief of casual and mendicant paupers. These had been discussed with the Watch Committee of the Town Council and the magistrates. The Regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Clerk to the Board of Guardians would issue tickets to the Relieving Officers, Churchwardens, Overseers and Assistant Overseers of the Poor, and, with the permission of the Watch Committee, to the Police Officers of the Borough and of parishes and townships therein, and also to any ratepayer who may apply for them. <p>The Ticket:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Berwick-upon-Tweed Union No. day of 184 o'clock The Bearer to go to the Master of the Workhouse:-</p> <p>NB This ticket to be given to none but persons who on the ground of destitution are found begging within the Borough. CD Clerk of the Union.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Before granting a ticket, the officer should ensure the person presenting as destitute was not a common vagrant. If found to be so, the officer is at liberty under the authority of the act for punishment of idle and disorderly persons to bring the person before a magistrate. 	
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			<p>3 On presentation of the ticket, the Master of the Workhouse should ensure that enquiries are made of the bearer concerning the circumstances, route and cause of destitution and enter this into the Vagrant Admission Book along with the particulars required by the rules of the Union.</p> <p>4 The Book and tickets are to be presented at every meeting of the Board of Guardians to ensure each case was investigated and the Relief charged to the proper parish.</p> <p>5 The bearer of a ticket is to be admitted as “casual poor” and to be subject to those regulations.</p> <p>6 Those admitted as “casual poor”, whether by ticket or not shall be discharged at 9am or within an hour thereafter agreeable to the rules of the Poor Law Commission, and after the regulations of the Workhouse have been complied with.</p> <p>7 The Watch Committee should be asked to issue the following to the police officers and constables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I) An officer or constable to be present at 9am when the “casual poor” are discharged to inform them that if found in the district committing any act of vagrancy or mendicancy they would be brought before a magistrate as idle and disorderly persons. II) An officer should enter every common lodging house morning and evening each day to ensure there are no common vagrants and report to the magistrates any matters concerning the lodging house which they think advisable. III) Officers are to be vigilant in suppressing begging by children and to ascertain if they have been directed to beg by another and if so bring the latter before a magistrate. <p>8 A notice to the ratepayers concerning vagrancy and these regulations to be published. It addressed all inhabitants in Berwick and neighbourhood. It said that all wayfarers who were really destitute would receive necessary food, lodgings and medical assistance in the</p>	
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			<p>Workhouse. They were advised not to provide private charity, which was generally abused, aggravating the wretchedness and encouraging the bringing up of children in idle and vicious habits. Any ratepayer can apply for tickets to entitle relief in the Workhouse to people travelling a distance from home, provided they did not have a fixed residence within the Union or a reasonable distance from it and that the Relieving Officer of the district agreed.</p> <p>9 A notice addressed to those likely to be eligible was to be placed in places where they might frequent. It informed them that according to the regulations they should apply to persons named below for, provided they were really destitute, a ticket for admission to the Workhouse. If they were found begging or committing an act of vagrancy they would be taken before a magistrate and liable to punishment in accordance with the law. (List of those who could issue tickets to be appended).</p> <p>The regulations were adopted and agreed that a copy be sent to the Watch Committee and that the Chairman and Mr. Lowrey should meet with the Mayor and Committee also, if necessary.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/6-8	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 9 May 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke]; James Laing; John Wilson; Nicholas Bell; Alexander Christison; Thomas W Tait [Thomas Tait]. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison; Andrew Henderson. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: Nathaniel Todd and Elizabeth McDonald; Thomas Beveridge and Johnston Shiel; Robert Turnbull and Mary Porter; George Porter and Margaret Brown.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p>	9 May 1843

			<p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); Joseph Milburne (groceries); George Weatherhead (groceries); Balmer & Wood (wine, whisky etc.); George Oswald (barley); James Sanderson (tea); Robert Sanderson (coal); John Purdie {Master of Workhouse} (milk and flour, sand shaw [sic] etc); John Main (repairing clothes); Robert Chrisp (clothes); Dickson & Laing (flannel jackets); James Thompson (repairing roof); Justices Clerks Fees; J W Parker (school books); Knight & Co. (books). Mr. Cuthbert, Superintendent of the building at the Workhouse school reported the masons work was completed and the account was paid.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Margaret Crawford (Berwick); Janet Leith (Berwick).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer, including registration accounts, were recorded.</p> <p>Rules on Vagrancy: these had been presented to the Watch Committee. They were adopted with the alterations suggested by the Watch Committee with a copy to be sent to the Poor Law Commission for approval.</p> <p>Instalment due from trustees of late Treasurer: A letter had been received from Mr. Weatherhead, saying he had paid £200 to Mr. Ainslie, Treasurer, on behalf of Mr. Sharp and himself, with £100 to follow tomorrow. He asks that that the sureties should only be responsible for their share of the sum. To be considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners to the questions sent by the Board concerning the religious persuasion of illegitimate children:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should illegitimate children in the Workhouse be sent to the Church of England without the assent of the mother or putative father? The advice 	
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			<p>was that a child should be brought up in the religion of the mother, if the mother is with the child. If she has deserted the child it should be brought up as a member of the established church.</p> <p>2 and 3. What steps should be taken to find out the religious denomination of orphans and deserted children? Should the Master of the Workhouse follow the religion as stated in the Admission Book? If no entry has been made at the time of admission should he consider the child as belonging to the established church? They replied that he should ask the child on admission as to their religious denomination and enter it accordingly. If the child is too young to give an answer they should be brought up in the established church unless a Godparent objects under sec. 19 of The Poor Law Amendment Act.</p> <p>The Board recognised its legal obligation to ensure each child receives an education in the doctrines of the denomination to which it is considered it belong and regrets that this had not earlier been invoked. They resolved that the Workhouse Committee should find out the religious belief or denomination of the children presently in the Workhouse and report back to the next meeting of the Board.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/8-16	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 25 May 1843.	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Henry Short; Thomas Pinkerton; James Turnbull; Alexander Christison; Alexander Smith; Alan Bell; John McLeod; Thomas W Tait [Thomas Tait]; Thomas Hubback. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: Nathaniel Todd and Elizabeth Mc Donald; Thomas Beveridge and Johnston Shiel; Robert Turnbull and Mary Porter; George Porter and Margaret Brown; James Brown and Amelia Calvert; Henry Murdie and Ann Swan; John Redding and Jane Lockie.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson</p>	25 May 1843

		<p>[James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); Alexander Smith (beef); Robert Sanderson coal); John Purdie {Master of Workhouse} (milk, flour, fish, sweeping chimneys etc, beer and eggs, repairing clothes); Corporation of Berwick ([water sprigs ?] 2 years register office); Walter Thompson (books and stationery); John Drummond (iron bedsteads); Justice Clerk's fees; J P Davidson (examining shoes 1842); Grindley Weir (examining shoes 1843); John Main (repairing clothes);</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Catharine Mackay of Norham.</p> <p>Letter from Mr. Weatherhead presented at last meeting. It was agreed that the Board would not comply with his request.</p> <p>Alexander Robertson [Chairman] presented a lengthy and detailed report, supported by statistics, which he had written, concerning the consequences of 'Scotch Pauperism for this Border Union'. The report was prompted by the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into the Poor Law of Scotland.</p> <p>The Report. Statistics of casual poor admitted to the workhouse from 1 July 1840 to 25 April 1843. Country: England 1530; Ireland 1501; Scotland 2564. Men 3790; Women 940; Children 865. Destination of adults and children on their own: England 2662; Scotland 2220. Ratio of above to population of country of origin: English 1: 10400; Irish 1: 5450; Scotch 1: 2020. Extent of instruction of adults admitted from 1 Oct. 1840: reading 2903; writing</p>	
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		<p>1905; arithmetic 811.</p> <p>These show a vast disproportion of Scotch among itinerant paupers helped by the Union. He suggests that similar statistics should be procured from Carlisle and Unions between to ascertain whether this is particular to Berwick. Those seeking help from the Union only represent part of the burden on the inhabitants. They are nearly all labourers and artisans in transit. Common vagrants or habitual mendicants beg during the day and stay in common lodging houses.</p> <p>To indicate the nature of casual poor relieved he lists their trades: Labourers civic and rural 1539; cotton and woollen spinners and weavers etc. 644; sailors 259; iron and brass foundry, forgemen etc. 180; smiths 156; pitmen 121; engineers and millwrights 91; shoemakers 85; cabinetmakers and joiners 78; tailors 71; Nailors 71; masons 61; flax dressers 57; brickmakers and layers 55; rope makers and twine spinners 50; bakers and millers 48; potters 45; boiler makers 49; sawyers 38; glass blowers 36; paper makers, stationers etc. 35; cork cutters 34; hatters and furriers 33; gardeners 31; painters 30; printers, typesetters and engravers 28; tinsmiths and plumbers 28; dyers 26; comb and brush making 22; slaters and plasterers 20; bleachers and clothiers 18; coopers 18; stocking weavers 16; cutlers 14; file makers 13; tanners and curriers 13; sugar bakers and confectioners 12; grooms and carters 12; saddlers 10; glass cutters 10; stone cutters 9; schoolmasters and clerks 7; pipe makers 7; tobacconists 7; coachmakers 7; shipwrights and sailmakers 7; tallow chandlers 6; basket makers 6; hair dressers 5; clock and watchmakers 4; soap boilers 4; paper stainers and japanners 4; lath renders 4; brewers 3; butchers 3; soldiers 2; sundry trades 29; total 4271 (children 865; unaccounted for, chiefly women). He then gives in support of his thesis that most casual poor relieved are in transit seeking work, figures from July 1841 to February 1843 showing that the vast majority of those over 15 are under 40 or even 30. Most vagrants or beggars are not able bodied people under 40.</p> <p>15 to 20 years 289; 20 to 30 years 530; 30 to 40 years 247; 40 to 50 years 132; 50 or above 76.</p> <p>From observation he considers that the vagrants and mendicants within the</p>	
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			<p>area of the Union [who are not presenting themselves for relief] are of similar proportion to the casual poor above. He points out that the Union boundary is contiguous with Scotland for 15 miles.</p> <p>Vagrants becoming ill, adds a further burden on the Union. He gives figures for casual poor admitted because of illness from 1 January 1843.</p> <p>Country of origin: England 2; Ireland 7; Scotland 5.</p> <p>Destination: England 9; Scotland 5.</p> <p>Remarks: These were found on admission to the casual ward to be suffering from fever and were transferred to the infirmary. The average stay was about 1 month.</p> <p>He does not think that the number whose destination was England was due to Irish travelling for the harvest. They would land on the west coast of Scotland and cross over into England further west.</p> <p>He gives figures of movement which he suggests show little difference for the harvest months. Any difference can be explained by reluctance to travel in winter and the general state of trade in recent quarters.</p> <p>He then gives possible reasons for the excess of Scottish casual poor: the lack of legal provision in Scotland for able bodied who are out of work and destitute and the limited help given to the aged and infirm. Both he and officials of the Union have been told that because there is no help for the able bodied, even for a brief period, that they had no choice but to become mendicants or travel to England where they would get shelter whilst seeking work. Scottish tramps, especially those with families have told him how anxious they were to reach the Border before becoming sick. He gives an example on 13 May 1843. A man with wife and child who had stayed in the Workhouse the night before had gone to -----, seven miles north of Berwick [probably Ayton, in Scotland] and then returned to the Workhouse seeking admission. His child had been taken ill and knowing that he and his family would get no help there returned south of the Border.</p> <p>He gives a further recent example showing that legalised begging in Scotland by having a pass does not always ensure help: late one evening a woman, very fatigued, with an infant at breast, a child on her back and three who looked</p>	
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		<p>under seven at her side applied for food and clothing at the workhouse. Although she had a pass from Glasgow she had had to beg her way to the Tweed. Very seldom had she received help from parish officers. She had walked through-----, and Robertson asked why she had not sought help there. She had done so but was refused all help, being told at the Session Clerk's house (he was out) that there were no more passes to be relieved there. She sold an article of clothing to buy some bread for the children.</p> <p>Another example a few days ago: he questioned a girl; she had come from Glasgow and had walked from Dunbar that day [almost 30 miles] and was going to Newcastle. She had slept in an outhouse the night before and had not received any help from parish authorities en route. Asked why she had walked so far that day, she replied that tramps had told her she would get food and lodgings at Berwick Workhouse.</p> <p>Where the Union has applied to some Scottish parishes for relief, that offered has been scanty and irregular. He gives an example of negotiations with Eyemouth parish in February 1843: In response to a request for assistance on behalf of James Young and his family, a fisherman of the Greens Berwick, who was too ill to work and had a surgeon's certificate, George Edington replied on behalf of the Heritors of the parish of Eyemouth. They agreed to pay two shillings weekly provided a certificate of illness is provided every fortnight.</p> <p>Robertson points out that Young had a wife and six children aged 14 to 2. He gives another example from the parish of Chirnside: Mr. Atkinson, Relieving Officer, Berwick, had contacted Mr. D, parish schoolmaster, Sessions Clerk and Heritors Clerk for Chirnside parish, concerning Daly who was previously accepted as a parishioner of Chirnside and had again been admitted to Berwick Workhouse 'in a state of mental derangement'. Mr. D had written to a woman in Fisherrow asking for lodgings but had not discussed it with the Minister of Chirnside until three weeks previously, following a letter from the Willobys querying progress, but had not shown the Minister the correspondence. No meeting was called and Mr. D was advised to speak to some of the Heritors. He spoke to one and wrote to another without reply. He then heard that Daly was better but did not check this with Berwick. Following a third letter from Berwick</p>	
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		<p>Union he came into Berwick that day, but without any authority from the Heritors. When Mr. D was told that Berwick Union would refer the matter to the Poor Law Commissioners, he agreed to receive Daly that Friday and present the bill for expenses before the next meeting of Heritors.</p> <p>He then gives the information collected concerning the Casual Poor relieved in the Workhouse, kept in a Vagrants Admission Book. The Headings were: date; name; country – England, Ireland, Scotland; sex and children – men, women, children; age; height; with or without instruction – read, write, cypher; trade; come from; going to; by whom sent; charged to – Berwick, Tweedmouth; remarks. Once this is done, the person is admitted, given simple but sufficient food as the inmates and given lodging for the night. For those able to do so, 'some slight labour' is demanded. He is sent out the next day unless he requires medical attention, in which case he is placed in the infirmary, until he recovers.</p> <p>The report is then signed by Alexander Robertson, but there is appended correspondence from Eyemouth Parish, dated 11 May 1843. The Heritors and Kirk Session considered a letter from Berwick Union, concerning a blind woman, May Fraser. They make a formal application on her behalf to Berwick Parish for relief and ask for the relevant forms. In support they say her delirium is caused by the abuse which made her leave her father's house and prevents her from leaving the lodgings she has been in since 19 April at a cost of 5 shillings per week. They hope the Guardians will consider this in the emergency. Robertson comments that the girl was in the Workhouse four months ago and is well known to the Master and Mistress and that any misconduct is on her part, the delirium of her own creating and that she is not afflicted with total blindness. [It is not said, but it appears that her home is in Berwick and she has sought refuge in Eyemouth] Robertson compares the five shillings allowed for May Fraser with the two shillings allowed for James Young, his wife and six children.</p> <p>The Meeting agreed unanimously that a copy of the Report be sent to Edward Twistleton, Poor Law Enquiry Commissioner for Scotland.</p>	
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		<p>Report from the Workhouse Committee concerning the religious persuasion of children in the Workhouse requested at the last meeting: Lists the children in the Workhouse. Jane Joy 15; George Joy 14; Phoebe Joy 13; mother is in Workhouse, is Church of England and wishes them to be brought up the same. Ralph Montgomery 14; parents dead, 1 year in workhouse, previously attended Church of England in Newcastle. William Hall 14; John Hall 10; Edward Hall 9; father dead, deserted by mother 5 months ago, they never attended any Church. Andrew Alexander 13; parents dead. Attended Church of England. Robert Hopkins 15; deserted by father, mother dead. About to be apprenticed, wishes to attend High Meeting [Presbyterian]. Henry Bennett 12; William Bennett 9; parents dead, mother 3 years ago. Sister in Tweedmouth. Attended Baptist Meeting. Henry Calder 10; William Calder 7; parents dead, paternal Grandfather, Clerk in Berwick Church. Joseph Atkinson 10; parents dead, paternal grandfather alive. Attended High Meeting [Presbyterian]. --- McConochie 6; deserted by father, brother c. 18 years, works with Mr, Chartres. Henry Bruce 14; illegitimate. Lived with uncle and aunt at Kirknewton. Attended Parish Church. George Wilkie 14; in Workhouse 8 or 9 years. Parents died since. Sister lives with Mr. A Fender. William Johnston 12; in Workhouse 6 or 7 years. Parents dead. Grandfather lives in Spittal – never visits. John Edgar 9; illegitimate. Mother alive - ‘of depraved habits’. Scott Jamieson 8; illegitimate. Mother married, in Tweedmouth – not visited for 6 months. James Kennedy 11; Lewin Kennedy 6; deserted by parents, their religion unknown. James Middleton 8; father in Workhouse, Church of England.</p>	
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		<p>Margaret Murray 13; illegitimate. Mother , Jane Liddell in Berwick. Margaret Hawthorn 14; father at sea, been in Berwick 6 months; previously lived with him. Sister married to – Aird. Attended Relief Meeting House, Berwick with father. Janet Fenton 14; Elizabeth Fenton 12; in Workhouse 7 years. Parents dead. Aunt lives in Greenses. Janet says father attended Low Meeting House, Scotch Presbyterian. Mary Fair 12; illegitimate. Deserted by parents. Hannah Anderson 14; illegitimate, in Workhouse 7 months. Father in Spittal she had never attended a Church. Ann Marshall 10; illegitimate, deserted by mother. Phillis Brown 14; illegitimate. Mother lives in Berwick. Isabella Robertson 11; mother was in Workhouse, now in gaol. Baptized in Church of England. Ellen Hunter 8; illegitimate. Mother, an imbecile, in Workhouse. Jane White 6; mother in Workhouse, father deserted them. Attended Methodists. Mother wishes children to attend. Isabella Mc Ghee 9; deserted by parents – father in gaol for refusing to maintain her.</p> <p>In accordance with the letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, they conclude the following children should attend the Church of England: Jane Joy; George Joy; Phoebe Joy; Ralph Montgomery; William Hall; John Hall; Edward Hall; Andrew Alexander; Ellen Hunter; Henry Calder; Wiliam Calder; --- McConochie; Henry Bruce; William Johnston; John Edgar; Scott Jamieson; James Kennedy; Lewin Kennedy; James Middleton; Margaret Murray; Mary Fair; Hannah Anderson; Ann Marshall; Isabella Robertson; Isabella McGhee; John Robertson.</p> <p>They conclude that because the other children belong to several denominations, it would be difficult for the Workhouse to take them. They suggest that the respective Pastors should be asked to nominate a proper person to accompany them to and fro. They list the Children: Robert Hopkins; Henry Bennett; William Bennett; Joseph Atkinson; Margaret</p>	
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			<p>Hawthorn; Janet Fenton; Elizabeth Fenton; Jane White. The Board accepted the Report and asked the Workhouse Committee to put it into practice.</p> <p>They considered a reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the Regulations for the Relief of Vagrants, agreed by the Board on 25 April 1843, and accepted them apart from Article 6. They stated that vagrants could not be lawfully detained for more than four hours from the time of breakfast, even if they had not performed their assigned tax. If a pauper refused or failed to perform a task suited to his age, strength and capacity, he should be taken before the Justices and punished as an idle and disorderly person. They instructed the Workhouse Committee to make the above alterations in the Regulations and put them into effect.</p> <p>They received an application from James Dryden of Tweedmouth to have his daughter, Isabella, wife of Robert Lough, who was presently insane to be sent to a lunatic asylum. They ordered that she be sent to Morningside Asylum [Edinburgh] and that the cost be met by Tweedmouth Parish, as a loan to be recovered from Isabella Lough's husband.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/16- 18	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 6 June 1843.	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; James Laing; Robert Carr; Thomas W Tait [Thomas Tait]; James Marshall; Alexander Smith; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; John McGregor; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison Chairman: Alexander Robertson</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p>	6 June 1843

			<p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Darling – bread; George Weatherhead – groceries; Joseph Milburne – groceries; James Sanderson – tea; Balmer & Wood – wine and spirits; Robert Sanderson- coal; John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, - milk and flour, crockery sand etc.; Corporation - 1years rent of workhouse; B Clark – 24 straw bonnets. Also listed was clothing for J Fenton.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for Janet Mason of Berwick; David Farquerson of Berwick; [---] Cristal of Tweedmouth; George Renton’s child of Cornhill; William Kyle of Tweedmouth; John Hand of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for Henry Murdie and Ann Swan; John Redding and Jane Lockie.</p> <p>Reply received from the Marquis of Londonderry, signed Vane Londonderry, sent from Holderness House, concerning the appointment of additional justices of the peace for North Durham. Of those suggested by the Board [11 April 1843], he has appointed [Henry Knight] Gregson [of Lowlin]; [William] Murray [of Marshall Meadows}. He asked [Ralph] Forster [of Sanson Seal] who declined. He considered two were sufficient. The Board sent a vote of thanks.</p> <p>The Chairman related correspondence between himself and John Carmichael, acting Overseer for Cornhill parish. It concerned an issue between Carmichael and Mr. Dods, Relieving Officer, over two cases of paupers: Robert Wright and his wife; Alice Bruce and two daughters. It was agreed to ask both Carmichael and Dods to reply to the following questions before 20 June 1843.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Did Carmichael ask Dods to attend to the case of Wright and his wife, and reply to Mr. Davidson’s letter?2. Had Carmichael reason to believe that Alice Bruce and her daughters would sleep in the common lodging house for tramps in Hamilton’s house and had he agreed this with Hamilton?	
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			3. Why did Carmichael give directions to Mr. Tibbs re Wright and his wife when he knew the Relieving Officer was dealing with the case and it had been before the Board?	
Item	GBR 39/ 18-21	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 20 June 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Thomas Pinkerton; Adam Bell; William Heron; Alexander Christison; John Wilson; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; John McGregor. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson Chairman: Alexander Robertson</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>From the Porter's book, the number of vagrants relieved was 929; 487 chargeable to Berwick, 442 to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); Robert Sanderson (coal); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Balmer & Wood (whisky and porter); James Sanderson (tea); George Weatherhead (groceries); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour, fish, sand, straw, beer); James Russell (mason); William Henderson (carpenter); Thomas Weatherston & Son (plasterers); William Hattle (mason); John Main (repairing Clothes); Robert Chrisp (clothes); David Gibson (rent of Register Office); Robert Rutherford (clothing); Bogue & Purves (clothing); John Paxton (clothing) J D Atkinson (quarter rent of Workhouse).</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: George Logan, schoolmaster; Elizabeth</p>	20 June 1843

		<p>Buglass, sewing mistress; John Moor, porter; John Home, barber.</p> <p>Vaccination fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson, 9 cases; Tweedmouth, Andrew Morison, 39 cases; Kylee, Andrew Morison, 1 case; Ancroft, Andrew Morison, 17 cases; Holy Island, Andrew Morison 2 cases; Lonend, John Paxton, 1 case; Horncliffe, John Paxton, 4 cases; Thornton, John Paxton, 1 case; Shoreswood, John Paxton, 4 cases; Felkington, John Paxton, 4 cases; Twisel, John Paxton, 1 case; Cornhill, John Paxton, 4 cases; Grindon, John Paxton, 1 case; Holy Island, Mr. Watson, 5 cases.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Margaret Glover of Berwick; John Hand of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>As decided at the last meeting, the Chairman [Alexander Robertson] and Edward Willoby [Secretary] had met with [John] Carmichael [Acting Overseer for Cornhill parish] and Dods [Relieving Officer], concerning their differences and the following appeared from their admissions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carmichael brought the case of Wright's wife to Dod's attention and left it in his hands, but the latter had forgotten. 2. Carmichael had not made a direct arrangement with the lodging house keeper for Bruce and her children to sleep apart from the common lodgers. He added that he had been partly misled as to the common lodging room being open for every tramp. 3. Carmichael was now aware that he had exceeded his power as overseer in giving the order for the Workhouse for Wright and his wife. This case was for the consideration of the Board. <p>The chairman further explained to the Board that that both officers had agreed to be more circumspect in future. The Board decided to take no further action.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee presented a report concerning the circumstances of alleged sexual intercourse between two inmates. They had interviewed both, the Master being present.</p>	
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		<p>They had learnt sexual connection, had occurred some months back between in the Workhouse between the two inmates, had made some enquiry at the previous meeting and postponed full investigation till this meeting when the two involved, Henry Joy and Eleanor Hunter, were interviewed. They admitted that intercourse had taken place at least twice last winter. After supper they were able to meet in the washhouse as the door was unlocked. Joy retired by the passage which leads from the men's yard to the women's and is immediately opposite the washhouse. On both occasions the passage door was unlocked. Hunter got to her room by the common entrance to the women's wards. The passage Joy used to return from the washhouse to the men's ward is the only access the men have to the dining hall and the women have to the lodge gate, the sick wards etc. It is therefore a thoroughfare and badly situated for inspection and control. They considered there had been laxity in supervision on the part of the Master and Mistress, particularly necessary because of the structural difficulties. Despite some censure the Committee consider that the difficulties (whether caused by a desire for economy or too hasty an adoption of plans for additions) of proper classification and separation are almost insurmountable. They will look at whether inexpensive alterations are possible. Meanwhile the Master and Mistress have been instructed to keep the relevant doors secured and to restrict communication between inmates, outwith their own wards as much as possible. The incident was particularly deplorable in that both parties are of rather weak mind. They also regret that the Poor Law Commissioners did not, as requested by the Board, send the original letter signed by Anthony Percy" to the Board. If they had they might have been able to identify "Anthony Percy" and thus discover the above earlier. There follows an extract from the Visitors Book, dated 30 May 1843, It states that separation of the classes strictly enforced according to Article 9 is not possible because of the structural management of the house. They did not wish to impugn the vigilance of the Master and had to report that the incident had taken place. They will investigate further, report to the Board and have directed the Master to be more vigilant.</p> <p>The Board concluded that the doors should not have been left in an unguarded</p>	
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			state, reinforced the Workhouse Committee's instruction to the Master and asked for an early report from the Committee concerning possible alterations.	
Item	GBR 39/ 21-23	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 4 July 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; John McGregor; Adam Bell; Thomas Fender; Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke]; John Wilson; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; James Marshall; George Dodds; Ebenezer Black; Alexander Laing. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: to Alex Darling (bread); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour, fish, sand, break stones etc, suit of clothes for Charles Pringle, beer, eggs); John Anderson (coffin); James B Atkinson (coffin); Frederick Mallet (Poor Law Gazette); James Yule ((hammer handles etc); C Knight & Co (circulars and books); William Wallace Fyfe (printing etc); John Paxton (blankets, sheeting etc); Robert Rutherford & Co (coverlets etc); John Henderson (glazing etc); William Dods (coffin); Alexander Meikle (shoes); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: P Hunter of Kylloe; Margaret Thew of Tweedmouth; John Carr of Berwick; Mary Wilson of Norham; Mary Reid of Berwick; Ann Walker of Berwick.</p> <p>The report of the Auditor, Matthew Patterson, dated 3 July 1843, that he had audited and allowed the accounts, was received.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: the Clerks, W & E Willoby; the Auditor,</p>	4 July 1843

		<p>Matthew Patterson; the Relieving Officers, James B Atkinson, John Anderson and William Dods; the Medical Officers, Andrew Henderson, Andrew Morison, John Paxton and Joseph Watson; the Master of the Workhouse, John Purdie.</p> <p>It was agreed to pay the account from the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the maintenance of Isabella Lough of Tweedmouth and that it should be charged as Outrelief against that parish.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The Chairman had requested that Ebenezer Black, Guardian of the township of Grindon, attend to give an explanation of the circumstances in which William Lindrum and Mary Forsythe had received relief by payment of Mr. Black instead of the Relieving Officer. The sums paid had not appeared as parish expenditure and the Board were not satisfied with the explanation given. It was resolved that the circumstances of payment should be investigated by the Auditor and whether they or other payments made by Black to legally settled paupers ought not to have appeared as a parochial expenditure of the township of Grindon.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee presented a report, decided at their meeting on 27 June 1843, concerning possible alterations, as requested at the last meeting of the Board.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Another door should be placed in the passage which leads from the Men's Yard to the Women's, at the corner immediately beyond the Board Room door. It should have a spring lock with duplicate keys, one to be kept by the Porter. He alone is to open that door to those wanting into the Women's Yard. The other key of the new door and of the present door into the Women's yard should be kept by the Master and only he or the Mistress should open the doors for those wishing to enter or leave the Yard.2. The Master should be ordered to lock the outer door leading to the Dining Hall from 1 Sept to 1 May straight after supper and during the	
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			<p>summer months at 8pm.</p> <p>3. A lamp should be placed in the Women's Yard and another on the wall separating the Men's Yard from the Boys.</p> <p>They also made recommendations for the method of enforcing labour for the men in the Workhouse. For those who are able to break stones, a portion of the stone yard should be divided into sections, partitioned with wood. Each morning the quantity of stones to be broken per man that day should be placed in each section and that the Master should check at the end of the day.</p> <p>The report was approved and the Committee authorised to proceed with the alterations.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 23-25	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 18 July 1843.	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: William Heron; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; John Wilson; Thomas W Tait [Thomas Tait]; James Laing; Thomas Hubback. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: William Heron.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: to Alexander Smith (beef etc.); Alexander Darling (bread); Joseph Milburne (groceries); George Weatherhead (groceries); James Sanderson (tea); George Oswald (barley); Balmer & Wood (whisky etc); Robert Sanderson (coal); Thomas Chartres (hardwares); Bogue & Purves (drapery); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk and flour, sundries, repairing clothes and carpet shoes, Clothes for M Hawthorn, 2 pigs, garden seeds and plants, beer and eggs).</p>	18 July 1843

			<p>It was agreed to pay an account from Morningside Lunatic Asylum [previously recorded as the Royal Edinburgh Asylum] for the maintenance of Catherine McKay, pauper, chargeable to Berwick Parish. They also agreed to pay an account in respect of Isabella Lough, pauper, chargeable to Tweedmouth Parish. This was to be a loan to be recovered from her husband.</p> <p>A notice for marriage was read for William Ross and Elizabeth Darling Smith.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the claim for maintenance and medical attendance for May Fraser, pauper, from Eyemouth Parish to Berwick Parish. The advice was that the claim should not be paid, and Eyemouth informed accordingly. [see minute 25 May 1843].</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning report and extract from Visitor's Book re Henry Joy and Eleanor Hunter, meeting 20 June 1843. On hearing their opinion [not recorded] the Master expressed his regret that the irregularity had occurred owing to his neglect.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson, Relieving Officer, asked for permission to take up the agency offered by The Royal Naval Military East India and General Assurance Company. This was granted, subject to the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners. The other Relieving Officers made similar applications with similar consent.</p> <p>:</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Ann Douglas of Cornhill.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 25-26	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 1 August 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Smith; John McGregor; Thomas Hubback; Robert Carr; James Laing; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; John McLeod; Adam Bell; William Heron Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison.</p>	1 Aug. 1843

			<p>Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef and mutton); Alexander Darling (bread); Joseph Milburne (groceries); George Weatherhead (groceries); James Sanderson (tea); Balmer & Wood (whisky etc); William Dods (coffin); Hugh Brough (paving); John Main (repairing clothes); John Paxton (thread); Robert Chrisp (clothes); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (breaking stones etc, beer and eggs).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Matilda Clunie of Berwick; Charles Davidson of Berwick; Jane Marshall of Norham.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: William Ross and Elizabeth Darling Smith; Thomas Purves and James Paxton; James Hume and Hannah Kirkwood.</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by Messrs Atkinson, Dods and Anderson for parishes within their districts.</p> <p>A majority of Guardians present signed an application to the Justices for an order upon James Young of Ord, mason, the putative father of the illegitimate child of Ann Smith of Holy Island.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/27	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 15	The clerk recorded, in accordance with Article 8 for Regulating the Proceedings of Boards of Guardians, that he attended from 14 00 to 15 30 on the appointed day, but only two guardians, Messrs. Smith [Alexander Smith?] and William	15 Aug. 1843

		August 1843	Heron attended.	
Item	GBR 39/ 27-31	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 29 August 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; William Heron; Alexander Laing; Robert Carr; Nathaniel Dodds; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: James Trainer's child of Berwick; Janet Cummings of Berwick; Jane Epworth of Berwick; George Reavely of Norham; a female vagrant child of Ancroft.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: James Sanderson (tea); Balmer & Wood; Joseph Milburne (groceries); George Weatherhead (groceries); Alexander (meat); Robert Sanderson (coal); Charles Knight & Co (forms etc); Thomas Barker (door for garden); John Weatherly (printing); JB Atkinson (for Poor Rate, Workhouse and Garden, Register Office); Alexander Meikle (repairing shoes); John Main (repairing clothes); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk flour and fish, beer and eggs).</p> <p>The cost of maintenance for Eleanor Veitch, admitted that day to the Workhouse at the expense of Berwick Parish, should be given as a loan and recovered from her father.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning request from Mr Atkinson to take up an agency to an insurance company. As his district has a population</p>	29 Aug. 1843

		<p>of nearly 14000 and he acts as assistant Overseer, he should be fully occupied and they therefore object. [See Meeting of 18 July 1843].</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning payment by Ebenezer Black of Grindon. [see meeting of 4 July 1843] in reply to their letter of 26 July 1843. They have appointed Mr Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner to investigate on his next visit to Berwick.</p> <p>They considered a letter from John Anderson, Relieving Officer and Registrar, written from Scremerston, dated 8 Aug 1843. This concerned problems encountered in organising inquests in North Northumberland. On 4 August 1843 two bodies had washed up on Holy Island. Both had been passengers on the steamer, Pegasus; one a young man named Aird from Edinburgh, the other a soldier, name unknown. Rev. Watson, curate of Holy Island, wrote to the coroner, Mr. Favell, Eighton Cottage, Gateshead, Coroner for Chester Ward, of which North Durham was a part. He replied, refusing to come, stating that a recent Act of Parliament had attached North Durham to North Northumberland. He advised they should contact Mr. Russell in Alnwick, which Watson immediately did, enclosing Favell's letter. Mr. Russell, Attorney at Law, replied saying his brother who was Coroner was in London and that Favell was Coroner for North Durham and that he should be contacted.</p> <p>As neither coroner would attend, they had to bury the bodies without inquest. Anderson asks that they bring the matter to the attention of the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Lord Lieutenant of Durham.</p> <p>A postscript added that five more bodies have been buried on Holy Island and there had been a drowning at Fenham, all without inquest.</p> <p>It was ordered that the Clerk report the above to the appropriate authorities.</p> <p>They then considered three instances of vagrants, becoming ill in Scotland, and sent to Berwick for assistance.</p> <p>1 William Wilson. Reported by John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse. Wilson was admitted to the Workhouse on 29 July 1843, suffering from fever. Initially</p>	
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		<p>he was admitted to the vagrant ward and as he appeared very ill was seen by the Medical officer who considered he had a severe attack of fever. He was transferred to the fever ward. Interviewed by Purdie, Wilson reported he was a seaman. He landed at Dunbar on 25 July 1843, having been ill for about ten days. He stayed three nights at Dunbar, Dr. Turnbull giving him sixpence towards lodgings. The Provost ordered that he leave Dunbar on the third day and he was taken by cart to Cockburnspath, where he stayed one night. He was sent by cart to Ayton. He went to the schoolmaster who immediately sent him on by cart to within three miles of Berwick, from where he got a lift into Berwick. He was discharged from the Workhouse until 14 August 1843, having recovered.</p> <p>Andrew Henderson, Medical Officer, confirmed his visit and diagnosis.</p> <p>James Proudfoot, Chief Officer of Police, Berwick, reported that at the request of the Guardians he had gone to Ayton to enquire into the removal of Wilson. He interviewed Mr. Fortune, Schoolmaster and Heritor's Clerk. Fortune remembered seeing Wilson who had been sent to them by cart from Dunbar. He said he kept Wilson overnight, who said he was a seaman and that he had gained a settlement in Berwick by service and was anxious to reach there. Fortune had hired a cart from John Menning and directed the driver to take Wilson to Lamberton Toll but not through (a few hundred yards before the Border, about 5 miles from Ayton and three from Berwick). His instructions were never to send a pauper out of Scotland and that was the practice before he took office. Proudfoot remarked to Fortune that it was very uncharitable to leave a sick man to walk three miles and there would have been no harm to have sent him into Berwick. Fortune admitted Wilson seemed very ill and said there was no provision for relieving such persons and he would be very glad if some change was made. He added that he was much annoyed with them as they would sometimes lie down at his door until relieved.</p> <p>2 Catharine Maloney. Reported by John Purdie. She was admitted to the Workhouse 27 July 1843 with a 16 year old child. She said she was Irish, aged 37. She had become ill with fever while in the Duns area. She got lodgings for two nights in a byre at Cheeklaw, about two miles from Duns. The servants</p>	
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			<p>there advised her to go to Berwick where she would be well taken care of. She came to Berwick, taking two days (about 13 miles). She was admitted to the vagrant ward and transferred to the fever ward on advice of the medical officer. She left on 21 August 1843, having recovered.</p> <p>3 William Frankland and Mary Knox. Reported by the Clerk. Frankland, 22 years, was a native of Paisley and was accompanied by Mary Knox, a native of Berwick, though they were not married. On 21 August they lodged at an inn at Bankhouse, kept by Mr. Grant, about 17 miles north of Berwick. [now Grantshouse?] She was ill with fever and Mr. Grant sent her to Ayton in a cart. They were sent to the schoolmaster who gave them sixpence for lodgings and a shilling for food, staying overnight. Knox told him she was from Berwick and wanted to get there. Frankland said he was too ill to walk there. The next morning the schoolmaster hired a cart, but only as far as Lamberton Toll. However the carter was going into Berwick and allowed them to ride until a few hundred yards before Castlegate Toll. Frankland walked with difficulty to the house of the Relieving Officer in Church Street and was admitted to the Workhouse. Knox went to her mother's and had a stillborn child that night. She became so ill she had to be admitted to the Workhouse where she remains. Frankland left the Workhouse on 31 August 1843.</p> <p>Agreed that the above be sent to the Poor Law Inquiry Commission for Scotland and also to the Poor Law Commissioners who were asked to advise the Board of any action they should take either on the above or any future similar cases. Copies of the statements concerning Wilson and Frankland to be sent to Mr Fortune and he should be informed of the action taken.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/31-33	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 12 September 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Thomas Pinkerton; Adam Bell; John Wilson. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers, Messrs Atkinson</p>	12 Sept. 1843

		<p>[James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Mary Atkinson of Kyløe; Eleanor White of Kyløe; George Morbie of Ancroft.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: David Beveridge and Elizabeth Aird; Hugh Brough and Phillis Russell Hume; Mary Henry Park and James Dodds Hume; James Turnbull and Alice Martin; William Sidey and Margaret Elliott.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); Joseph Milburne (groceries); George Weatherhead (groceries); James Sanderson (tea); Alexander Smith (beef and mutton); George Oswald (barley); James Proudfoot (expenses to go to Ayton); John Main (repairing clothes etc.); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse (milk, flour and fish; straw, chaff and sand; biscuits).</p> <p>Accounts for the maintenance of pauper lunatics were to be paid and charged as outrelief against the respective parishes: George Davidson of Tweedmouth; Thomas Bogue of Berwick; George Drummond of Berwick; Edward Young of Norham.</p> <p>Letter from Matthew Patterson, Auditor, concerning the Bonds of certain Officers of the Union which he had examined in accordance with Art. 27 of the Poor Law Commissioners, 20 April 1842.</p> <p>Bond of John Anderson Relieving Officer, 7 December 1836 has one surety rather than the two required by Art. 24 of the above.</p> <p>Bond of William Dods, Relieving Officer, 14 December 1836 the signature of one of the sureties is not attested.</p>	
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			<p>Bond of Mr Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, lacks one surety. Bond of J B Atkinson, Relieving Officer and Collector of Rates, one of the sureties is dead. Patterson points out that the regulations under which the appointments were made did not have the requirements of the later regulations. It was resolved that Anderson, Atkinson, and Purdie be required to enter into fresh bonds with two sureties each.</p> <p>Letter from John Home, barber, of Hide Hill, Berwick, dated 11 September 1843, saying that he wished to resign as the salary was too small but would be happy to continue if they increased the salary. The Board considered the salary sufficient and Home to be informed of this.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/33	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 26 September 1843	<p>The clerk recorded, in accordance with Article 8 for Regulating the Proceedings of Boards of Guardians, that he attended from 14 00 to 15 00 on the appointed day, but only two guardians, Alexander Robertson, Chairman; and Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke] attended.</p>	26 Sept. 1843
Item	GBR 39/33-35	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians Extraordinary meeting held on 2 October 1843	<p>Called at the request of two guardians, John Wilson and James Marshall, for the following: To deal with indoor and outdoor relief, relieving officers business and the accounts since the last meeting. To make the calls upon the Overseers for the ensuing quarter. To advertise for contracts for provisions and clothing for the next 6 months. To balance the accounts for the last quarter. Present at the meeting: Guardians: John Wilson; Alexander Robertson; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; James Marshall; James Turnbull. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers, Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were</p>	2 Oct. 1843

		<p>presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Report was made of the quarterly amount of outdoor relief to vagrants. According to the Porter's book there were 1144 of which 590 are chargeable to Berwick and 554 to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: David Beveridge and Elizabeth Aird; Hugh Brough and Phillis Russell Hume; Mary Henry Park and James Dodds Hume; James Turnbull and Alice Martin; William Sidey and Margaret Elliott;</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Henry Ivy of Tweedmouth and Frances Moody of Kyloe.</p> <p>Vaccination fees: Berwick, [Andrew] Henderson, 9; Tweedmouth, [Andrew] Morison, 40; Ancroft, [Andrew] Morison, 8; Twisel, [John] Paxton, 2.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef); R Sanderson (coal); Balmer & Wood (wine etc.); Joseph Milburne (groceries); James Sanderson (tea); Alexander Darling (bread); George Weatherhead (groceries); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour etc, sand, straw etc. eggs for S Bradford); W & E Willoby (expenses); Peter Jeffreys (smithwork); D A Lamb (estimate for plumber and glazier work at school); Alexander Meikle (repairing shoes); John Main (repairing clothes); clothes for Phoebe Ivy; James B Atkinson (quarter rent Workhouse); Union Officers (postage).</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for George Logan, schoolmaster; Elizabeth Buglass, sewing mistress; John Moor, porter; John Home, barber.</p> <p>Medical fees: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton. [no details]</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p>	
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			<p>The Treasurer had received the second dividend from the sureties of J Rowland; also on notes in the possession of the Berwick Relieving Officer ref. Minute of 2 August 1842.</p> <p>Contracts for provisions, clothing etc. expire on 9 October. The Clerk to advertise for these and the tenders to be considered by the Workhouse Committee.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/35-39	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 10 October 1843.	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Henry Short; William Heron; Adam Bell; Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Alexander Lowrey; James Laing; Nicholas Bell; John McLeod; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]. Medical Officer: Andrew Henderson. Chairman: Alexander Robertson. As neither W nor E Willoby could be present, A S Park was appointed Clerk for the day.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Accounts from Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum were ordered to be paid for: Isabella Lough of Tweedmouth; Catherine McKay of Berwick; Edward Collins of Berwick; Alice Bruce of Twisel.</p> <p>The Auditor, Matthew Patterson, reported and passed the accounts subject to the following: He disallowed account by Anderson, Relieving Officer, for relief given to Thomas Weddell and wife, paupers, chargeable to Kyoeloe parish, as the Board</p>	10 Oct. 1843

		<p>had made no order. Anderson will be charged with this and Kylloe parish credited.</p> <p>Fees to Medical Officers for cases of midwifery have been charged to the establishment. He considers they should be charged to the parishes as he considers this a parochial charge.</p> <p>Method of payment to contractors. A cheque for the whole amount ordered at each meeting is given to the Clerks who then paid individual accounts, obtaining receipts. This does not meet the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners. They order that any sum exceeding £3 must be paid by cheque.</p> <p>Terms of appointment of the Master of the Workhouse. He refers them to [Art. 67] of the workhouse rules and particularly to the instructional letter issued with it.</p> <p>The report to be considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: W & E Willoby, Clerks; Matthew Patterson, Auditor; James B Atkinson, Relieving Officer; John Anderson, Relieving Officer; William Dods, Relieving Officer; Andrew Henderson, Medical Officer; Andrew Morison, Medical Officer; John Paxton, Medical Officer; Joseph Watson, Medical Officer; John Purdie, Master of Workhouse.</p> <p>The sixth instalment and interest on the Exchequer loan was due and was paid.</p> <p>The churchwardens and overseers of Berwick parish applied for leave to apprentice George Wilkie, a poor child of 13+ for seven years, to James Elliott, tailor of Horncliff [Horncliffe] in Norham parish. Agreed – the overseers to pay Elliott £5, half when the indenture is allowed by the Justices, half on the expiration of half of the seven years.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported on the tenders for the next 6 months received for provisions, clothing etc. as agreed at the last meeting: Alexander</p>	
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		<p>Smith Junior (beef 3sh 8d per stone); Alexander Darling (bread, equal qualities of flour and round meal of the best quality -12 ounces per loaf 7/8 d per loaf, bread for outdoor poor same quality - 5¼ lbs 6d); Joseph Milburne (raw sugar - 66sh per cwt, tea - 4sh 8d per lb, coffee unground -1sh 8d per lb, tobacco - 3sh 8d per lb, black snuff - 3sh 4d per lb, black pepper unground - 1sh 1d per lb, yellow soap - 48sh per cwt, soda - 9sh per cwt); M Paulin (salt - 2sh 4d per stone); James Sanderson (dip candles - 5sh 6d to 12 lbs, mould candles - 6sh 6d to 12lbs); Balmer & Wood (port wine - 2sh 9d per bottle, whisky - 2sh 4d per bottle, porter - 3 ½ d per bottle); Robert Sanderson (coal - 7sh 6d per ton); Robert Chrisp (suits for men -22sh 2d, boys under 7 - 6sh 9d, boys 7 to 12 - 10sh 10d, boys 12 to 16 - 14sh 9d); George Hay (genuine oatmeal 30 sacks - 27sh, outdoor poor same quality - 1sh 5 ½ d per stone); Charles Forsythe (calico 7/8th - 28yds 4d, canvas - 50 [yds] 6d, handkerchiefs for boys - 4 doz 2sh); Robert Rutherford & Co (calico unbleached 9/8th -100yds 2 ¾ d, linen tape 25 - 2doz, blue bonnets – [1 doz] 2 sizes 10d and 1sh); John Paxton (striped cotton shirting - 40yds 6 ¾ d, unbleached bed ticking – 100 10 ¾ d); Robert Cairns (3 thread dark grey woollen yarn – [60] 2sh); George Smith (dark drab jean for stays – 30yds 5 ¾ d); George Winlaw (women’s shoes 3sh 8d, boys shoes 2sh 11d and 3sh 8d); James Jaffrey (3 gross steel pens 1sh 6d). the tenders were accepted, the butcher and baker to find security for due performance of contract.</p> <p>Resolved that the Workhouse Committee investigate accommodation within the Workhouse for those pauper lunatics who might safely stay there. This was prompted by a letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 16 September 1843, in response to the Lunatic Return for the year to 15 August 1843. They suggest that the Board enquires from the Medical Officer for the Workhouse and the medical officers where the paupers stay whether there is a reasonable prospect of cure if treated in an asylum. They also point out that all such cases should be sent to an asylum initially to receive professional superintendence and that it is in the early stages that there is the best chance of cure.</p>	
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			<p>A letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 31 August 1843, concerning the competency of medical practitioners with Scotch and Irish qualifications was read. It gave the opinion of the Attorney General and another counsel, requested by the Secretary of State for the Home Office.</p> <p>1 Those having a Surgical diploma or degree from a Royal College or University in Scotland or Ireland are legally as competent as medical officers under the Poor Law Act as those holding a qualification of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.</p> <p>2 Those having only Scotch or Irish medical qualifications are not competent to practice pharmacy in England or Wales.</p> <p>The Commissioners accept the above and will modify their General Order of 12 March 1842 accordingly.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/39-41	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 24 October 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Nathaniel Dodds; Thomas Pinkerton; Nicholas Bell; John McGregor; Alexander Christison; Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Robert Carr. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison; John Paxton; Andrew Henderson. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for supplies and services: James Sanderson (tea , candles); M Paulin (salt); George Weatherhead (groceries); Robert Sanderson (coal); Joseph Milburne (groceries); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour, beer, straw, candles, sand etc, eggs, straw); Balmer & Wood (wine etc); John Main (repairing clothes); Robert Chrisp (clothes); Daniel Lyon (shoes); Walter Thompson (books, stationery); John Robertson (lock etc); Thomas Chartres (dusters etc); D A Lamb (plumber and glazier work); Charles</p>	24 Oct. 1843

		<p>Cuthbertson (carpenter work); Robert Cuthbertson (for inspecting); Frederick Mallet (Poor Law Gazette);</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by Messrs Anderson and Dods, for parishes within their districts.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: John Cockburn and Ellen Smeaton.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Peter Foreman of Berwick; Mary Dickenson of Berwick; Isabella Carr of Berwick; George Porteous of Tweedmouth; Jane Selkirk of Shoreswood; Mary Hall of Berwick.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Report of the Auditor, Matthew Patterson, presented at the last meeting was discussed and decided: The advice of the Poor Law Commissioners to be sought regarding whether payment to Medical officers for cases of midwifery should be charged to the establishment or the parishes. In future payment of bills over £3 must be paid in accordance with Art. 23 of the Poor Law Commissioners. Terms of appointment of the Master of the Workhouse ref. Art. 67 of the Workhouse Rules and the instructional letter of the Commissioners. In future he must account for the produce of bones, kitchen stuff and other refuse sold from or consumed in the Workhouse.</p> <p>They read and considered a letter from the Marquis of Londonderry, dated 14 October 1843, from Wynyard Park, concerning a report in the <i>Berwick and Kelso Warder</i>. This concerned appointments to the North Durham Magistracy and alluded to his letter to the Board of Guardians. The article said that "my delicacy about making a larger encrease [sic] of Magistracy is overstrained". He points out that the Board has not indicated any problem since the appointment</p>	
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			<p>of the last two magistrates and that, if they considered more were necessary and indicated suitable gentlemen, he would recommend them to the Lord Chancellor.</p> <p>.To write to His Lordship stating that the paragraph in the <i>Berwick and Kelso Warder</i> referred to was made without their sanction and knowledge and that the letter prepared by the Clerks was adopted.</p> <p>The report of the Workhouse Committee of the examination of children in the Workhouse and the children of outdoor poor attending other schools was not ready, but would be presented to the next meeting.</p> <p>The Overseers of Berwick to apply to the Justices for orders upon Robert Veitch and George Gibson for the maintenance of their daughters.</p> <p>The Master of the Workhouse to report : Jonathon Middleton for taking from the Workhouse a pair of drawers. Jane Mansell and Marjory Robertson for purchasing articles of clothing, knowing they belonged to the Workhouse.</p> <p>To accept John Robertson's offer to make a chair for the conveyance of the sick to the Workhouse, the cost not to exceed £2 12 sh.</p> <p>Tenders for 40 bolls of potatoes to be advertised and received for the next meeting.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/41-46	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 7 November 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; J R Nicholson [James Nicholson]; Alexander Laing; John Wilson; Adam Bell; William Heron. Medical Officer: Andrew Morison Chairman: Alexander Robertson</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson</p>	7 Nov. 1843

			<p>[James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for supplies and services: George Hay (30 sacks oatmeal); James Sanderson (candles); Alexander Darling (bread); Robert Sanderson (coal); Joseph Milburne (groceries); M Paulin (salt); George Oswald (barley); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour, fish, chaff, sand etc, straw for pigs, eggs); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Alexander Robertson, Chairman of the Board, presented his report on the education of children attending the Workhouse school and children of the outdoor poor attending other schools. It was based on a visit made on one day by himself accompanied by Mr. Atkinson, Relieving Officer, which took place two or three weeks previously.</p> <p>He first reported on the Workhouse School. There are six classes: Class 1: 6 children, average age 4 ½, studied the alphabet and words of 2 letters, McCulloch's 1st book. Monitor James Wilson, -- age, outdoor, 3 yrs at Workhouse School. Class 2: 13 children, average age 5 ½, studied reading and spelling short words, McCulloch's 1st book. Monitor --- Kennedy, -- years indoor, 18 months at Workhouse School. Class 3: 13 children, average age 7, reading – simple facts and maxims – a few, McCulloch's 2nd book. Monitor John Pringle, 12 years outdoor, 18 months at Workhouse School. Class 4: 15 children, average age 9, reading simple narration, as trades – animals and moral tales, all writing, some in first rules of arithmetic, geography, maps, McCulloch's 3rd book. Monitor Agnes Lamb, 12 years outdoor, 3 yrs at Workhouse School. Class 5: 19 children, average age 12, reading tales and extracts relating to natural history, elementary science, religion and selection from Old Testament</p>	
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		<p>writing and arithmetic, geography. McCulloch's 4th book, Miss Austin's selections from Old Testament. Monitor Margery Ogle, 12 years outdoor, 5 yrs at Workhouse School.</p> <p>Class 6: 13 children, average age 13 ½ , same as Class 5 plus reading from the Bible. Monitor George Conolly, 14 yrs outdoor, 6 years at Workhouse School. Classes 2 & 3 need small slates to start writing. Classes 4 & 5 need copies of the New Testament.</p> <p>The Master assembles all scholars morning and evening on the gallery for prayer and at set times for simultaneous instruction of an elementary character and uses a blackboard for illustrating his subjects and also the maps.</p> <p>The roll has at times had 100 children, the average attendance is about 90. As he had to inspect the children at other schools on the same day he could not fully assess the proficiency of pupils and discipline. He suggests this should be done soon.</p> <p>He then makes general comments: He considered the first three classes should be further advanced. He advises more personal attention by the Master and better selection and training of Monitors, suggesting an hour or two per week of private teaching and training of the monitors by the Master. This would ensure his better knowledge of them and their greater respect of him.</p> <p>The three upper classes read and spelt very creditably. Class 6 read with expression and regard for punctuation. However few scholars could respond well to questioning of the meaning of frequent words and phrases. He thought there was too much rote learning, leading to overload of the memory relative to understanding.</p> <p>Classes 5 & 6 are taught the Catechisms of the Church of England or Scotland according to belief. For children living in the Workhouse, apart from attendance at local Churches on Sunday and an evening Sunday service in the Workhouse, taken by the Dissenting Ministers in town in turn, religious and moral instruction devolved entirely on the Schoolmaster. He suggests members of the Workhouse Committee contribute to this.</p> <p>He regrets that the Master is not qualified to teach vocal music [singing], the</p>	
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			<p>value of which he extols at length. Mr. Allison, Clerk of Berwick Church, has been teaching the children to sing hymns with no payment. He suggests that he might systematically teach vocal music for a small annual sum.</p> <p>He suggests: an outward distinction in dress for the monitors to increase their standing, maxims, drawings, maps etc. are hung on the walls, the children be given an interval of about 15 minutes morning and afternoon. The children were on the whole clean and some very neat. Discipline was good but the master was abrupt with too frequent use of the cane. The attendance of outdoor scholars was very regular. The practice of stopping a small portion of relief if frequent absence was due to the parent, clearly helped.</p> <p>Children attending other schools was as follows: Corporation Schools – 4; Revd Mr Leach’s – 7; Mr Redpath’s – 12; Mr Woods – 1; Mr Hume’s – 5; Mr Boston – 3; Mrs Lauder’s – 3; Mrs Dugdale’s – 1; Mrs Forster’s – 2; School of Industry – 2; Total – 40, children of both sexes aged 5 to 14.</p> <p>The instruction and proficiency did not differ much from that of the Workhouse School. Any distinction observed was in favour of the Workhouse School (especially the older pupils) and Mr Redpath’s seminary.</p> <p>He expresses much concern that the outdoor poor who live too far for their children to attend the Workhouse School, have to pay for schooling from their relief. He considers all children under the care of the Board should receive education to prepare them for life and suggests the cost of schooling should be added to relief where the child lives too far to attend the Workhouse school. He records the presence and contribution to the education of the outdoor children of Mr Atkinson, Relieving Officer.</p> <p>The report was accepted and to be considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: Thomas Short and Isabella Straughan.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Child of Berwick; Eleanor Garret.</p>	
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			<p>Fees for midwifery cases: Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners which concurred with the opinion of the auditor that these should be charged to the respective parish and not the Establishment Account.</p> <p>Letter received from the Commissioners concerning a letter they had received from Ebenezer Black, Guardian and Overseer for Grindon, asking for the Board's observations. Black had complained that the parish had been required to contribute to the funds of the Union when they already had more money belonging to the parish than needed to cover the quarter's expenses. Agreed to send to the Commissioners the last quarter's accounts with that township which showed that at the end of the quarter there was a credit of 5¼d.</p> <p>Letter received from the Commissioners, asking for the Board's perusal of a letter received from A Davidson, Assistant Overseer for Norham township. It concerned payment to him of surveyor's charges for valuing the township under the Commissioners' order of 18 March 1840. He asked whether the valuation was satisfactory to the Guardians and ratepayers, as he had not received payment. Resolved to defer to the next meeting, the Clerk to give notice to the Guardians.</p> <p>Reply received from the Commissioners concerning the Treasurer's letter explaining that he had no funds to meet cheques drawn upon him by the Board. The Commissioners accepted the Board's explanation of the cause of the delay in asking the overseers for their respective contributions. They note that concerning the townships in arrears, with two exceptions the money had not been received at the date of the letter. While the Commissioners did not recommend harshness, improper delay or neglect in payment should be dealt with firmly and if necessary by proceedings under 2&3 Vict. Cap 84: Sec 1.</p> <p>Following the remarks of the Editor of the <i>Berwick and Kelso Warder</i> on 28 October 1843, concerning the conduct of the Marquis of Londonderry re the magistracy of North Durham, the Chairman, in justice to the Marquis, had</p>	
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			<p>published the whole correspondence in both local newspapers. The Board approved this.</p> <p>Mr Home, Superintendent Registrar, presented an account from the Registrar General, for Registration Books ordered by his predecessor, D Sinclair. There was uncertainty about previous part payment. Referred to Workhouse Committee.</p> <p>An explanation was received from Mr. Anderson. Relieving Officer of Islandshire District, concerning refusal by the Auditor of payment of relief to Thomas Weddle and wife [minutes of Meeting on 10 October 1843]. For the past four years the Weddles had been in receipt of relief from Kyloe parish. As they were resident in Newcastle they received it from Mr. Heslop, Receiving Officer of Newcastle. After the 9th week of the Ladyday Quarter 1843 relief stopped for 7 weeks, when they reapplied. As Weddle could not get work, Mr Heslop restarted it. On receipt of the account from Newcastle, Anderson paid it, charging it to outrelief. He did not think a fresh order from the Board was necessary and that it was covered by the previous one. The Board accepted this explanation.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/46 -49	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 21 November 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Smith; Nathaniel Dods; Thomas W Tait [Thomas Tait]; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; William Heron; James Laing; John McLeod; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; Adam Bell; Robert Carr. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for supplies and services: Thomas Anderson (one</p>	21 Nov. 1843

		<p>year's rent of workhouse garden; John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse (milk, flour and fish, clothing, repairing clothes, chaff, sand etc. 35 loads of stones, eggs for Susan Bradford)</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: Frances Lough and Jane Baxter; Thomas Short and Isabella Straughan.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Rachel Wright of Berwick; George Harrison of Berwick; Stephen Spowart of Tweedmouth; Henry Logan of Tweedmouth; Ann Marshall of Norham.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, enclosing a letter of complaint from an inmate of the workhouse, Jonathan Middleton, asking for their observations and an enquiry and its result into the alleged misconduct of the Master. Middleton says that he is cruelly used by the Master. He is made to work outside, despite being ill with the palsy, making him worse. Also the Master "set a madman on to attack" him and he would have been murdered if the other men had not intervened. This is because he is a member of the Church of England whilst the Master is a dissenter. He is not allowed out to attend Church and whilst dissenting ministers preach in the Workhouse every Sunday, Church of England never do. He has no opportunity to attend divine worship. He further complains that he has repeatedly asked the Guardians to allow him outdoor relief as he wished to go to visit his married daughter in Newcastle with an eight year old boy whom she wished to take.</p> <p>They then interviewed Middleton who made a statement. About four months before he was in the men's dayroom on a Sunday just before dinner when he was attacked by Harry Joy. Joy knocked him down and struck him several times, Middleton having asked him what he was doing in the women's room the night before. The Master came in and on hearing what had happened, blamed Middleton. Two or three weeks later he met Joy, who was no longer an inmate,</p>	
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		<p>in the street and was told by him that the Master had told him to strike Middleton. Joy is now dead. Middleton then stated that he did not recollect the Chairman telling him that he could not go out to Church because of his abuse of the privilege. He also stated that Master had done nothing to influence his religious opinions and he had not been compelled to attend the services within the Workhouse.</p> <p>The Master then made a statement. He remembered being called to the incident in the dayroom. He found Joy very excited; the quarrel was because Middleton had abused him and told lies about him. The Master criticised Middleton for interfering and criticising Joy, knowing that he was easily aroused and had difficulty in controlling himself. He had never told Joy to attack Middleton or said anything to him which could be so construed. Joy left the Workhouse on 17 June 1843, was readmitted on 31 August and was in bed until his death on 30 September. He said that Middleton did not break stones but was employed spinning hay ropes under a wooden shed. The Medical Officer said he was fit for this and indeed more laborious employment.</p> <p>The Board ordered that a copy of the statements be sent to the Commissioners. They added that in their opinion there was no truth in Middleton's allegations against the Master. Middleton was of worthless and deprived character; he was released from prison on 16 inst. being convicted of selling clothing from the Workhouse. He had been repeatedly detected in petty thefts from other inmates (one currently being investigated). He was refused permission to go out because he repeatedly carried out articles and was frequently seen in the streets during the time of the Church Service. No inmate was compelled or asked to attend the services held in the Workhouse, of which the Board were aware. Church of England clergy would be very welcome to officiate. Outdoor relief was refused, as quite apart from his indolence, Middleton was quite capable of supporting himself. His son would be placed in peril of depravity in his father's care. They also ordered that a specimen of Middleton's handwriting be sent as they think that the letter of 4 March last, signed by Anthony Percy was written by Middleton. Percy denied having written it.</p>	
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			<p>They considered the letter from the Commissioners concerning the payment of surveyor's charges for the township of Norham in 1840. The Clerk to reply that the Guardians for Norham and Norham Mains, who were present, and were substantial ratepayers were not satisfied with the valuation. Smaller holdings were not rated sufficiently high in comparison with the larger ones. They did not wish a new valuation to be made and would not oppose payment of the account. The Board's view was that this should be determined by the inhabitants of the township in vestry rather than by the Board.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported on the matter of the account from the Registrar General to Mr Home, Superintendent Registrar for £12 2sh 10d. It seemed that part of the account, £8 12sh 10d had been received from several Registrars and Parish Officers by his predecessor, Mr Sinclair. Agreed that a copy of the account held by Sinclair be sent to the Registrar General.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee recommended that, having seen samples, potatoes be purchased from William Hair and George Shanks. Agreed. They also had ordered 24 Testaments and 20 slates for the school and a bell for the upper room of the Master's House. Approved.</p> <p>The Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of Berwick applied for permission to apprentice Robert Hopkins, a poor boy resident in Berwick, to Thomas Thew, tailor of Holy Island, for seven years. The Board interviewed Hopkins and Thew, ascertaining that the former was fit and the latter, from certificates presented, was of respectable character. This was agreed and the Churchwardens and Overseers were authorised to pay Thomas Thew a premium of £5: £2 10sh when the Justices allow the indenture and £2 10sh at the expiry of the third year of the term.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners acknowledging receipt and thanking the Board for their statement concerning the complaint against the Board by Ebenezer Black.</p>	
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			<p>The Clerk was ordered to apply to the Justices of North Durham to alter the rules of the Quarter Sessions regulating the sending of Scotch and Irish paupers to their place of settlement as the current rules were not applicable to North Durham.</p> <p>Consideration of the report of the School Committee was deferred to the next meeting.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/50-51	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 5 December 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; Thomas Pinkerton; Alexander Robertson; Thomas Nesbit. Medical Officer: Andrew Morison Chairman: Dr Clarke.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers, Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods], were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Balmer & Wood (wine and spirits); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Alexander Smith (beef and mutton); William Fair (potatoes); Alexander Darling (bread); James Sanderson (candles); M Paulin (salt); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour and fish, candles and chaff etc for chapel, teasing oakum); George Smith (nankeen); R Rutherford & Co (calico and bonnets); John Paxton (ticking and shirting); John Main (repairing clothes); William England (clogs); J B Atkinson (1/4 rent workhouse); David Gibson (1/2 rent Register Office); John Robertson (sedan chair); Charles Knight & Co (books and forms); Robert Home (register books and forms).</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance of pauper lunatics were presented and paid, to be charged as outrelief to the parishes, as follows:</p>	5 Dec. 1843

		<p>Gateshead Fell Asylum – George Davidson of Tweedmouth; Thomas Bogue of Berwick; George Drummond of Berwick. Bentham Asylum – Edward Young of Norham.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: Frances Lough and Jane Baxter; Thomas Short and Isabella Straughan.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Hannah Craik of Ancroft; Conro Tyrens of Tweedmouth; Margery Hasker [? of Tweedmouth]; William Moffat of Berwick.</p> <p>The Board resumed consideration of the School report, presented on 7 November 1843 and agreed unanimously to submit the following to the Poor Law Commissioners for approval. An allowance not exceeding 2d a week as a school wage should be added in respect of each child on the pauper list of school age and not living within one mile of the Workhouse school. The allowance should be paid to the schoolmasters by the relieving officers of the district where the school was situated. Certificates stating the number of days attended to be previously given by the schoolmasters to the relieving officers. The allowance was to be computed at not exceeding 2d per week for each period of 5 days certified attendance. At the end of each quarter the certificates and records of payment were to be presented to the Board.</p> <p>Mr Dods, Relieving Officer for Norhamshire, reported on the investigation he had been directed to make into the payment by Ebenezer Black, guardian and overseer for Grindon, to Jane Patterson which was considered to be parochial relief and therefore should have appeared as expenditure in the Union books: Jane Patterson, 77, a widow lives with her son in law, Thomas Tait, who has a family of 11. [She] receives from Mr Black 20sh a quarter, paid by Mr Carr of Cornhill till last February and by Mr Black since. She says the reason she was paid by Black was that on her application at the start of the Union, her name</p>	
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			<p>was not found on the Grindon list.</p> <p>Agreed that a copy of the statement be sent to Black, that Jane Patterson be brought before the next meeting for a full investigation and that Black be informed of this also.</p> <p>Resolved that the Workhouse Committee look at the expediency of getting the inmates' shoes repaired by a person within the house and whether the boys in the Workhouse could be employed with the tailor and shoe repairer doing the work in the Workhouse.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/52-55	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 19 December 1843	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Nathaniel Dodds; Alexander R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; Alexander Laing; Alexander Smith; Alexander Christison; Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Nicholas Bell; Thomas Pinkerton; Adam Bell; James Laing; William Heron; Thomas Hubback. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>According to the Porter's book, 525 vagrants were given relief in the last quarter, 258 chargeable to Berwick and 267 to Tweedmouth. The total cost was £3. 0. 10¼. the two parishes to be debited proportionally.</p> <p>Vaccination fees: Berwick, 21 cases, Andrew Henderson; Horncliff [Horncliffe], 3 cases, John Paxton; Norham, 7 cases, John Paxton; Twisel [Twizel], 1 case, John Paxton; Cornhill, 9 cases, John Paxton; Shoreswood, 1 case, John Paxton;</p>	19 Dec. 1843

			<p>Ancroft, 8 cases, Andrew Morison; Tweedmouth 20 cases, Andrew Morison; Kylloe, 4 cases, Andrew Morison; Holy Island, 6 cases, Joseph Watson.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Robert Sanderson (coal); M Paulin (salt); Balmer & Wood (wine, spirits etc.); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Joseph Milburne (groceries); James Sanderson (candles); Alexander Darling (bread); G Shanks (potatoes); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour etc, eggs Susan Bradford, sweep chimneys etc, teasing oakum); Robert Cairns (yarn); John Turner (hat); John Smart (clogs); Alexander Meikle (shoes repairing); Charles Forsythe (drapery); Robert Chrisp (clothes); John Main (repairing clothes); Thomas Weatherston & Son (repairing roofs); George Logan (schoolmaster); Elizabeth Buglass (sewing mistress); John Moor (porter); John Hume (barber);</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Medical fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson, 5 cases of midwifery; Tweedmouth, Andrew Henderson, 1 case of midwifery; Kylloe, 1 case of midwifery.</p> <p>Notice for marriage was read for: Christian Ogilvie and James How.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance of pauper lunatics were presented and paid, to be charged as outrelief to the parishes, as follows: Bentham Asylum, Robert Jordan, Tweedmouth; Morningside Asylum, George Wilson, Holy Island.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Margaret Richardson's child of Ancroft; Elizabeth Quin of Berwick; William Alexander of Tweedmouth.</p>	
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		<p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the instruction of Dissenting Ministers instructed that children of a different religious persuasion from that of the Minister should not attend instruction and asked whether this had happened.</p> <p>The Board replied: that the older children having previously attended Sabbath services at the places of public worship of the denominations to which they belonged, are taken to evening services in the schoolroom, performed in rotation by the Dissenting Ministers. The clergy of the Established Church are open to take part but so far have not done so. Members of the Board are frequently present and in their opinion the discourses are free from sectarian views, the object being to illustrate in plain and simple language the leading truths of Christianity.</p> <p>The Board submitted the following to the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the payment by Ebenezer Black in the case of Jane Patterson and asked for advice as soon as possible.</p> <p>The township of Grindon is included in the Berwick Poor Law Union and since its formation, Black has represented Grindon as guardian. He farms the entire township and is the only ratepayer and is also overseer. The Board learnt that Black had been directly paying himself, rather than through the Union Officer, certain legally settled paupers in Grindon. The sums had not been entered in either the Parochial or Union Accounts.</p> <p>They referred to the resolution passed at the meeting on 4 July 1843 that the matter should be investigated by the Auditor.</p> <p>Black had paid each of the two paupers 1sh 6d per week. On investigating the circumstances, the Board ordered the Relieving Officer to pay each 2sh for the future.</p> <p>Before the Auditor could start his investigation, the Poor Law Commissioners wrote on 2 August stating that Mr. Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, had been asked to investigate on his next visit. He had investigated but the Board had not been informed of the result.</p> <p>A third very similar case to those of W Lindrum and M Forsythe was discussed</p>	
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		<p>at the Meeting of 5 December. Black who had been asked to attend this meeting had not done so, writing instead, addressed to the Chairman. The letter was copied: It started "as you have engrossed the whole Board in your own sweet person".... He says that the letter he received from the Clerk stated that Jane Patterson said she had received money from Black as paupers upon Grindon. He says that this is false. Her son and daughter are prepared to swear on oath that neither they nor their mother had ever applied directly or indirectly to anyone connected with the Poor Law for relief but that [Robertson] had sent someone to bribe them by telling them that if they applied they would receive 1sh per week more. He says Robertson's behaviour is neither gentlemanly nor legal. There is no law to empower going round the country to fish out subjects for relief when no application was made. To promise any sum is also a breach of public duty and that an officer doing such should be displaced. He takes the whole proceeding as a personal insult and is not surprised at this illegal proceeding. He accuses Robertson of refusing to put the question when a motion was before the Board. He will not succumb to pressure. In every Union it is practice for people to be paid out of the private purse of Guardians without letting anyone know. If a stranger offered to pay all the paupers in a township and said he would notify the Relieving Officer to take them off the books, or if the paupers so requested, could the Board refuse? He asks what morality there is in taking £60 out of his pocket for no earthly purpose to the poor.</p> <p>The Clerk acknowledged the letter and said that the Chairman could take no further notice as the matter is before the Board.</p> <p>Black replied making four points: Jane Patterson had never been on the parish books of Grindon. She had never been legally removed there. She had never applied directly or indirectly to the Union for relief. He did not acknowledge her as a pauper on the parish.</p> <p>The Board summed up. They understood that Jane Patterson had been chargeable to Grindon under Black's predecessor, Mr. Smith, and there was no doubt that she was paid by Black solely on the ground that that she had a legal claim on his township. They had decided to appeal to the Poor Law</p>	
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			Commissioners for advice and direction. By Black acting thus other parishes in the Union were having to carry the amount of establishment charges he was avoiding; paupers were placed under the power of a single and interested individual; other parishes with two or three ratepayers could decide to adopt the same plan and the Union would be virtually dissolved.	
Item	GBR 39/ 55-58	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 2 January 1844	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; John Wilson; James Turnbull; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; James Laing; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Alexander Smith. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: R Sanderson (coals); M Paulin (salt); Balmer & Wood (wine & spirits); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Alexander Darling (bread); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour, etc, carpet shoes, candles for chapel and christening children etc., teasing oakum, eggs); James Sanderson (candles); John Main (repairing clothes); George Winlaw (shoes); Phoenix Fire Office (insurance); Walter Thompson (school books, stationery etc); Frederick Mallet (Poor Law Gazette); John Dodds (strait jackets); Charles Knight & Co (books and forms); Charles Cuthbertson (carpenter work); James Yule (hammer handles etc).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: George Richardson and Jane Hills; Christian Ogilvie and James How.</p>	2 Jan. 1844

		<p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Ralph Edminson of Norham; Rose Cavendish of Norham; Jane Hunter of Berwick; Mary Higgins of Berwick; Arthur McNeil of Berwick; John Trotter of Tweedmouth; James Sommerville of Tweedmouth; Jane Milburne of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>The report of the Auditor, Matthew Patterson, was read. He had approved all the accounts.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for the Clerks, W & E Willoby [William Willoby; Edward Willoby]; the Auditor, Matthew Patterson; the Relieving Officers, Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; The Medical Officers, Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton; Joseph Watson; the Master and Matron of the Workhouse, John and Jane Purdie.</p> <p>The Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of Tweedmouth applied for permission to apprentice William Johnson, a poor boy resident in Tweedmouth, to Henry Tait, tailor of Akeld, for seven years. The Board interviewed Johnson and Tait, ascertaining that the former was fit and the latter, from certificates presented, was of respectable character.</p> <p>This was agreed and the Churchwardens and Overseers were authorised to pay Henry Tait a premium of £5; £2 10sh when the Justices allow the indenture and £2 10sh at the expiry of the third year of the term.</p> <p>A letter from Samuel Kent, of Gateshead Fell Lunatic Asylum, in response to the Board's enquiry of 28 December 1843, was considered. Kent confirmed that there were three pauper lunatics from the Berwick Union in his establishment. He would require the order of two magistrates of his county for the removal of any of the three. On the receipt of such he would release the inmate to a person authorised by the Board.</p> <p>The board decided to send one of their medical officers, Andrew Henderson, rather than appoint a medical practitioner of Newcastle, to examine the inmates</p>	
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		<p>concerned and provide the information required to satisfy the magistrates to enable them to make the order.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning payment to assist children to attend school who lived too far from the Workhouse school [see minute of 5 December 1843]: The Commissioners replied that there was no authority to allow this to be charged to the poor rates. While the Guardians had a responsibility to provide education for children under their care and control (Poor Law Amendment Act sec 15), children relieved out of the Workhouse were not covered by the Act. However desirable education might be it, such payment was not competent.</p> <p>Copies of two letters, concerning the payment by Ebenezer Black to Jane Patterson, were presented: The first, from William Dods, Relieving Officer, said that he had interviewed Mr Turnbull of Twisel [Twizel] Mill. Turnbull said that Jane Patterson was a pauper on Grindon township during part of the time Mr Smith occupied the farm before Black and that she must have been a pauper for the whole of Black's occupation. The second from Thomas Smith, Chillingham Barns, son of Mr Smith above, said that he had asked his father re Jane Patterson, pauper chargeable on Grindon. He could not remember her first name but regularly paid her 26sh per quarter. He then enquired of his father's steward throughout his residence at Grindon. The steward fully remembered her coming for parish relief and that her first name was Jane. Copies of both letters to be sent to the Poor Law Commissioners.</p> <p>It was ordered that a copy of the relevant part of the School Committee's Report presented to the Meeting on 7 November 1843 should be given to the schoolmaster and that the School Committee be asked to discuss it with him.</p> <p>John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, reported that Isabella Whiteford and</p>	
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			<p>Elizabeth Pattison had applied to be readmitted. They were two of the girls who left the workhouse on Christmas Day when they were refused permission to go out.</p> <p>Agreed that they should be offered work in the Workhouse four days in the week, teasing oakum at 10d per stone, that they should be given dinner apart from other inmates, but find their other meals and lodgings from their earnings.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/59-62	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 15 January 1844	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Smith; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; Alexander Christison; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; John McGregor. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Smith</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: R Sanderson (coals); George Oswald (barley); Balmer & Wood (wines, spirits); Alexander Darling (bread); Alexander Smith (beef, mutton); James Sanderson (candles); Joseph Milburne (groceries); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour, teasing oakum, sand, chaff etc, eggs); John Main (repairing clothes); Charles Forsythe (clothing); Thomas Melrose (copies); George Lauder (binding); Thomas Wilson (lanterns etc); James Russell (mason Register Office); George Robison (carpenter Register Office); Thomas Wilson (glazing Register Office); R Home (coals and cleaning Register Office); David A Lamb (plumber); Thomas Chartres (hardware); C Richardson (advertising); James Russell (mason); W & E Willoby (justice fees and expenses); John Anderson (coffin).</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by Mr Anderson [John Anderson] and Mr Dods [William Dods] for parishes within their districts.</p>	15 Jan. 1844

			<p>Notices for marriage were read for: George Richardson and Jane Hills; John Robertson and Mary Lough Richardson.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance at Morningside Asylum [Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum] for the next three months were presented by the Relieving Officers. To be paid and charged as outrelief to the parish: Alice Bruce of Twisel [Twizel]; George Wilson of Holy Island; Catherine McKay of Berwick; Isabella Lough of Tweedmouth; Edward Collins of Berwick.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Margaret Galbraith of Berwick; Margaret Wright of Berwick.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Letter from Dr McKinnon, Medical Attendant of the Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum stating that Catherine McKay of Berwick was now convalescent and ready for discharge. Agreed that the Parish Officers of Berwick should make the necessary arrangements.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners to letter of 11 May 1843 concerning the amount of work to be required from vagrants. The Commissioners advised that a fixed maximum amount of work for each vagrant should be decided in the form of a resolution. Once adopted this should be sent to the Commissioners for approval under Sec 5 of Vict 5 & 6 cap 57. Agreed the Workhouse Committee should fix the amount of work required and present this for approval at the next meeting of the Board.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners to letters of 19 December 1843 and 2 January 1844 concerning the payments by Ebenezer Black to Jane Patterson. The commissioners stated that it needed a full investigation and the have asked Mr Hawley, Assistant Commissioner, to undertake this. He is to come to</p>	
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		<p>Berwick when convenient, having previously summoned Mr Black and other witnesses to appear.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners to the extract of the Minute of 19 December 1843 concerning the instruction of Dissenting Ministers to the children in the Workhouse and the offer of the Chairman [Alexander Robertson] to provide an explanation. They are willing to offer Robertson an interview but they are unlikely to change their views as the practice is contrary to a provision of the Poor Law Act. The Clerk to send a copy of the letter to Robertson.</p> <p>The Master of the Workhouse presented a letter from Mr I Lainsley of Seaton Sluice, near North Shields. Three boys, previously in Berwick Workhouse, had applied to him to be apprentices at sea. He was willing to take one, Hall, on a voyage on one of his ships. If he liked the service he would offer a seven year apprenticeship from the date of joining the ship. He would be paid £55 for the seven years and if he served his full time faithfully, £5 as a present for good conduct. He requested approval of the Board and if agreed certain articles of clothing would be required. Letter to be sent agreeing to the terms and that they would pay for the clothing.</p> <p>Following on the decision of the last meeting, Isabella Whitford and Elizabeth Pattison appeared before the Board. They said they could not earn enough to provide themselves with breakfast and lodgings. The Master confirmed this though they had worked as hard as possible. Agreed that they should be readmitted but that the strictest discipline should be enforced.</p> <p>Andrew Henderson, Medical Officer, accompanied by Alexander Robertson, Chairman, had visited Gateshead Fell and Bentham Lunatic Asylums as decided at the last meeting. His opinion was that George Drummond of Berwick, George Davidson of Tweedmouth, and Edward Young of Norham</p>	
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			<p>could quite safely be removed from the Asylum. The Keeper of Gateshead Fell said that George Bogue of Berwick had two years previously exhibited a menacing attitude though he had never committed an act of violence. Therefore he could not recommend his immediate removal, though in his opinion this could be done with safety.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/62-66	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 30 January 1844	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Smith; Ebenezer Black; Nathaniel Dodds; John McLeod; Adam Bell; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; Thomas W Tait [Thomas Tait]; James Laing; Nicholas Bell; Thomas Hubback. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Joseph Milburne (groceries); R Sanderson (coals); Alexander Darling (bread); Alexander Smith (beef and mutton); M Paulin (salt); James Sanderson (candles); Balmer & Wood (wine & spirits); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk flour etc, sand etc, teasing oakum, carpet shoes, eggs); W H Rowland (glazing etc and for Register Office); J B Atkinson (poor rate Workhouse and Register Office); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Ann Atkinson of Ancroft; man found drowned Holy Island; Eleanor Mullen of Berwick; Adam Carr of Berwick; Adam Mills of Tweedmouth; Elizabeth Rickleton of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Mr Anderson [John Anderson Relieving Officer] presented an account from the</p>	30 Jan. 1844

		<p>Blind Asylum, Edinburgh for the maintenance of James Younger, a pauper of Ancroft parish. To be charged to Outrelief to that parish.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: John Robertson and Mary Lough Richardson [no parish given].</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by Mr Atkinson [James Atkinson] for parishes within his district</p> <p>Mr Dods [William Dods, Relieving Officer for Norhamshire] reported that rent for a room in Norham for the accommodation of vagrants was due. To be paid and charged to Outrelief to the township of Norham.</p> <p>Resolved that the application of Mr Black [Ebenezer Black] to be given copies of the following be granted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 the statement of facts and resolution agreed by the Board on 19 December 1843,2 the letters from Mr Dods, Relieving Officer, to the Chairman3 Mr T Smith Jun. to Mr Anderson4 from the Poor Law Commissioners read at the last meeting of the Board. <p>Report received from the Workhouse Committee concerning the work to be undertaken by vagrants relieved in the workhouse. The kind of work: breaking stones for men; beating sand for women. The committee did not consider it possible to fix the amount of this kind of work but recommended rather than the "amount of work" the time required should be specified as follows: if admission takes place at an hour in the afternoon to allow 2 hours work and if the admission takes place earlier, work to be required during the same hours as inmates. In all cases, whether work has been done the previous day or not, 2 hours work should be required before leaving the workhouse.</p> <p>The report was approved and a resolution passed. This required the Master to set every adult not suffering any temporary or permanent infirmity of body,</p>	
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			<p>being an occasional poor person who shall be relieved in the workhouse in return for food and lodging to perform work as follows. Males to break stones and females to beat sand for the following periods: two hours on the day of admission and two hours in the morning before being discharged. But if the time of admission is such that more than two hours work is possible, the Master is empowered to require further work if he thinks fit. Provided that no person shall be detained against his will for the performance of such work for any time exceeding four hours from the hour of breakfast next after admission. Ordered that the above be forwarded to the Poor Law Commissioners for approval.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had obtained the necessary warrants from two Justices of the County of Durham for the removal of George Drummond and George Davidson from Gateshead Fell Lunatic Asylum and of Edward Young from Bentham Lunatic Asylum. The majority of members present signed authorities to James Proudfoot to act on the warrants.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/66-71	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 13 February 1844	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Smith; Ebenezer Black; John Wilson; William Heron; James Laing; George Dodds; J R Nicholson [James Nicholson]; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; T W Tait; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison; John Paxton; Andrew Henderson. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: R Sanderson (coals); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Alexander Darling (bread); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Balmer & Wood (wine & spirits); James Sanderson (candles); John Purdie, Master of the</p>	13 Feb. 1844

			<p>Workhouse, (milk, flour etc, pails, sand, teasing oakum, clothes etc, eggs etc); R Guthrie (metal pillars, grate etc); William H Fyfe (printing); Thomas Cockburn (plasterer for regr office); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: John Smith of Berwick; James Inglis of Berwick; Elizabeth Anderson of Berwick; Hugh Gallagher of Berwick; George Smith of Berwick; Eleanor Millar of Berwick.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning work to be done by vagrants. They point out that the Minute makes no provision for vagrants who arrive too late to do 2 hours work that day. Amendment made to Minute - if it is not possible to complete 2 hours work on the day of admission, such shorter period as is possible. They also added – provided that such amount of work should not be required if the person’s age, strength and capacity appear not to be suited.</p> <p>Resolved that the Overseers of the township of Grindon take necessary proceedings against the sons of Mary Forsythe, a pauper of Grindon, for repayment of 2sh allowance per week made to her.</p> <p>Following on the decision made on 12 September 1843, The Relieving Officers, Messrs Atkinson, [James Atkinson] and Anderson [John Anderson] and the Master of the Workhouse John Purdie, provided the following sureties: Atkinson – John Turner, hat manufacturer and John Weatherly, stationer. Anderson – James Thompson, Shoreswood Hall and John Thompson, Holy Island. Purdie – Rev William Compton Lundie, Carham Vicarage and Alexander Sanderson of Hutton Feuar. Accepted, bonds to be prepared and executed.</p>	
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			<p>The last instalment of the sureties in respect of the previous Treasurer, John Rowland, due last month had not been paid. The Clerk to contact the sureties.</p> <p>Ebenezer Black gave notice of the following motion for the Meeting on 12 March: To take the sense of the Board on the propriety of reconsidering the case relating to the duty of Overseers and the power they have by law to interfere with the functions of this Officer as in the case lately before them on 16 January.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Justices of Berwick had refused to grant the order against George Gibson to repay the relief whilst in the Workhouse in respect of his daughter, Isabella Gibson, on the grounds that they did not have the power to do so.</p> <p>He also reported that Isabella Gibson had been convicted by the Justices under the Vagrant Act for allowing her illegitimate child to become chargeable and had been sentenced to one day's imprisonment.</p> <p>Resolved that the Overseers of Berwick take proceedings against James Bell, husband of Margaret Bell (today before the Board), for deserting her so that she and her children have become chargeable.</p> <p>Discussed that the quarter of 13 weeks was now over a week in advance of the Quarter day in consequence of the extra day each year since the formation of the Union. Suggested that the current quarter be extended by a week to terminate on 23 March and that sanction be sought from the Poor Law Commission.</p> <p>Ordered the Workhouse Committee to inspect the stove heating the safe in the Superintendent Registrar's Office, which maybe defective and remedy the defect.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/	Minutes of Berwick	Present at the meeting:	27 Feb.

	71-74	Board of Guardians meeting held on 27 February 1844	<p>Guardians: Alexander Smith; John Wilson; T W Tait []; Adam Bell; Thomas Hubback; James Marshall; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Alexander Christison. Medical Officers: John Paxton; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods]; were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); R Sanderson (coals); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Balmer & Wood (wine & spirits); James Sanderson (candles); John Purdie, master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour etc, leading stones, hammers etc, teasing oakum, knitting, eggs); John Main (repairing clothes); Alexander Meikle (repairing shoes); Robert Chrisp (clothes).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Robert Fram of Kylee; Jane Emery of Berwick; Margaret Paxton of Berwick.</p> <p>Agreed to pay the account of £12 from Edinburgh Blind Asylum for one year's maintenance for Robert Spowart, pauper of Tweedmouth, to be charged to outrelief against Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners agreeing that the present quarter end on 23 March. Officers to keep accounts accordingly.</p> <p>Ordered that at the next meeting the election of medical officers of the union take place. To find out from the Poor Law Commissioners if it is discretionary to make the appointments for one year or for a longer period as they think fit or whether the officers appointed can continue in office subject to the</p>	1844
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			<p>contingencies mentioned in Art 30 General Medical Order.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that Tweedmouth parish and the townships of Shoreswood and Felkington were in arrears of the last orders made on them. The Clerk to ask the relevant overseers to pay the arrears.</p> <p>Following on the report by Andrew Henderson, Medical Officer for Berwick to the meeting on 16 January, recommending the removal of George Bogue from Mr Kent's asylum at Gateshead Fell, they ordered that application be made to the Justices of Durham for his removal. Dr Henderson was asked to attend the hearing.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had had no reply from the sureties of the late Treasurer concerning the arrears. Ordered to contact them again.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 74-80	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 12 March 1844	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Smith; Alexander Robertson; T W Tait []; John Wilson; James Laing; William Heron; Nicholas Bell; Alexander Christison; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Thomas Hubback; Ebenezer Black; Alexander Laing; Adam Bell; Thomas Pinkerton; John McGregor; Thomas Fender; Henry Short; George Dodds; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton), R Sanderson (coals); Balmer & Wood (spirits etc); Joseph Milburne (groceries); John Sanderson (candles); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse</p>	12 March 1844

			<p>(milk brandy & flour, knitting, sand etc, teasing oakum, eggs); M Paulin (salt); John Main (repairing clothes); Francis Lough (chairs); J Jeffray (stationery).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: G Stobie of Berwick.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance at Gateshead Fell Asylum for Thomas Bogue of Berwick; George Drummond of Berwick; George Davidson of Tweedmouth; and at Bentham Asylum for Edward Young of Norham; were presented. To be paid and charged as outrelief to the parish:</p> <p>Notice for marriage was read for: Walter Kirkwood and Jane Cowan.</p> <p>The Clerk updated on payment arrears by parishes reported at last meeting: Felkington - Treasurer's records showed they had paid. Tweedmouth – had paid £66. Shoreswood – no payment. The Overseers of Tweedmouth and Shoreswood were to be told that unless the arrears were paid immediately, proceedings would be taken before the Justices to enforce payment.</p> <p>Update on non-payment by the sureties of the late Treasurer, Mr Rowland: Mr Weatherhead was ready to pay his share and trusted the Board would urge the others to do likewise. Clerk to request immediate payment of the balance due by all sureties.</p> <p>Ebenezer Black made the motion, of which he had given notice on 13 February: To take the sense of the Board on the propriety of reconsidering the case relating to the duty of Overseers and the power they have by law to interfere with the functions of this Officer as in the case lately before them on 16 January. The motion was not seconded.</p>	
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			<p>Election of Medical Officers for the following districts: Berwick, - the entire parish of Berwick, including attendance at the Workhouse. Norhamshire – the whole of Norhamshire. Islandshire – the whole of Islandshire except Holy Island. Holy Island.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning length of contract. It reminds them of sec 20 of the General Medical Order. The Board can limit the period of appointment to that entered in the Minutes or expressly inserted in the written contract and subsequently approved by the Poor Law Commissioners. The following appointments, subject to the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners, were made for one year from 25 March 1844 to 25 March 1845.</p> <p>Berwick – Andrew Henderson, salary of £50 pa exclusive of the fees prescribed by the Medical Order. Norhamshire - John Paxton; salary of £30 pa exclusive of the fees prescribed by the Medical Order. Islandshire – Andrew Morison, salary of £35 pa exclusive of the fees prescribed by the Medical Order. Holy Island – Joseph Watson, salary of £5 pa exclusive of the fees prescribed by the Medical Order.</p> <p>In addition Messrs Henderson, Morison and Paxton were required to attend the fortnightly meetings of the Board and Henderson had also to attend the meetings of the Workhouse Committee.</p> <p>Received from the Poor Law Commissioners an order approving the order passed by the Board on 13 February concerning the work to be done by vagrants. Copies of the order to be printed and displayed in conspicuous parts of the Workhouse.</p> <p>Order made by the Justices of Durham for the removal of George Bogue from</p>	
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			<p>Mr Kent's Asylum, authorising James Proudfoot to execute it. Order signed by the Chairman and two Guardians.</p> <p>Account from Andrew Henderson for expenses and time submitted. To be paid and charged in equal proportions to Berwick, Tweedmouth and Norham.</p> <p>A unanimous vote of thanks, proposed by Dr Clarke, seconded by Mr Christison, was made to Alexander Robertson for his Chairmanship for the last two years.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/81 - 88	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 26 March 1844. This was the first meeting of the New Board	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Christison; Alexander Laing; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Nathaniel Dodds; Thomas Pinkerton; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; George Weatherhead; Alexander Robertson; Alexander Smith; John Laing; John Todd Smith; Edward Davidson; John Dunbar; Francis Forster; Thomas Hownam; George Wood; Ebenezer Black; Ninian Sanderson. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison. W A T Hawley Assistant Poor Law Commissioner. Chairman: On the motion of Edward Davidson, seconded by Ninian Sanderson, Alexander Christison to chair the Meeting until the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. As Mr Willoby was unable to attend, A S Park was appointed Clerk for the day.</p> <p>The Clerk gave the return for election of Guardians for the ensuing year: Berwick-on-Tweed: Thomas Tait; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Alexander Christison; John Wilson; George Weatherhead; Thomas Hownam; Francis Forster; Edward Davidson; Ninian Sanderson. Tweedmouth: Alexander Robertson; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; James Laing; William Heron; Adam Bell. Kylloe: Thomas Scott. Ancroft: Thomas Pinkerton. Holy Island: John Todd Smith. Lonend [Loanend]: John Dunbar.</p>	26 March 1844

		<p>Longridge: George Wood. Norham Mains: John McLeod. Shoreswood: Nathaniel Dodds. Felkington: Robert Carr. Norham: Alexander Smith. Twisel [Twizel]: John Archbold. Cornhill: John Laing. Horncliff [Horncliffe]: No nomination received. Duddo, Grindon and Thornton: Nominations received too late.</p> <p>Alexander Robertson was elected Chairman and Alexander Smith Vice Chairman.</p> <p>Alexander Smith, who had entered, took the Chair.</p> <p>The following were elected to the Workhouse and Finance Committee: Chairman – Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Vice Chairman – Alexander Christison. Members – Thomas Tait; John Wilson; George Weatherhead; Thomas Hownam; Francis Forster; Edward Davidson; Ninian Sanderson. They were also appointed to the School Committee with the addition of Thomas Pinkerton.</p> <p>Alexander Robertson now took the Chair.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>The outrelief given to vagrants over the past quarter was reported. The number of vagrants (noted in the Porter's book) was 778; 440 chargeable to Berwick, 308 to Tweedmouth, 20 to Felkington and 10 to Holy Island.</p>	
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		<p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Joseph Milburne (groceries); R Sanderson (coals, candles); A Darling (bread); Balmer & Wood (wine, spirits etc); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse (milk, flour and beer, knitting and carpet shoes, chaffge., teasing oakum, eggs); George Shanks (potatoes); John Main (repairing clothes); Robert Chrisp (clothes); Charles Cuthbertson (carpenter); John Drummond (smith work); George Lauder (binding); Walter Thompson (books and stationery); F Mallet (Poor Law Gazettes); Thomas Chartres (oil etc); Union Officers' postages.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: George Logan (schoolmaster); John Moor (porter); Elizabeth Buglass (sewing mistress); John Home (barber).</p> <p>Vaccination fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson, 6 cases; Tweedmouth, Andrew Morison, 24 cases; Holy Island, Joseph Watson, 2 cases.</p> <p>Cheque paid to Andrew Henderson for his expenses and charges in visiting the lunatic asylums at Newcastle and Gateshead, to be charged to Berwick, Tweedmouth and Norham.</p> <p>Medical fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson, 7 cases midwifery, 1 case simple leg fracture.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Elizabeth Emery of Ancroft; John Burns of Berwick; Jane Knox of Berwick.</p> <p>Account for maintenance at Bentham Lunatic Asylum for Robert Jordan of Tweedmouth; was presented. To be paid and charged as outrelief to the parish:</p> <p>Report back from the Clerk concerning his efforts to contact the sureties of the</p>	
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			<p>previous Treasurer. He had only heard from one, James Sharp, of Great Ryle, who said this was the first contact he had had since the last payment and asked for time to enable him to contact the other sureties to reach an arrangement. Agreed that one month be given and the Clerk to report on whether the balance had been paid.</p> <p>Letter received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the appointment of Medical Officers. They ask regarding the practicability of making the districts in conformity with the Medical order and whether the qualifications of the Medical Officers are the same as last year. They enclose for the Guardians' attention the opinion of Counsel regarding the eligibility Scotch and Irish medical men to Union Medical Officers in England. If it is not practicable to appoint Medical Officers qualified in any one of the four modes prescribed in Art 3 of the Medical Order, the Guardians must make a special minute as described in Art 4 of the Order and send a copy to the Commissioners. To be considered by the Workhouse Committee.</p> <p>John Anderson, Relieving Officer, Islandshire, stated that at the meeting on 13 February the Board had accepted his sureties of James Thompson, Shoreswood Hall and John Thompson, Holy Island. Because of serious illness, James Thompson was unable to execute the Bond. He proposed Thomas Nesbit, Spittal Hall in his place. To be considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk to request the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners of the decision made that day to grant non-resident relief to Isabella Souter, a widow.</p> <p>Account from John Home, the barber, was paid.</p> <p>The meetings before 29 September to start at 1 45pm and after that 10 30am.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/	Minutes of Berwick	Present at the meeting:	9 April

	88-91	Board of Guardians meeting held on 9 April 1844	<p>Guardians: Alexander Robertson; John Archbold; William Heron; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; James Laing; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Matthew Patterson, Auditor, reported that he had audited the books and accounts and approved them. He had also examined and approved the Bonds of the Treasurer, Master of the Workhouse and the Relieving Officers.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: W&E Willoby, Clerks; Matthew Patterson, Auditor; Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods], Relieving Officers; Andrew Henderson, Andrew Morison, John Paxton, Joseph Watson, Medical Officers; John and Jane Purdie, Master and Matron of the Workhouse.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse (milk, flour and fish etc, clothing, knitting, sand, besoms etc, teasing oakum, eggs); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Janet Hogg of Berwick; Thomas Drummond of Duddo; John Thompson of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>The accounts for maintenance for the following pauper lunatics at Morningside Lunatic Asylum were paid, to be charged as outrelief to their parishes: Edward Collins of Berwick; Isabella Lough of Tweedmouth.</p>	1844
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			<p>The Clerk reported that the date of payment of the Master and Matron of the Workhouse had been miscalculated and they had been underpaid by 11 days. Agreed that this should be paid.</p> <p>William Alexander, pauper chargeable to Berwick parish, to be sent to Morningside Lunatic Asylum.</p> <p>James Mowat, currently in the Workhouse and chargeable to Tweedmouth but having no settlement there, should be sent either to his place of settlement or to a Lunatic Asylum.</p> <p>The contracts for provisions would expire before the next meeting. The Workhouse Committee to advertise for tenders and report to the next meeting.</p> <p>To consider at the next meeting whether to apply to the Poor Law Commissioners for an order to declare a new average.</p> <p>John Anderson, Relieving Officer, now wants to name George Skelly as his surety instead of Thomas Nesbit who was a Guardian. Accepted.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/92-98	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 23 April 1844	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Edward Davidson; Adam Bell; Alexander Smith; Alexander Christison; Ninian Sanderson; John McLeod; George Weatherhead; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]; Nicholas Bell; John Wilson. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p>	23 April 1944

		<p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef and mutton); Balmer & Wood (wine & spirits); Alexander Darling (bread); Joseph Milburne (groceries); R Sanderson (coals); M Paulin (salt); James Sanderson (candles); George Oswald (barley); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse (milk, flour etc, 2 hats etc, clothes and hat, lime, sand etc, teasing oakum); Alexander Meikle (repairing shoes); John Main (repairing clothes); Charles Knight & Co (books and forms); Peter Jeffrey (repairing [hammers] etc); William Dods (coffin); lamp rate –Register Office; [road] Register Office and Workhouse.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>£10 to be paid to Messrs Willoby for their time and expenses in conducting the elections of the Union.</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] for parishes within their districts.</p> <p>The accounts for maintenance for the following pauper lunatics at Morningside Lunatic Asylum were paid, to be charged as outrelief to their parishes: Alice Bruce of Twisel [Twizel]; George Wilson of Holy Island.</p> <p>The Board decided that they should apply to the Poor Law Commissioners for an order to declare new averages.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported concerning the letter from the Poor Law Commissioners about Medical Officers: they reiterated the report of 17 March 1842 concerning the areas to be covered and of 14 March 1843, creating Holy Island a separate district. They did not consider any new districts or redistribution was appropriate. Concerning the qualifications of the Medical Officers pursuant to Art 3 of the Medical Order they recommended the Board</p>	
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		<p>make a minute in accordance with Art 4. Report received and approved. The Board resolved that the circumstances concerning the qualifications of the Medical Officers are the same as adopted at the meeting on 24 May 1842, transmitted to the Commissioners - namely that it is not practicable to appoint Medical Officers qualified according to Art 3 of the Medical Order. Copies of the report and resolutions to be sent to the Commissioners.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee recommended acceptance of the following tenders for the next six months: Alexander Smith: beef- 3s 8d per stone, mutton – 5d per lb. Alexander Darling: bread made of equal amounts of flour and round meal, best qualities – 1d per 12oz loaf. Joseph Milburne: raw sugar - 66s per cwt, coffee – 1s 6d per lb, roll tobacco – 3s 6d per lb, black snuff – 3s 4d per lb, black pepper – 1s 1d per lb, soap – 46s per cwt, soda 7s 6d per cwt. George Young: tea- 4s 6d per lb, dip candles – 5s 6d per 12lbs, mould candles -6s 6d per 12 lbs. R Sanderson: coals 7s 6d per ton. George Hay: oatmeal- 27s 9d per sack. William Rutherford: oatmeal for outdoor poor – 1s 5 1/2d per stone. R Chrisp: men's suits - £1 2s 11d, boys 12 to 16 – 15s 1d, boys 7 to 12- 11s 2d, boys under 7 – 6s 11d. C Forsythe: striped drugget – 1s 5 1/2d per yard, calico 9/8th - 4d per yard, muslin – 7d per yard. J Paxton: calico 7/8th – 2 1/2d per yard, shirting – 7d per yard, tweeled flannel – 1s 2d per yard, linen filleting – 3s 9d per 12 pieces, pocket handkerchiefs 3s 9d per dozen. R Cairns: yarn – 2s 2d per lb. A Meikle: men's shoes- 6s 8d per pair, women's shoes -4s 2d per pair, boys sizes 1 to 4 – 4s 2d per pair, children's – 1s 3d per pair. Pollard: boys sizes 7 to 13 – 2s 9d per pair.</p>	
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			<p>W Thompson: letter paper – 12s per ream, Gray’s arithmetic – 8s per dozen. T Melrose: copy books – 1s 6d per dozen, shorter catechisms – 6d per dozen, church catechisms – 6 1/2d per dozen, ciphering books – 9s per dozen. J Jeffreys [James Jaffrey]: steel pens – 1s 6d per gross. R Rutherford: worsted night caps – 6s 3d per dozen, blue drugget – 1s 0 1/2d per yard. The tenders were accepted and the contractors of meat and bread were required to find security for the performance of their contracts.</p> <p>Reply from the sureties of the late Treasurer, Mr Rowland: James Sharp; William Sked; A B Weatherhead. They say that they have undergone great hardship, having paid £300 towards liquidating the claim. They point out that the Union has also received the Bank dividends and will receive any further dividend. The loss, considerable to individuals, will be very trifling to the Union. They ask if they can be relieved of further payment and express their thanks for the forbearance shown. To be considered at the meeting on 21 May.</p> <p>An application from the Master of the Workhouse for leave of absence for 3 or 4 days from 1 May was granted. The Workhouse Committee was asked to arrange for the Porter and Schoolmaster to assist in maintaining proper discipline.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: William James Simmons and Mary Gilchrist; Bernard Mallon and Christina Whilelmina [sic] Richardson; Reverend John Watson and Elizabeth Forster; John White and Mary Dumble.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 98-101	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 7 May 1844	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Christison; Thomas Hownam; James Laing; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Adam Bell; John McGregor. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison; Andrew Henderson.</p>	7 May 1844

		<p>Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); Alexander Smith (beef and mutton); Joseph Milburne (groceries); R Sanderson (coals); George Young (tea & candles); T Cockburn (porter etc); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse (milk, flour etc, knitting, chaff, sand etc, R Chrisp (clothing); coffin for Peter Sheriff; D A Lamb ([water sprig]); J Home (shaving); Berwick Overseers (one quarters rent of the Workhouse).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The account for maintenance for William Alexander, pauper lunatic at Morningside Lunatic Asylum was paid, to be charged as outrelief to Berwick parish.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Samuel Jacob of Berwick; Jane McInnes' child of Berwick; Elizabeth Mabon of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Letter from Matthew Patterson, Auditor, tendering his resignation as he was leaving Berwick to take up a post with the Honourable Commissioners of Customs. Resignation accepted and to be reported to the Poor Law Commissioners. A cordial letter of thanks to be sent to Patterson.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners sanctioning the appointments of the medical officers for the ensuing year and confirming the districts.</p>	
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			<p>The Overseers of Berwick were directed to proceed against William Hudspeth for refusing to maintain his wife and family.</p> <p>The estimate from Thomas Weatherston & Son to whitewash the schoolroom was accepted.</p> <p>A letter from the Guardians of Devizes Union asking for support for their petition to the House of Commons for abolition of the fees to medical officers as prescribed by the Commissioners' Order of 12 March 1842 was received. The Clerk to reply stating that they declined to interfere in the matter.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee to advertise for tenders for whitewashing and colouring the Workhouse.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/102-104	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 21 May 1844	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Smith; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Alexander Christison; Thomas W Tait; Edward Davidson; James R Nicholson; James Laing; John Wilson; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Nicholas Bell; John Dunbar; Thomas Hownam; Alexander Laing; John McLeod; George Weatherhead; John Laing; Robert Carr; Alexander Robertson. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the application to set new averages. Mr Hawley, Assistant Commissioner, has been asked to take new averages when his duties allow.</p> <p>Reply from the Commissioners concerning the resignation of the Auditor,</p>	21 May 1844

			<p>enclosing information to be completed and returned once the appointment is made. To elect a new Auditor at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Meeting considered the letter from the sureties for the late Treasurer, Mr Rowland, as agreed at the meeting on 23 April 1844. The resolution, proposed by Alexander Christison and seconded by T W Tait, that, subject to the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners, the Board agree to the application contained in the letter was put.</p> <p>For the Motion: Alexander Christison; Thomas W Tait; Thomas Hownam; Robert Carr; Nicholas Bell; George Weatherhead; John Wilson; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Edward Davidson; John McLeod; Alexander Laing; Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Against: Alexander Robertson, Chairman; Dr Clarke; James R Nicholson. Abstentions: James Laing; John Laing; John Dunbar.</p> <p>For the motion 12, against 3.</p> <p>When the exact amount of the deficiency is ascertained it shall be made an Establishment charge upon the Union.</p> <p>Letter from James B Atkinson, Registrar of Births and Deaths, informing them that John Weatherly, printer, had been appointed Deputy Registrar for the Berwick upon Tweed District, in case of his absence or illness. Approved.</p> <p>Tenders for colouring and whitewashing the Workhouse were received from William Weatherston and Thomas Weatherston & Son. The lower, from William Weatherston, was accepted.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Thomas Marshall of Tweedmouth.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/104-107	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 4	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Smith; John Archbold; John McLeod; John Laing; Thomas Scott; Thomas Hownam; Nichol Bell; Adam Bell;</p>	4 June 1844

		<p>June 1844</p>	<p>Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; John Todd Smith; Thomas W Tait; Edward Davidson; Alexander Laing; Alexander Christison; John Wilson; George Weatherhead; John McGregor; Thomas Pinkerton. Medical Officers: John Paxton; Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: George Hay (oatmeal); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton; Alexander Darling (bread); R Sanderson (coals); Thomas Cockburn (wine, porter etc); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse (potatoes etc, chaff straw sand etc, eggs etc, two pigs); George Young (tea & candles); Walter Thompson (school books and stationery); D A Lamb ([water sprig] Register Office); Charles Knight & Co (forms etc); Thomas Melrose (stationery); James Jaffrey [J Jeffreys] (steel pens); Barbara Clark (straw bonnets); John Anderson (coffin A Middlemiss); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Election of Auditor. As the Auditor must be elected by a majority of Guardians present the following procedure was adopted; 1.The meeting to vote on all candidates. 2. The candidate with fewest votes to be rejected. 3. Votes taken on the two remaining candidates. There were three candidates: Robert Bonkin Weatherhead, nominated by Alexander Christison, seconded by George Weatherhead; George Trotter nominated by Thomas Pinkerton, seconded by Thomas Tait; Robert Home nominated by Alexander Smith, seconded by John Archbold.</p>	
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			<p>Robert Weatherhead 7 votes: Messrs N Bell, Wilson, McLeod, Weatherhead, A Bell, Christison, A Laing.</p> <p>George Trotter 6 votes: Messrs. Pinkerton, J Smith, Scott, Davidson, J Laing, Tait.</p> <p>Robert Home 6 votes: Messrs Robertson, A Smith, Clarke, McGregor, Hownam, Archbold.</p> <p>Because of the closeness of the votes and the impossibility of eliminating one candidate, the election could not be made and a further election was deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>Mr Smith gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that the parish to be charged with the relief of Jane Biars in the Workhouse should be reconsidered.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/107-112	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 18 June 1844	<p>Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Smith; John Archbold; Thomas Scott; John McGregor; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]; Thomas Hownam; Edward Davidson; George Weatherhead; Alexander Christison; Nathaniel Dodds; John Wilson; John Laing; Robert Carr; Nicholas Bell; Thomas Pinkerton; Ebenezer Black; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; John Dunbar; James Laing; John McLeod. Medical Officers: John Paxton; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); James Milburne (groceries); Thomas Cockburn (porter); George Young (tea & candles); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk fish etc, crockery,</p>	18 June 1844

		<p>chaff sand etc, eggs, carpet shoes); Frederick Mallet (Poor Law Gazette); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Rosina Stamford of Norham; Jane Wallace of Kyle; John Bruce of Berwick; Jane Barnes of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the sureties of the late Treasurer, Rowland. The Commissioners state that the sureties must be paid in full. The guardians must remember that they are not acting as private individuals and have no authority to waive the payments. The Court of Chancery is likely to hold them accountable. If guarantees and indemnity bonds are not enforced they are of no avail.</p> <p>The Clerk to write to the Sureties, giving the purport of the reply and asking for payment on or before 29 July 1844.</p> <p>Election of Auditor.</p> <p>The same procedure was followed as at the last meeting and the same candidates were nominated.</p> <p>Robert Weatherhead 6 votes: Messrs N Bell, Weatherhead, Wilson, James Laing, Christison, McLeod.</p> <p>George Trotter 6 votes: Messrs Pinkerton, Dunbar, Scott, Davidson, John Laing, Tait.</p> <p>Robert Home 9 votes: Messrs Robertson, Archbold, Carr, McGregor, Hownam, Nesbit, Dodds, Black.</p> <p>As again no one candidate had a clear majority and no candidate could be eliminated, no election could be made. The election was deferred to Saturday 22 June 1844 at an adjournment of this meeting.</p> <p>Prior to the vote Alexander Christison objected to Ebenezer Black being allowed to vote as he was not a member of the Board. There had been no return of a guardian made from the township of Grindon for the present or</p>	
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			<p>immediately preceding year. The Chairman replied that his opinion was that under sec. 10 of 5&6 Vict. C 57 Black was not legally a member of the Board and therefore not eligible to exercise the duties or powers of a Guardian. Given the novelty of the case and considering that the matter could be appealed to the Poor Law Commissioners and that the appointment must be submitted to them for confirmation and not wishing to leave a township unrepresented, he would allow him to vote and if required refer the matter to the Commissioners.</p> <p>Following the notice given at the last meeting, the parish to be charged for the relief given to [Jane Biars] while in the Workhouse was considered. William Dods, Relieving Officer, reported that Jane Biars, who had a seven month old child, came on 8 May with an order from John Paxton, Medical Officer for sugar and sago for the baby. He gave her this and money for bread and on 10 May bread and oatmeal and on 14 May sugar, tea and bread. She asked for no further relief and left Norham on 15 May on the carrier's cart. He had also found and paid for five night's lodgings. She had not complained that the relief was insufficient. Mr Paxton reported he had attended the baby and saw mother and child several times and that she had not complained that the relief was insufficient</p> <p>It was agreed that the cost of relief in the Workhouse, once known and the cost of the funeral for the baby be repaid by Berwick to Norham as Berwick was responsible.</p> <p>Agreed that the examination of children attending the Workhouse School and the children of outdoor poor attending other schools would take place on the following Tuesday at the Workhouse.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/113-116	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians adjourned meeting	Present at the meeting: Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Smith; J R Nicholson [James Nicholson]; Adam Bell; Edward Davidson; Alexander Laing; George Wood;	22 June 1844

		<p>held on 22 June 1844</p>	<p>James Laing; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]; John Laing; John Archbold; J [or I] T Smith; John McGregor; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; William Heron; John McLeod; John Wilson; Alexander Christison; George Weatherhead; Robert Carr; Ebenezer Black; Thomas Scott; Thomas Pinkerton; Nicholas Bell; John Dunbar; Thomas Hownam; Nathaniel Dodds.</p> <p>The adjourned meeting dealt only with the election of Auditor.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the procedure for the election. If again any of the candidates had an equal number of votes, the Guardians should vote between the two as to which should be eliminated. The Board were free to fix any reasonable time of day for an adjourned meeting. Mr Christison raised the same objection to Ebenezer Black being allowed to vote and the Chairman made the same statement as they had made on 18 June.</p> <p>The same method of voting adopted at the previous meetings was agreed with the addition suggested by the Poor Law Commissioners.</p> <p>Robert Weatherhead was nominated by Alexander Christison, seconded by John McLeod.</p> <p>George Trotter was nominated by Thomas Pinkerton, seconded by Thomas Tait.</p> <p>Robert Home was nominated by Alexander Smith, seconded by Thomas Tait.</p> <p>They voted as follows:</p> <p>Robert Weatherhead: 10 votes, Messrs Nicholson, N Bell, Wilson, A Laing, Heron, James Laing, Christison, Weatherhead, McLeod, A Bell.</p> <p>George Trotter 8 votes, Messrs Pinkerton, Scott, Wood, Dunbar, John Laing, Tait, Davidson, I T Smith.</p> <p>Robert Home: 10 votes, Messrs Robertson, A Smith, Dr Clarke, Archbold, Hownam, McGregor, Carr, Nesbit, Dodds, Black.</p> <p>Mr Trotter was therefore eliminated. They now voted between Weatherhead and Home.</p> <p>Robert Weatherhead: 13 votes, Messrs Nicholson, N Bell, Wilson, Wood, A</p>	
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			<p>Laing, Dunbar, John Laing, Heron, James Laing, Christison, Weatherhead, McLeod, A Bell.</p> <p>Robert Home: 14 votes, Messrs Robertson, A Smith, Dr Clarke, Pinkerton, Scott, Archbold, Hownam, McGregor, Carr, Tait, Nesbit, Dodds, I T Smith, Black.</p> <p>Edward Davidson abstained.</p> <p>The matter was referred to the Poor Law Commissioners for their opinion as the result depended on the validity of Ebenezer Black's vote.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/116	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 2 July 1844	The Clerk certified that only one Guardian, Alexander Robertson, attended and therefore the meeting did not take place.	2 July 1844
Item	GBR 39/116-121	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 16 July 1844	<p>Present at the meeting</p> <p>Guardians: Alexander Smith; Alexander Christison; George Weatherhead; Adam Bell; Nathaniel Dodds; Alexander Laing; Thomas Nesbit [Nesbitt].</p> <p>Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson.</p> <p>Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for:</p> <p>Supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); George Oswald (barley); George Young (tea); James Milburne (groceries); Thomas Cockburn (wine etc); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour, fish etc, clothes, sand, straw etc, 2 pigs, eggs, straw etc); Robert Cairns (yarn); R Rutherford & Co (drugget); Charles Forsythe (drapery); John Paxton (flannel etc); R Chrisp (clothes); A Meikle (shoes and repairing); J P Davidson ([erg] shoes supplied by contractor 2 years); C Forsythe ([erg] clothing); William Weatherhead (whitewashing etc); Nicol</p>	16 July 1844

		<p>Richardson (wooden trenchers); [William Fyfe] (advertising); Thomas Chartres (oil, white lead etc) Union Officers (postages); J B Atkinson (quarter's rent workhouse); David Gibson (half year's rent Registrar's office).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>From the Porter's Book the number of vagrants relieved in the past quarter was 620; 368 chargeable to Berwick and 252 to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: George Logan, schoolmaster; John Moor, porter; Elizabeth Buglass, sewing mistress; John Home, barber.</p> <p>The master of the Workhouse presented the following account Invoice - milk, fish etc, clothing, clothes and repairing. Establishment - sand, whitening etc. Inmaintenance – straw and eggs.</p> <p>Vaccination fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson 21; Tweedmouth, Andrew Morison 31; Ancroft, Andrew Morison 12; Kylloe, Andrew Morison 7 Cornhill, John Paxton 5 Felkington, John Paxton 1 Grindon, John Paxton 2 Loanend, John Paxton 2 Longridge, John Paxton 1 Norham, John Paxton 4 Thornton, John Paxton 2 Twisel [Twizel], John Paxton 1 Shoreswood, John Paxton 1</p> <p>Medical fees:</p>	
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			<p>Berwick, Andrew Henderson midwifery 3 cases; Tweedmouth, Andrew Henderson midwifery1 case; Norham, John Paxton midwifery 1 case.</p> <p>Since the formation of the Union a discrepancy had arisen between the provision book and the provision account of £4 10s 0 1/4d, as a consequence of fractions and small errors. Agreed that the provision account should be debited of this amount which would be credited to inmaintenance.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: James Chartres of Berwick; Isabella Douglas of Berwick; Jane Purves' child of Berwick.</p> <p>Notices for marriage were read for: James Dryden and Christiana Drawhill; Jamieson Scott and Agnes Gregg.</p> <p>The accounts for maintenance for Isabella Lough of Tweedmouth and William Alexander of Berwick, pauper lunatic at Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum were paid, to be charged as outrelief to the relevant parishes.</p> <p>Agreed that the Workhouse Committee should explore the cost of bringing gas pipes into the Workhouse, the lowest price at which gas would be supplied for the house, yards etc and report back.</p> <p>The Porter applied for leave of absence until 24 July. Granted.</p> <p>Agreed that the Clerk should draw up the accounts for the Quarter and prepare the quarterly abstract.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/122 -127	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 30 July 1844.	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Thomas Pinkerton; Edward Davidson; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Thomas Pinkerton.</p>	30 July 1844

			<p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Joseph Milburne (groceries); Alexander Smith (beef and mutton); Alexander Darling (bread); Thomas Cockburn (wine and spirits); George Young (tea and candles); R Sanderson (coals); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk flour etc, chaff sand etc, eggs); C Knight (books & forms); Thomas Weatherston & Sons (whitewashing school etc); coffin for William Hall; John Home (shaving); Thomas Cockburn (bottles); J Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] for parishes within their districts.</p> <p>Payment of salary was ordered for William Dods, Relieving Officer.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: a child found – Ancroft.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The account for maintenance for George Wilson of Holy Island, from Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum was paid, to be charged as outrelief to the parish.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the eligibility of Ebenezer Black to vote at the election of Auditor. The Commissioners had received a letter from Ebenezer Black, of which an extract was enclosed. Black states that a nomination was left by his stable boy at the residence of Mr Dods on 11 March, the day on which Black returned home. The Commissioners say that it is not clear to which nomination he refers, that dated 2 March or the one</p>	
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			<p>dated 4 March The one dated 2 March is invalid as stated in their letter of 6 July. If it was the second it is in their opinion valid and that leaving it at the residence of the authorised officer was acceptable. The election of Auditor depends on his validity as Guardian. The Commissioners have decided this must be investigated and an Assistant Commissioner will be asked to do so, on his next visit to Berwick. They observe that if the Bill before Parliament is passed, the Auditor would only hold office for a very short time. Agreed that Dods enquire from his family whether a nomination paper was left on 11 March. If it was the Clerk should communicate this to the Commissioners.</p> <p>The sureties of the late Treasurer were due to pay the balance due by them the day before. Mr Weatherhead had paid £57 2s 8d. Mr Sked had written that at present he was unable to make payment. He accepted that it had to be paid and asked for their indulgence at present. Agreed that at the next meeting they consider steps to be taken and that the Clerk notify all members.</p> <p>Letter received from Robert Cooper of Hartley Colliery asking on behalf of George Joy, now working at the Colliery, for assistance to purchase work clothing. Refused.</p> <p>Medical fees: Tweedmouth, Andrew Henderson, child bed Alice Dickinson.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/127-133	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 13 August 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Thomas Scott; George Wood; Edward Davidson; Robert Carr; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; John McGregor; Alexander Christison; Adam Bell; Nicholas Bell; Alexander Laing. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were</p>	13 Aug. 1844

		<p>presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef and mutton); Alexander Darling (bread); Robert Sanderson (coals); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Thomas Cockburn (spirits etc); George Young (tea); John Purdie (milk flour fish etc, sand whitening etc, eggs); John Main (repairing clothes); Alexander Meikle (repairing shoes); J Weatherly (printing).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: James Sutherland of Ancroft; Sarah Moffit of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The account for maintenance for Alice Bruce of Twisel [Twizel], from Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum was paid, to be charged as outrelief to the parish.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that Mr Dods had asked both members of his family whether they remembered the circumstance of Ebenezer Black's nomination paper being delivered to the house on 11 March. They did not. Therefore the Clerk had not written to the Poor Law Commissioners.</p> <p>The Guardians then reconsidered the letter from the Poor Law Commissioners with extract of Ebenezer Black's letter from the last meeting. They decided the matter should be further investigated by the Board. Black should be invited to the next meeting and asked to bring his stable boy to give evidence concerning the delivery of his nomination to Dod's residence.</p> <p>The Board asked the Clerk to write to the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the circumstance of the election on 22 June. There were 28 members present of who 27 voted, 14 for Home and 13 for Weatherhead. Therefore neither candidate received a majority of those present as is required for a valid election of a paid officer according to article 4 of the Commissioners' General Rule of 21</p>	
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			<p>April 1842. The Board had expected an opinion from the Commissioners on this as it would seem the validity of the election on 22 June could be determined in the negative on this point without reference to the validity of Black's vote.</p> <p>The Board then considered an Order from the Poor law Commissioners dated 20 June 1844 concerning the allowances to the witnesses who appeared before Assistant Commissioner Hawley in Ebenezer Black's case and the Commissioners' letters dated 22 June and 27 July. The Commissioners had stated that "they have no power to allow for loss of "time; such an allowance only certain professional men can claim. The Board considered this was not in conformity with the Rules for allowances at Assizes to which the Commissioners refer as compensation for travelling expenses. The scale of allowances at Northumberland Assizes is: physicians and surgeons - £2 2s per day; professional men - £1 1s; persons not professional men – 15s; constables and police officers – 15s; other witnesses – 7s 6d. The general scale of the Crown Office is, if the witnesses reside in the town in which the case is tried the entitlement is: common witnesses e.g. labourers, journeymen – from 5s to 7s 6d per day; master tradesmen – 10s to 15s; yeomen and farmers 10s 6d to 15s. If the witnesses reside a distance they are entitled to the above and travelling expenses not exceeding 1s per mile.</p> <p>The Board considered the payment to the witnesses in question reasonable and within the scales above. There did not appear to be a written or indeed direct verbal order from Hawley to Messrs Willoby [the Clerk to the Union] to pay the witnesses. However their clerk, who was officiating in their absence, distinctly remembers the question of payment to the witnesses was raised with Hawley as several witnesses expected immediate payment. Hawley said that that the township of Grindon would be charged with the costs of those who had not travelled more than 10 miles and the Commissioners would bear the cost of the others. In consequence Mr Willoby senior considered he was authorised to pay the witnesses.</p> <p>The Board considered Mr Willoby should be reimbursed for the full amount. But under sec.14 of the Poor Law Amendment Act it should be deemed as part of</p>	
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		<p>the incidental expenses attending the execution of the Act and be paid accordingly and not out the funds of the Union since all the witnesses travelled more than 10 miles to where the enquiry was held.</p> <p>Several of the paid officers had applied for their quarterly salary, due at midsummer. As their accounts for the quarter could not be audited in accordance with the General Rule of 23 February 1837, the Board considered they could not pay the salaries. They asked that this be submitted to the Commissioners and refer the inability to pay the salaries as a pressing reason for an early decision on the election of an Auditor.</p> <p>The estimate for bringing gas to the Workhouse and yards with a specification by Mr Rowland was presented. Referred back to the Workhouse Committee for examination and for them to ascertain the probable expense of lighting with gas and report to the next meeting.</p> <p>Letter from Mr Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, concerning the procedure for setting the new averages and asking that a Committee be set up to verify the returns. The following were nominated: Chairman and Vice Chairman; Thomas Scott; Thomas Pinkerton; Alexander Christison; George Weatherhead; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke].</p> <p>Letter from Mr Barker, Clerk to the Tynemouth Union concerning Margaret Bell, widow, with her children. She had recently moved from Berwick parish to the township of Hartley in the Tynemouth Union. She had applied to Tynemouth to be allowed to return to Berwick with non resident relief. The Guardians were willing to grant this, had applied to the Poor Law Commissioners who had sanctioned this, provided Berwick parish officers had consented. Agreed.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson, Relieving Officer, had received a letter from Mr C Johnson, Relieving Officer of the Shields Union, concerning Margaret Fairnell and the circumstances under which he had paid her 25s. She was now resident in</p>	
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			<p>Berwick and she was now chargeable to that parish. A copy of Johnson's letter to be sent to the Commissioners with a statement of the circumstances.</p> <p>They then considered the steps to be taken concerning the non payment of the sureties of the late Treasurer. Since the last meeting there had been a further payment of £57 2s 8d. There was now the same amount outstanding. And they again considered the letter from Mr Sked. Agreed they would not refuse to grant further time for payment, not exceeding three months. All the sureties to be informed in writing.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/134-140	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 27 August 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Smith; Thomas Pinkerton; Thomas Scott; Nathaniel Dodds; George Weatherhead; John Dunbar; John Laing; James Laing; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Joseph Milburne (groceries); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Alexander Darling (bread); George Oswald (barley); R Sanderson (coals); George Young (tea & candles); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk flour etc, sand whitening etc, eggs & straw); Walter Thompson (stationery); J Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners, minuted in full, concerning the validity</p>	27 Aug. 1844

		<p>of the vote of Ebenezer Black in the election of Auditor.</p> <p>It states that only the Commissioners can investigate the circumstances of the election and its validity. Any enquiry by the Guardians would be of no avail. They have already asked Mr Hawley to hold an enquiry but it will be two or three weeks before he is able to do so. Until the validity of Black's election is determined his vote will not affect any proceedings in which he may take part. One Guardian did not vote in the election of Auditor, though he was present throughout. The Commissioners are advised that in these circumstances he should be considered to have voted with the majority and therefore it would appear that Home was elected. They finally observe that any appointment will probably be temporary and shortly the duty will become that of the Commissioners.</p> <p>Mr Black was present, having brought his servant as requested. The Board decided not to proceed with their enquiry. They also decided to ask Mr Home to audit the Union accounts for the midsummer quarter and to ask the Commissioners to confirm the appointment and if that was not in accordance with their opinion to authorise him to act as Auditor "pro hac vice".</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the payment of Union Officers' salaries without their accounts being audited. They advised that the salaries could be paid.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: W & E Willoby, (Clerks); J B Atkinson [James Atkinson]; John Anderson (Relieving Officers); Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton; Joseph Watson (Medical Officers); John and Jane Purdie (Master & Matron of the Workhouse).</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported back on the probable cost of installing gas. Installation of pipes and fittings -£30. Likely cost of one year's consumption - £10. Adding this to the interest for the cost of installation of £1 10s gave an annual cost of £11 10s. The cost of candles, oil etc for the year between Michaelmas 1843 to 1844 was £15. Installing gas would give a saving of £3</p>	
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			<p>10s. Agreed to advertise for tenders for the cost of installing gas without any obligation to accept a tender. The committee to ask the two gas companies for price of supply.</p> <p>Agreed to report to the Poor Law Commissioners the cases of James Straker, pauper chargeable to Kyloe parish and Margaret Clark chargeable to Berwick parish and ask for sanction to them receiving allowances without them being obliged to reside within the Union.</p> <p>Agreed that Luke Craggs, a pauper chargeable to Ancroft parish, who would meet the expense, and Isabella Turner, chargeable to Berwick be sent to Musselburgh Lunatic Asylum. Turner's husband should pay the overseers 1s 6d towards the cost and the remainder to be charged to the parish.</p> <p>Reply from Mr Sked, one of the sureties of the late Treasurer concerning the decision that they be allowed three months to pay the balance. He had discussed this with Mr Weatherhead who was agreeable but had been unable to contact Mr Sharp. Sked asked if the period could be extended to six months. Agreed that they would agree to a six month period if application was made.</p> <p>Letter from James B Atkinson, Registrar, informing them he wished to appoint Adam Steele Park of Berwick, writing clerk, to act as his depute in case of his absence. Agreed.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 140-144	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 10 September 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Christison; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; John Wilson. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson</p>	10 Sept. 1844

		<p>[James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Alexander Darling (bread); George Young (tea and candles); Joseph Milburne (groceries); R Sanderson (coals); Thomas Cockburn (porter); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour etc, besoms, sand etc, eggs); Shaw & Sons (stationery etc); T Lough (coffin); J Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance of paupers were paid as follows with the amount to be charged as outrelief to the respective parishes: Musselburgh Asylum – Luke Craggs of Ancroft and Isabella Turner of Berwick. Bentham Asylum Robert Jordan of Berwick. Edinburgh Blind Asylum: Robert Spowart of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported that they had received tenders from D A Lamb (£20 19s 10d) and W H Rowland (£24 2s) for installing gas to the Workhouse. They had also got tenders from the two gas companies for gas supply for one year but recommended that they should seek offers for five years.</p> <p>The Board agreed that Gas should be installed in the Workhouse, that the Workhouse Committee should seek the approval of Thomas Wilson to the specifications. They accepted D A Lamb's tender and asked that Thomas Wilson be asked to inspect the work during its performance. They also agreed that the two gas companies be asked to give offers for five years to be reported to the next meeting.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners approving the appointment of Robert Home as Auditor at an annual salary of £18. They again pointed out that the</p>	
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			<p>appointment would probably be temporary until District Auditors are appointed as passed in the recent amendment of the Poor Laws.</p> <p>A letter from Mr Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, informing them that he would attend the next meeting to enquire into the election of Ebenezer Black as guardian for the township of Grindon.</p> <p>Letter received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the allowances payable to witnesses. To be considered when Mr Hawley is present.</p> <p>Letter received from Robert Home gratefully accepting the post of Auditor and saying he would carry out both his posts with utmost diligence.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/145-149	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 24 September 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Christison; Thomas W Tait; Edward Davidson; Adam Bell; James Laing; Alexander Smith; George Weatherhead; Ebenezer Black. W H T Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); R Sanderson (coals); George Young (tea & candles); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); Joseph Milburne (groceries); A Darling (bread); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour & fish, whitening etc, repairing clothes, straw & eggs); T Mallet (Poor Law Gazette); Shaw & Sons (Poor Law Acts); Robert Chrisp (clothes); George Pollard (shoes); J B Atkinson (quarter rent Workhouse); Union Officers</p>	24 Sept. 1844

		<p>(postages)</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>From the Porter's Book 806 vagrants were relieved in the last quarter, 451 chargeable to Berwick and 355 to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Medical fees: Berwick - Andrew Henderson, fractured leg, midwifery. Tweedmouth – Andrew Morison, fractured arm, midwifery 3 cases. Cornhill – John Paxton, midwifery.</p> <p>Vaccination fees: Berwick – Andrew Henderson, 9 cases. Tweedmouth – Andrew Morison, 40 cases. Ancroft – Andrew Morison, 12 cases. Norham – John Paxton, 1 case. Holy Island – Joseph Watson, 14 cases.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: George Logan, schoolmaster; John Moor, porter; E Buglass, sewing mistress, J Home, barber.</p> <p>Erroneous entry in the Treasurers book was corrected. £12 had wrongly been credited to Norham. The credit belonged to the township of Norham Mains.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: man found drowned (Holy Island); David Craig of Berwick; James Bain of Berwick; Mary Campbell of Berwick.</p> <p>The Clerk read a letter from the Poor Law Commissioners querying the claim for payment by Andrew Henderson, Medical Officer for Berwick relative to a case of fractured thigh and asking for their observations. The accident happened outwith the Workhouse and therefore was not covered by the General Medical Order.</p> <p>The Board replied that they considered the Medical Officer was justified in</p>	
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			<p>bringing the pauper into the Workhouse, the fracture was reduced in the Workhouse. Attendance was required and given before the man was removed. They recommend that the prescribed fee is paid but make it clear that they are not expressing an opinion on the legality nor creating a precedent.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported on the tenders received from the two gas companies which were differently calculated. Estimating gas use at 30000 feet per annum, Berwick Gas Company charged £11 5s pa; Berwick and Tweedmouth Gas charged £11 4s. Therefore the latter was accepted and they stated that they expect the pipe to be brought to the Porter's Lodge without delay.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/149-154	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 8 October 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Smith; Edward Davidson; George Weatherhead; John Wilson; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Joseph Milburne (groceries); R Sanderson (coals); Thomas Cockburn (wine & porter); George Young (tea & candles); Alexander Darling (bread); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (fish milk & flour, sand whitening etc, eggs and straw, garden seeds); James Russell (mason work); Shaw & Sons (forms); James Yule (hammer handles etc); John Drummond (smith); W H Rowland (plumber etc); J Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p>	8 Oct. 1844

			<p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: John Howgate of Berwick; Diana Ord of Berwick.</p> <p>The contracts for provisions clothing etc were about to end. To be advertised.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning payment of fee to Andrew Henderson. They will make no objection to this being paid. Agreed that payment be made.</p> <p>John Anderson, Relieving Officer reported that the boy Hadden had again left his master's service and was now in the Workhouse. Agreed that Atkinson should write to Mr Wightman, Relieving Officer of Wooler, asking him to see the boy's master and see if he was willing to have him back. If he refused the Board would not object to paying the remaining part of the premium to a new master if one could be found.</p> <p>Letter from the Guardians of the Bradfield Union, enclosing a copy of the <i>Berkshire Chronicle</i>. It concerned the decision of the Poor Law Commissioners in relation to the election of the Master of the Workhouse. The letter asked for their support in "a matter so deeply affecting their privileges" and their cooperation "in the redress of such manifest injustice". Reply to be sent that the Board did not wish to interfere in the matter.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported that Mr. Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, on his inspection of the Workhouse noted that the schoolroom floor was very damp and likely to be prejudicial to the health of the children. He suggested that the stone flags be taken up to drain the ground underneath or the flags be replaced by a boarded floor. The Committee were asked to investigate the cost of draining and reflagging the room.</p> <p>The Master reported that Mr Lamb the contractor for the gas fittings had not</p>	
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			<p>started work. Lamb to be contacted to start work immediately or the Guardians would employ someone else and hold him liable for any expense above the amount of his estimate.</p> <p>The report of the Auditor, Robert Home, was presented. He approved the accounts with one slight exception. The balance in the Clothing Account in the ledger is greater than that in the Clothing Book (kept by the Master) by £1 3s 9 1/2d. He thinks this has probably accumulated over time from fractional losses occurred in distributing the articles under different heads and among the various paupers. The Book is now so correctly kept that this will not recur. He suggests that the two accounts are reconciled, similar to the suggestion made by his predecessor in the Provision Account.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/154-159	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 22 October 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Smith; Alexander Christison; James Laing; Nicholas Bell; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; William Heron; Thomas Pinkerton; George McGregor. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Darling (bread); Alexander Smith (meat); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); George Young (tea & candles); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Robert Sanderson (coals); John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, (milk, flour etc, sand etc, eggs and straw); Alexander Meikle (shoes); J Main (repairing clothes); Shaw & Sons (books & forms); J B Atkinson (old rope).</p>	22 Oct. 1844

		<p>Registration accounts were presented by Mr Anderson [John Anderson] for parishes within his district.</p> <p>The seventh Instalment of the Exchequer Loan (£100) was due on 31 October. Cheque to be debited to the Exchequer Loan Commissioners and credited to the Treasurer.</p> <p>One Year's interest (£16) of the remaining £400 was also due on 31 October. To be paid, debited to Establishment and credited to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Report for the Michaelmas Quarter received from Robert Home, Auditor. He had received and examined the books apart from those of the Medical Officer for the Norhamshire District and the Overseers for the township of Duddo. He drew attention to the same discrepancy in the clothing accounts noted in his last report. He suggested greater care be given in balancing the Labor [sic] Book kept by the Master of the Workhouse. The Oakum Account and Hair Account should be balanced and stock taken and the receipts of the Master on account of the produce of labour and payments to the Treasurer on the same account should be entered and shown at each audit.</p> <p>The Clerk to write to Mr Paxton, Medical Officer for Norhamshire and the Overseers of Duddo asking them to inform the Guardians of the reason for their non compliance with the Auditors notice.</p> <p>The comments on the Clothing Account and Labour Book to be referred to the Workhouse Committee to consider at their next meeting and report back.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: W & E Willoby - Clerks; J B Atkinson [James Atkinson], John Anderson, William Dods – Relieving Officers; Andrew Henderson, Andrew Morison, Joseph Watson – Medical Officers; R Home [Robert Home] – Auditor; J Purdie [John Purdie] – Master of the Workhouse.</p> <p>Letter, dated 12 October 1844, received from Dr W Mackinnon, Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum. He reported that William Alexander of Berwick had</p>	
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		<p>committed suicide in the Asylum on 5 October. For a considerable time he had been unwilling to take his food, been clamorous for drugs and on one occasion said that he would rather die than be confined in the Institution. He did not however evince suicidal propensities in a form to attract much attention and his abstinence from food was regarded as one of his malingering tricks. He was always very carefully watched as the attendants were apprehensive of him doing injury to others. At 3 45am on 5 October he cut his throat with a razor. He had got it from a press in the attendants' apartment; quite how is not clear but possibly the evening before when he went to the room on a pretext of looking for some clothing and then distracted the attendant, then hiding it in his bedding. He slept in an apartment with two attendants and some other patients. One of the attendants was woken by sounds like someone having an epileptic fit. On seeing what had happened he summoned Mackinnon's Assistant who slept in the Western Department. He arrived in a few minutes but Alexander was already dead, the wound being such as to cause instantaneous death. The razor was found at his bedside where it had fallen from his hand.</p> <p>The death was immediately reported to the Procurator Fiscal who had it investigated. There did not appear to be any carelessness on the part of the attendants. Alexander was seen to undress and his clothes were searched and he slept with others.</p> <p>Mackinnon had thought it better to wait until the legal investigation was over before writing. The body was decently buried after the necessary examination was made. He finishes by suggesting that as little publicity as possible is given. Request to be sent to Mackinnon asking for a copy of the evidence taken before the Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Jane Scott of Berwick.</p> <p>Notice for marriage was read for: Robert Gray and Mary Rowland.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance of paupers were paid as follows with the amount to be charged as outrelief to the respective parishes: Royal Edinburgh Lunatic</p>	
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			<p>Asylum – Alice Bruce of Twisel [Twizel]; George Wilson of Holy Island; Isabella Lough of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners reporting on the enquiry into the election of Ebenezer Black. It included copies of the evidence taken and it upheld the validity of Black’s election for the present year.</p> <p>Reported a comment In the Master’s journal, namely that the Sewing Mistress [Elizabeth Buglass] because of age and infirmity was “not able to pay proper attention to the children and if she were able she rather shows a repugnance to do so”. To consider at the next meeting her future employment.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/159-164	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 5 November 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Nathaniel Dodds; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]; Ebenezer Black; Robert Carr. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk flour, brandy etc, dusters, tiles, sand etc, eggs and straw); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Notice for marriage was read for: Robert Gray and Mary Rowland.</p>	5 Nov. 1844

		<p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: William Alexander of Berwick.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had written to the Overseers of Duddo township and Mr Paxton [John Paxton, Medical Officer] concerning their non attendance at the last audit. There had been no reply from the former. Paxton had replied explaining that he had been too busy with severe cases to be able to prepare his books and considered it was his first duty to attend the ill. He would endeavour to steal a few hours from the night and have them ready to send down by the carrier in the morning.</p> <p>Robert Home, Auditor, had written to say that he had now received and audited the books of Duddo township. He passed these but remarked that in common with other small townships they had not got their rates allowed by the magistrates and published.</p> <p>Mr Paxton had come with his books that morning which he had audited and passed. He had expressed surprise that there had only been one vaccination in the last quarter in so large a district. He was not satisfied with the reasons given by Paxton but acknowledged that this was not his responsibility though thought the Board may wish to enquire further.</p> <p>Paxton had written explaining that in addition to the case claimed he had done eight or ten vaccinations in the early part of the quarter. They had not taken, due to poor quality of the matter [vaccine] so he had not claimed for them. Only within the last ten days of the quarter did he receive new matter and he has been vaccinating in this quarter.</p> <p>The Board considered that Paxton had not sufficiently justified his non compliance with the Auditor's notice and also should have informed him of his difficulty at the time. In relation to the vaccination cases Paxton should ensure he obtains better quality matter. They also considered that the unsuccessful cases should have been entered in his book.</p> <p>Copies of the Auditor's report and Paxton's letter to be sent to the Poor Law Commissioners.</p> <p>Letter received from George Dick, Collector of Poor Rates for Tweedmouth. He</p>	
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			<p>asked for an increase in his annual salary of £10 to £15, given the time required to collect the total rates of about £1400, two schedules to complete and attendance at magistrates, barristers, auditors etc. To be considered at the next meeting. The Clerk to ask Dick to approach the ratepayers of the parish and seek their opinion.</p> <p>Letter from Mr Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, asking for the Guardian's opinion on the probable effects of the provisions of the Settlement Bill brought before Parliament at the end of the last session. The Clerk to inform the Guardians of the rural parishes by letter and the Berwick Guardians as soon as possible of the above.</p> <p>The Overseers of the township of Felkington were directed to apply to the Justices for an order upon --- Purves to reimburse the township for the maintenance of his mother, Jane Purves who had been granted an allowance of 1s 6d per week.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 164-169	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 19 November 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Thomas Pinkerton; Nathaniel Dodds; Alexander Smith; James Laing; John Archbold; Ebenezer Black; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Margaret Anderson (bread); Alexander Smith (beef etc); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Thomas Cockburn (spirits & wine); George Young (tea, tobacco etc); Robert Sanderson (coals, potatoes); George Oswald</p>	19 Nov. 1844

		<p>(barley); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk, flours, gas burners, besoms etc, straw & eggs).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by James Atkinson William Dods for parishes within their districts.</p> <p>Account for 6 days maintenance of William Alexander of Berwick was paid as to Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum.</p> <p>Consideration of George Dick's request for an increase of salary was postponed to the next meeting.</p> <p>Consideration of the situation of the Sewing Mistress was passed to the Workhouse Committee to make enquiry.</p> <p>The Chairman reported concerning the draining and reflagging of the schoolroom floor [ref. minute of 8 October]. The estimate without flags was £3 and it was doubtful the dampness would be entirely cured. As no other members of the Workhouse Committee had attended a Board Meeting since he had obtained an estimate for laying boards which was £13. Agreed that the Workhouse Committee proceed to get the floor laid with boards.</p> <p>The teachers of High Greens Sabbath School asked for the use of the gas in the schoolroom on Sunday evenings. Granted provided they pay for the gas consumed.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners, copied in the Minutes, to letter (dated 17 November) concerning Luke Craggs, a lunatic. They are not certain of the precise facts. It seems that Craggs was residing at</p>	
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		<p>Embleton in Alnwick Union but was receiving relief from Berwick parish and Mr Anderson, Relieving Officer, Berwick had authorised Mr Thompson, Relieving Officer, Alnwick, to send Craggs to Berwick without an order of removal. It is clear that in doing so that Thompson was not acting in his capacity of Relieving Officer or acting under the direction of the Guardians of Alnwick Union and was acting as agent of Berwick. It was no part of his duty as Relieving Officer for Alnwick. He might therefore be entitled to compensation for his services. They also raise the question whether they or the Guardians of Alnwick Union should approve of Thompson being so employed. To be considered at next meeting.</p> <p>The following tenders for provisions, clothing etc. for the six months from 21 October were approved by the Board at their meeting on 22 October: Alexander Smith – beef, fore quarters and haughs 3s 7d per stone; beef, rounds and flanks 3s 9d per stone; mutton 6d per lb. Margaret Anderson – bread to be made of equal quantities of flour and round meal of the best quality per loaf of 12oz 7/8 d. Joseph Milburne – raw sugar 60s per cwt; coffee 1s 4d per lb; pepper 1s; soap 46s per cwt. George Young – tea 4s per lb; snuff 3s 4d per lb; tobacco 3s 4d per lb; candles dipt 5s 3d per 12 lb; candles mould 6s 3d per 12 lb. Thomas Cockburn – port wine 2s 9d per bottle; whiskey 2s per bottle; porter 3 ½ d per bottle; vinegar 6d per bottle. Robert Chrisp – men’s suits with coats 22s 11d per suit; men’s jackets 8s 9d per jacket; boys suits 12 to 16 15s per suit; boys suits 7 to 12 11s 2d per suit; boys suits under 7 6s 11d per suit. George Hay – 25 sacks oatmeal 30s per sack. Robert Sanderson – 40 bolls potatoes 10s per boll. Charles Forsythe – 100 yds calico 9/8 4d per yard; 50 yds calico 7/8 2 ¾ d per yard; 20 jean 6d per yard; 40 blue flannel 1s 3d per yard; 50 canvas 5 3/4d per yard; 10 pairs blankets 11s 6d per pair. John Paxton – 20 yds cotton shirting 6 ¾.d per yard; 2 doz pieces filleting 3s 9d</p>	
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			<p>per doz. Robert Cairns – 50 lbs yarn 2s 2 ½ d per lb. Robert Rutherford – 3 lbs thread 1s 11d per lb; 30 yds check for aprons 6 ½ d per yard; 20 yds blue flannel 7d per yard. Alexander Meikle – men’s shoes 6 &7, 6s 7d per pair; women’s shoes 4 ½, 5, 5 ½, 4s 1d per pair; boys 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 3s 3d per pair; boys 1 ½ , 2 ½ , 3 ½ , 4s per pair; children’s 6 1s 10d per pair. Margaret Anderson – bread for outdoor poor to be made as same quality as 12 oz loaf, loaf 5½ lbs for 6d. William Rutherford – oatmeal outdoor poor 1s 5d per stone. The contractors for butcher meat and bread to find security for the due performance of their contracts.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/170 -174	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 3 December 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Robertson; Alexander Smith; Nathaniel Dodds; John Wilson; George Weatherhead; Alexander Laing; Nicholas Bell; Robert Carr; Adam Bell. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Robertson. Messrs Willoby being unable to attend Mr A S Park appointed Clerk for the day.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Margaret Anderson (bread); Thomas Cockburn (spirits); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Robert Sanderson (coals); George Young (tea & candles); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk flour etc, gravel sand etc, straw); J B Atkinson (old rope); D A Lamb (amount of estimate for gas fitting); J Rennison (school testaments); Charles Knight & Co (forms); J B Atkinson (poor rate workhouse etc and</p>	3 Dec. 1844

		<p>Register Office); Robert Chrisp (clothes); John Main repairing clothes); Thomas Anderson (one year's rent of garden).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: John Paxton, Medical Officer for Michaelmas Quarter.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Julia Wood of Berwick; Thomas Dunlop of Kyle.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance of paupers were paid as follows with the amount to be charged as outrelief to the respective parishes: Musselburgh Asylum – Luke Craggs of Ancroft; Isabella Turner of Berwick.</p> <p>The application of George Dick, Collector of Rates for Tweedmouth, for an increase of his payment to £15 deferred from the last meeting was approved, the ratepayers being in agreement. To be reported to the Poor Law Commissioners.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners to their letter of 22 October concerning the Auditor's report on John Paxton, Medical Officer for Islandshire. The Commissioners trusted that he would produce his books for audit punctually in the future.</p> <p>They further considered the letter from the Poor Law Commissioners dated 11 November regarding the payment to Mr Thompson, Relieving Officer of Alnwick Union for loss of time. They stated to the Relieving Officers of Berwick Union, who were present, that the Board would not sanction their undertaking any duties other than those in direct connection or incidental to their appointment or with its assent. Any time or attention devoted to the interests or claims of another Union done by them in their capacity of Relieving Officer without</p>	
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		<p>entitling them to remuneration (further than repayment of any proper disbursements) as for extra services unless the Board assented to their requesting the other Union for remuneration.</p> <p>Letter from Robert Home, Superintendent Registrar, Berwick, concerning the Registrar's Office. He stated that frequent fires were necessary because of dampness in the adjoining safe. The office became uninhabitable because of the smoky chimney and he asked that it be sorted. Referred to the Workhouse Committee to arrange inspection and report back.</p> <p>Letter handed to the Board from John Moxon, Clerk to the Governor and Guardians of the Hull Union, dated 27 November, intimating that Charlotte Andrews, a pauper belonging to the parish of Hull (this day before the Board) had stated that the Guardians of this Union would be induced to advance her weekly allowance of 4s provided that they had the authority of the Hull Union. The Clerk to inform Moxon that no such proposal, as alleged by Andrews was ever made by the Board. Her appearance at today's meeting was their first intimation that she had come to stay in Berwick from where she had been removed some time ago.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the annexation of Norham & Islandshire into the County of Northumberland [previously North Durham] meant they required a new seal. He also presented a circular from Messrs Shaw & Sons that they had brought out arming sealing presses at a reduced price which superseded the use of wax seals on any document. Agreed that a new seal and sealing press be obtained from Messrs Shaw & Sons.</p> <p>The Chairman [Alexander Robertson] announced that he was resigning as Chairman to the Board of Guardians from today. He was reluctant to do this during his year of office but had found his other public duties along with private avocations meant that he could not thoroughly fulfil his duties. He expressed his</p>	
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			gratitude for the kindness and respect he had received.	
Item	GBR 39/ 174-180	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 17 December 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]; Adam Bell; James Laing; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; John McLeod. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke].</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Margaret Anderson (bread); George Hay (oatmeal); Robert Sanderson (coals); Thomas Cockburn (wine & porter); Joseph Milburne (groceries); George Young (tea & candles); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk & flour, chaff, sand etc, eggs & straw); R Rutherford (drapery); John Paxton (drapery); J Main (repairing clothes); Charles Forsythe (drapery); Robert Cairns (yarn, knitting); Alexander Meikle (shoes); Thomas Wilson plumber (inspecting and fitting gas pipes); Charles Forsythe (blankets etc); R Rutherford & Co ([scouring flannel]); D Gibson ½ year's rent of Register Office).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Election of Chairman – As Alexander Robertson had resigned at the last meeting, Alexander Smith was unanimously elected. Agreed that a new Vice Chairman be elected at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Board's attention was drawn to the Master's Journal which complained again of the work of the barber. Twice in the past fortnight he had been asked to cut the children's hair and has not done so and when he does it is very</p>	17 Dec. 1844

		<p>clumsily done and very unlike the work of a tradesman. He frequently has to be told two or three times to attend. To be considered at the next meeting and John Home to be required to attend.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported that following on the complaint made at the last meeting concerning the flue of the stove in the safe of the Registrar's Office they had asked Joseph Brown to examine it. By letter he reported that the construction of the flue from the furnace to the chimney shaft was horizontal allowing a build up of soot and refuse and also was too small for the distance before joining the shaft. He suggested that a new flue be built at an angle of 30 degrees, 12 inches high and 10 wide. The furnace should be built of firebrick and covered with fire quoils and a damper put in the flue in case of too much draft. It would also throw the heat more down onto the top of the safe. Referred to the Workhouse Committee who were authorised to have the alterations done.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee were asked to provide some industrial training for the children in the Workhouse and to employ such persons as they may find necessary.</p> <p>Report from Alexander Robertson, ex-chairman and James Atkinson of a visit they made recently to the Morningside Lunatic Asylum. They had visited it to inspect the structural arrangements and interview certain pauper lunatics paid for by parishes within the Union. Their opinion was that the Asylum was conducted with much skill and humanity under the direction of Dr McKinnon, and that the physical comfort and wants of the residents were carefully attended to and their mental diseases received due professional solicitude and judgement.</p> <p>From discussion with and observation of the patients they were satisfied that all needed to be there. They were pleased to report that George Wilson of Holy Island is recovering from his malady and was had learned a new trade – shoemaking while in the Asylum. He had worked as a ship carpenter.</p>	
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			<p>They had discussed with Dr McKinnon the suicide of William Alexander and received a further explanation. They consider he could not have been more strictly watched without a greater level of restraint than was compatible with his welfare. Dr McKinnon had asked the Procurator Fiscal for a copy of the depositions as requested by the Board of Guardians but had not yet received these.</p> <p>The Board expressed their thanks to Robertson and Atkinson for the visit and their report.</p> <p>The Clerks presented their bill of costs incurred in getting counsel's opinion and carrying on the proceedings against the sureties of the late treasurer. The instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners were that it would not be proper to order payment until it had been taxed.</p> <p>Cheques given to the Relieving Officers for the first week Ladyday – James Atkinson £45; John Anderson £17; William Dods £23.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/181 -186	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 31 December 1844	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Thomas Pinkerton; Ebenezer Black; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]. Medical Officers: John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Robert Sanderson (coals); Margaret Anderson (bread); Thomas Cockburn (whisky & porter); James Milburne (groceries); George Young (tea and tobacco); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk, flour etc, besoms, sand etc, knitting, eggs & straw); Alexander Smith (beef &</p>	31 Dec. 1844

			<p>mutton); John Drummond (smith work); [W H Rowland] (plumber work); John Rack (mason work); McCall & Fisackerly (carpenters); Peter Jeffrey (hammers); Thomas Weatherston & Son (plasterers); James Yule (hammer handles); Charles Cuthbertson (carpenter); Phoenix Fire Office (insurance); J Main (repairing clothes); Charles Forsythe (clothing); J B Atkinson (1/4 rent workhouse); Union Officers (postages); W & E Willoby (bill for tax costs); W E Ainslie (commission on remitting Exchequer loan).</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: John Moor, Porter; George Logan, schoolmaster; E Buglass, sewing mistress; J Home, barber [for Logan, Buglass and Home salary payment is not specified].</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Vaccination fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson, 6 cases; Tweedmouth, Andrew Morison, 43 cases; Ancroft, Andrew Morison, 13 cases; Kylee, Andrew Morison, 1 case; Twisel [Twizel], John Paxton, 14 cases; Norham, John Paxton, 22 cases; Norham Mains, John Paxton, 2 cases; Cornhill, John Paxton, 10 cases; Duddo, John Paxton, 2 cases; Shoreswood, John Paxton, 8 cases; Felkington, John Paxton, 15 cases; Longridge, John Paxton, 1 case; Horncliff [Horncliffe], John Paxton, 8 cases, Loanend, John Paxton, 1 case.</p> <p>From the Porter's Book 617 vagrants were relieved in the Workhouse during the last quarter, 321 chargeable to Berwick, 296 to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Medical fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson, 5 cases – fractured leg, amputation of thigh, 3 midwifery cases.</p> <p>Account for maintenance of pauper was paid as follows with the amount to be charged as outrelief to the parish: Newcastle Lunatic Asylum – Mary Ann Temple, Cornhill.</p>	
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		<p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Thomas Morton of Kylvoe.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported back on the following:-Discrepancy reported by the Auditor between the Ledger and the Clothing Book [minute of 18 October 1844]. It was agreed to reconcile the two sums at the larger amount.</p> <p>The flue in the Register Office [last meeting]. Agreed that Joseph Brown proceed with the alterations suggested. Brown had stated that the cost would not exceed £5. They had accepted the estimate of William Henderson for the boarding of the schoolroom floor, which was the lowest. [Minute 19 November 1844].</p> <p>Discussion of the complaint concerning the work of John Home, barber, referred from the last meeting. As requested, John Home was present. He admitted some apparent neglect but said this was unintentional and was caused by not receiving the message from the Workhouse at the proper time. He also presented an account for 10s 7d for shaving vagrants and which had been disallowed by the Finance Committee. On being told that the account could not be allowed he resigned with immediate effect. Accepted – to proceed with the appointment of a replacement at the next meeting.</p> <p>Election of Vice Chairman: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke] was unanimously elected.</p> <p>Letter from Robert Home, Superintendent Registrar. It thanked the Board for the prompt repair of the flue. He then suggested that it would be a saving to introduce gas lighting instead of use of candles. Agreed to the request and asked Home to approach the Berwick and Tweedmouth Gas Company as they had done the previous work.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners sanctioning non resident relief granted by the Board to John Young and his wife on account of his advanced age.</p>	
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			The Clerk to balance the quarterly accounts and prepare the Abstract.	
Item	GBR 39/ 187-191	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 14 January 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; William Heron; I T Smith; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Alexander Laing; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Robert Carr; James Laing; John Wilson. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>As W & E Willoby were unable to attend, agreed that [A S Park] is appointed Clerk for that day.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: George Young (tea & tobacco); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); R Sanderson (coals); Margaret Anderson (bread); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk flour etc, sweeping chimney, eggs & straw); J Main (repairing clothes); Knight & Co (books & forms); Berwick & Kelso Warder (printing); representatives of Thomas Chartres (deceased oil etc).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance of paupers were paid as follows with the amount to be charged as outrelief to the parishes: Morningside Asylum – George Wilson, Holy Island; Isabella Lough, Tweedmouth; Alice Bruce, Twisel [Twizel]; Musselburgh Asylum – Margaret Cook, Berwick.</p>	14 Jan. 1845

			<p>Appointment of Barber to replace John Home, continued from last meeting – Thomas D Meston was unanimously appointed at a salary of £6 pa. The rules of duty were more fully defined.</p> <p>The report of Robert Home, Auditor, was presented. The books and accounts of all the Officers of the Union and of the Overseers of the parishes were audited and correct with one exception. The Overseers of Duddo did not present their books and since Home took office they had not attended in person and their books had not been presented in time. He also mentioned that the Master of the Workhouse had not presented the “Labor Book”. However the Master’s illness and Home omitting to ask for it were sufficient reason.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: W & E Willoby, Clerks; Robert Home, Auditor; J B Atkinson, John Anderson, William Dods, Relieving Officers; Andrew Henderson, Andrew Morison, John Paxton; Joseph Watson, Medical Officers; John and Jane Purdie, Master and Matron of the Workhouse.</p> <p>Following their meeting on 7 January 1845, the Workhouse Committee recommended that as John Purdie, Master, continued to be unable to leave his room because of illness, James Atkinson, Relieving Officer, be appointed under Article 13, General Rule, Poor Law Commissioners 21 April 1842, “to assist in the management of the house and generally to see that the orders of the Master are duly executed”. Agreed.</p> <p>Ordered that Ralph Lowe, a pauper of Tweedmouth presently in the Workhouse, should be taken to Musselburgh Lunatic Asylum, his maintenance to be charged as outrelief.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/190-194	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 28 January 1845	Present at the meeting Guardians: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; George Weatherhead; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Thomas Scott; Nathaniel Dodds; George Wood; Adam Bell; Thomas Pinkerton; Alexander Christison.	28 Jan. 1845

		<p>Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Dr Clarke.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: R Sanderson (coals); Margaret Anderson (bread); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Joseph Milburne (groceries); George Young (tea, tobacco etc); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk flour salt, Foulers [sic] earth sand etc, eggs & straw); W Thompson (stationery); J Anderson (coffin N Redpath); Superintendent Registrar (forms supplied to District Registrars); R Chrisp (clothes); J Main (repairing clothes, knitting).</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by James Atkinson; John Anderson; William Dods for parishes within their districts.</p> <p>Medical fees: Tweedmouth, Andrew Morison, 2 cases midwifery, 1 fractured arm; Kyloe, Andrew Morison, 1 midwifery.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Andrew Dalglish of Berwick; Agnes Buglass of Berwick; William Johnson of Tweedmouth; male child of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee recommended that alterations should be made to the wards to prevent inmates from absconding. The cost would not exceed £5. Agreed.</p> <p>Andrew Henderson, Medical Officer for Berwick presented a bill from Dr Cahill for attendance on Thomas Taylor, a pauper of Berwick, for disease of the knee</p>	
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			joint. A previous meeting had authorised this. Payment agreed.	
Item	GBR 39/ 194 -196	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 11 February 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Thomas Pinkerton; John Archbold; James Laing; John McGregor; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Alexander Laing; George Wood; Nathaniel Dodds; Nicholas Bell; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk, flour, beer, salt, carpet shoes & knitting, mangle rope etc, eggs & straw); J Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The Board's attention was drawn to the Order of the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 21 December 1844, regulating the mode in which relief is to be administered to non-settled and non-resident poor. To be considered at the next meeting. Meanwhile the Clerk to contact the Clerks of Glendale, Rothbury, Belford, Alnwick, Newcastle and Morpeth Unions to ascertain whether these Unions, if Berwick adopts the Order in respect of any of their paupers resident in this Union , will do the same in respect of paupers of this Union resident in theirs.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners approving the temporary appointment of James Atkinson to assist in the management of the Workhouse during John Purdie, the Master's, illness.</p>	11 Feb. 1845

			<p>They also approved the appointment of Thomas D Meston as barber of the Workhouse at a salary of £6 pa.</p> <p>Letter from John Paxton, Medical Officer of the Norhamshire District, asking for an increase of fees under the Vaccination Act. To be decided, with consideration, when considering appointment of Medical Officers for the ensuing year.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/197 -200	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 25 February 1845.	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; John Archbold; J R Nicholson [James Nicholson]; Thomas Pinkerton; Thomas Scott; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; John McLeod; Adam Bell; George Wood. W T Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: R Sanderson (coals, potatoes); Margaret Anderson (bread); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); George Oswald (barley); George Young (groceries); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk flour, chaff & sand etc, eggs & straw); Shaw & Sons (forms); General Shipping Co (freight), Thomas Melrose (stationery); Joseph Brown (mason work at Register Office); Superintendent Registrar (coals & candles, Register Office); J Home (shaving); D Cameron (printing); Charles Knight & Co (forms); Alexander Meikle (repairing shoes); J Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: John Stewart, Duddo; William Jenkins,</p>	25 Feb. 1845

			<p>Norham; Elizabeth Tully, Cornhill; Margaret Cummins, Berwick; George Trotter, Berwick; James Fallow, Berwick; Mary Taylor, Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Consideration of the Poor Law Commissioners' rules for relief of non resident poor carried forward from last meeting. The Clerk reported that he had not received replies from the other Unions to which he had written. Decided to postpone decision to the next meeting and the Clerk should write to Sunderland, Tynemouth & Shields Unions in similar vein.</p> <p>The terms of appointment of the Medical Officers to be considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>Appointment of suitable people to assist the Clerk in conducting the elections of Guardians for the following year in accordance with Article 3. The following were appointed to receive nominations for the respective parishes: J B Atkinson, Berwick; George Dick, Tweedmouth; Henry Leckie, Kylee; John Anderson, Ancroft; John Bell, Holy Island; John Carmichael, Cornhill; William Dods, Norham; Alexander Laing, Duddo; Robert Carr, Felkington; Ebenezer Black, Grindon; John Embleton, Horncliff [Horncliffe]; William Richardson, Lonend [Loanend]; George Wood, Longridge; William Cleghorn, Norham Mains; Nathaniel Dods, Shoreswood; James R Nicholson, Thornton; John Archbold, Twisel [Twizel].</p> <p>The Clerk presented the forms and documents, provided by Mr Hawley [Assistant Poor Law Commissioner], for deciding the averages for each parish for the three years ending Ladyday 1844 which he had completed and had then been examined by the committee appointed. The Chairman signed them and they were to be sent to the Assistant Commissioner for examination as requested.</p> <p>The order of the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 20 June 1844 concerning payment of witnesses in Mr Black's case was discussed –ref. Minute of Meeting</p>	
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			on 17 August 1844. On the recommendation of Mr. Hawley they made another application to the Commissioners suggesting that in their Order they had misunderstood the distances each witness travelled.	
Item	GBR 39/ 201 - 206	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 11 March 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Alexander Robertson; Ebenezer Black; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Thomas Scott; Alexander Laing; Robert Carr; Alexander Christison; J R Nicholson [James Nicholson]; T W Tait [Thomas Tait]; Nicholas Bell; John Archbold; John McGregor; Adam Bell; John Wilson; Thomas Hownam; George Wood. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: [John Purdie] Master of the Workhouse (milk flour & salt, bed chair, sand etc, clothing, repairing clothes etc, arrow root beer etc).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: James Nesbit, Duddo; Jane Whitford's child, Berwick.</p> <p>The Relieving Officers presented the following accounts for the maintenance of pauper lunatics, to be charged to their respective parishes: Luke Craggs, Ancroft; Isabella Turner, Berwick, Ralph Low, Tweedmouth; Margaret Cook, Berwick.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The terms of appointment of Medical Officers as agreed at last meeting were</p>	11 March 1845

		<p>considered. The appointments were to be for one year from 25 March 1845 to 25 March 1846. The medical districts were as follows: Berwick District – Parish of Berwick including attendance at the Workhouse. Salary £50 pa, excluding fees prescribed by medical order. Norhamshire District – the whole of Norhamshire. Salary £30 pa, excluding fees prescribed by medical order. Islandshire District – the whole of Islandshire except Holy Island. Salary £35 pa, excluding fees prescribed by medical order. Holy Island District – Holy Island. Salary £5 pa, excluding fees prescribed by medical order. The Medical Officers were also required to attend the fortnightly meetings of the Board and the Officer for Berwick to attend the Workhouse Committee meetings. The Medical Officers were to be appointed vaccinators for their districts. The fee for each successful vaccination to be 1s 6d. The contracts to be negotiated after the appointments were made and confirmed. The elections were to take place on 25 March.</p> <p>Poor Law Commissioners' Order concerning relief for non resident poor. Replies had been received from Belford, Glendale, Alnwick and Rothbury Unions agreeing to the proposal of Berwick Union and enclosing lists which were presented to the Board. Resolved to accept the Order in respect of those Unions and the Clerk and Relieving Officers to put this into effect.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners in response to the receipt of the vaccination return from the Union. It draws attention to the difference between the number of births, 746, and the number vaccinated by the public vaccinators, 323, in the Union for the year ended 29 September 1844. Taking into account the children born previously, many probably still unvaccinated, they would</p>	
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		<p>expect a greater number to have been vaccinated and suggest a further extension of vaccination in the Union.</p> <p>Alexander Robertson, seconded by Alexander Christison, proposed that first the Board should find out:</p> <p>How many children were vaccinated by private practitioners either gratuitously or not in the year ending September 1844;</p> <p>The numbers vaccinated by the Union or public vaccinators each year from 1841 to 1844 inclusive;</p> <p>To what extent vaccination prevailed prior to 1841.</p> <p>Mr Robertson to obtain this information for the next meeting.</p> <p>William Dods, Relieving Officer for Northhamshire District tendered his resignation as soon as a successor is found because of his deafness and failing memory. He also resigned as Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Resolved to accept his resignation and report to the Poor Law Commissioners. His salary to continue to the end of the next quarter, Midsummer, and that he should continue to provide his services as required during that period.</p> <p>An advertisement to be placed in the two Berwick newspapers, the <i>North British Advertiser</i> and the Newcastle paper and his successor to be elected at the meeting on Tuesday 8 April. The person should be aged between 25 and 45, should reside constantly in the District and devote all his time to the duties unless the Poor Law Commissioners direct otherwise.</p> <p>Applications and testimonials of character must be sent to the Clerk by 31 March. The Workhouse Committee will examine them at their meeting on 1 April. If they consider any of the candidates are ineligible they should be informed not to attend the election. Candidates approved must attend and be prepared to undergo examination by the Board.</p> <p>The salary is to remain at £70 pa. and the Workhouse Committee should prepare the advertisement.</p> <p>An examination of the scholars attending the Workhouse School is to be on Tuesday 18 March at 2pm.</p>	
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			Joseph Cockburn, a burger of Berwick was today admitted to the Workhouse on his application. The Board informed him that consequent of his being chargeable to the parish he would be disqualified from voting in elections for members of parliament.	
Item	GBR 39/ 207 - 213	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 25 March 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Thomas Pinkerton; John Archbold; John McGregor; Alexander Laing; Robert Carr; George Wood; James Laing; Nicholas Bell; Thomas Hownam; John Dunbar; J T Smith; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Alexander Robertson; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Edward Davidson; Thomas W Tait; William Heron; George Weatherhead; Ninian Sanderson; Thomas Scott; Adam Bell; John Wilson; John McLeod; Alexander Christison. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: R Sanderson (coals); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Margaret Anderson (bread); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); George Young (groceries); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk flour etc, sand & straw, eggs & straw); J B Atkinson (old rope); N Henderson (amount of estimate for flooring schoolroom etc); Charles Knight & Co (forms); B Atkinson (painting); C Richardson (printing); Thomas Melrose (stationery); Shaw & Sons (forms); Thomas Allison (lamp rate); J Main (repairing clothes); Union Officers (postage); Parish of Berwick (quarters rent Workhouse).</p>	25 March 1845

		<p>Vaccination fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson, 6 cases; Tweedmouth, Andrew Morison, 18 cases; Ancroft, Andrew Morison, 2 cases; Kylloe, Andrew Morison, 1 case; Lonend [Loanend], John Paxton, 3 cases; Longridge, John Paxton, 3 cases; Thornton, John Paxton, 2 cases; Cornhill, John Paxton, 4 cases; Norham, John Paxton, 1 case.</p> <p>Medical fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson, 1 case midwifery; Tweedmouth, Andrew Henderson, 1 case midwifery; Ancroft, Andrew Morison, 1 case midwifery; Tweedmouth, Andrew Morison, 1 case midwifery.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: George Logan, schoolmaster; John Moor, porter; Elizabeth Buglass, sewing mistress; Thomas Meston, barber.</p> <p>According to the Porter's book vagrants relieved were 397, 227 chargeable to Berwick and 170 to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners confirming the arrangements and appointments of the Medical Officers.</p> <p>In consequence the Board proceeded to appoint unanimously, subject to the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners, the Medical Officers as Vaccinators as follows: Andrew Henderson, Berwick District; John Paxton, Norhamshire District; Andrew Morison, Islandshire District; Joseph Watson, Holy Island District.</p>	
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		<p>Report concerning vaccination, requested at the last meeting as a result of the letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, received from Alexander Robertson. Period from 29 September 1843 to 29 September 1844 –</p> <p>Children vaccinated by the public vaccinator – 323. Children vaccinated in their private practice – 30. Children vaccinated by other medical men and chiefly done gratuitously – 451. Total vaccinated – 804.</p> <p>Number of births registered exclusive of infants dying under 6 months – 732. He points out that more children were vaccinated than were born but that allowance must be made for children born prior to 29 September 1843 and the number of vagrant children. Making a deduction of 1/8, which he is assured would be ample, then 700 children born in that year were vaccinated. This should satisfy the Board both that the private medical practitioners continue to vaccinate, largely gratuitously, and that the public vaccinators have carried into operation with fidelity and success the Vaccination Extension Act.</p> <p>In response to their second resolution he had calculated the respective number vaccinated each year since the Act came into operation. 1841 – 674; 1842 – 363; 1843 – 284; 1844 – 345.</p> <p>The much greater number of vaccinations in the first year indicates that the public vaccinators made great efforts to encourage children born previously to be vaccinated. Coupled with the later figures this indicates diligence on the part of the public vaccinators and refutes the conclusion of the Commissioners' letter.</p> <p>In response to the third resolution of the Board, his enquiries indicate that there was a high number of vaccinations in the Board's area, prior to the Act. The present senior medical practitioner in Berwick prior to 1841 usually vaccinated upwards of 200 children, nearly all gratuitously. He considers that in 1841 there were a lower proportion of unvaccinated children compared to other parts of the country and he was surprised that so many children were found unvaccinated in 1841.</p> <p>He also reported that very few children born were not vaccinated and the few that were not were from the "vagrant and mendicant class hanging round the</p>	
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			<p>town of Berwick". He suggested the higher authorities should consider more stringent provisions against this class. He also pointed out that in recent years smallpox is almost unknown in this part of the country and in the year ending 29 September 1844 there were no cases in the Union's area.</p> <p>While not part of his remit, he suggested that in justice to medical practitioners at large and to ensure the success of the Vaccination Extension Act, that all medical practitioners should be considered public vaccinators and entitled to a proper fee out of the parochial rate or a public fund.</p> <p>Resolved that his report be adopted and forwarded to the Commissioners.</p> <p>The Clerk was ordered to take direction from the Poor Law Commissioners whether the parish of Tweedmouth or Ancroft should pay the fee of £3 due to Andrew Morison for attending Joseph Townsley for a fractured thigh.</p> <p>James Elliott, tailor of Horncliff [Horncliffe] to whom George Wilkie was bound as apprentice by indenture in October 1843, appeared to request that he be released from the bond. As a result of a disease of the eyes the boy was quite unable to follow employment as a tailor and he was unable to maintain him. The Board were unsure that they had the power to do so and referred it to the Poor Law Commissioners for an opinion.</p> <p>Agreed to enact the Poor Law Commissioners' Order concerning non resident and non settled poor as regards Tynemouth and Gravesend Unions. A reply had been received from Newcastle Union declining to adopt the order.</p> <p>The Meeting was adjourned to 1 April at 10 30am for the purpose of examining the applications for the post of Relieving Officer for the Northamshire district.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/214 - 216	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 1 April 1845 (this was	Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Alexander Christison; Thomas Hubback; James Marshall; Edward Davidson; John Dodds; Thomas Pinkerton; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; C L Gilchrist [Charles Gilchrist]; Alexander Crossman;	1 April 1845

		<p>the first meeting of the new Board and was adjourned from 25 March 1845).</p>	<p>George Smith; Robert Guthrie. Medical Officers: none. Chairman: Alexander Smith to take the Chair until the election of Chairman and Vice Chairmen.</p> <p>The Clerk made the following return for the election of Guardians for the ensuing year: Berwick upon Tweed – H G C Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Alexander Lowrey; George Smith; Thomas Hubback; Alexander Christison; James Marshall; Charles L Gilchrist [Charles Gilchrist]; Edward Davidson; John Dodds. Tweedmouth – Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; James Laing; William Heron; Adam Bell; Robert Guthrie. Kylee- George Hogg. Ancroft – Thomas Pinkerton; John McGregor. Holy Island – Alexander Crossman. Lonend [Loanend] – William Richardson. Horncliff [Horncliffe] – Nicholas Bell. Longridge – George Wood. Thornton – James R Nicholson [James Nicholson]. Norham Mains – John McLeod. Shoreswood – Nathaniel Dodds. Felkington – James Lisle. Duddo – Alexander Laing. Norham - Alexander Smith. Grindon – Ebenezer Black. Twisel [Twisel] – John Archbold. Cornhill – John Laing.</p> <p>Elections for the ensuing year: Chairman - Alexander Smith. Vice Chairman – Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]. Workhouse Committee – George Smith (Chairman); James Marshall (Vice</p>	
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			<p>Chairman); Alexander Christison; Edward Davidson; Alexander Crossman; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; C L Gilchrist [Charles Gilchrist]; Thomas Hubback; John Dodds; Robert Guthrie. School Committee – Alexander Lowrey; Thomas Pinkerton; Alexander Christison.</p> <p>They then considered the applications and testimonials for the post of Relieving Officer for the Norhamshire District, 21 in total. The following candidates were approved for examination [interview]: Thomas Mangham of Hexham; William Clark of Felkington; Robert Kinnaird of Edinburgh; I T Bell of Berwick; Peter Chirnside of Portobello; Thomas Patrick of Scremerston; Alexander Davidson of Norham; James Davidson of Tweedmouth; Robert M Forster of Berwick; William Hay of Edington; William Cleghorn of Norham Mains; Thomas Wood of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>The Clerk to write informing them that they should attend for interview on Tuesday [8th April].</p> <p>The clerk to inform the following that they had been unsuccessful: John Gibb of Edinburgh; Donald Davidson of Glasgow; Alexander Ralston of Edinburgh; Alexander Allan of Lanark; Adam Linton of Edinburgh; Robert Alexander of Edinburgh; John Towns of Etal Moor houses; William Black of Dundee; George Brown of Shoreswood.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the vacancy. They ask if the intention is for the new Relieving Officer to take up his duties and to be paid before Midsummer. They also said that William Dodds [William Dods] could not be paid till the end of the quarter as suggested.</p> <p>The Clerk to reply saying that the intention was for the new Relieving Officer to start his duties and be paid as soon as his appointment is confirmed by the Commissioners. They also urged that the Commissioners allow payment to Dodds up to the end of the Quarter.</p> <p>James Atkinson, Relieving Officer, reported that because of the death of one of</p>	
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			his sureties to his bond, Mr Weatherly, he wished to replace him by Alexander Meikle. The Board agreed to accept Alexander Meikle as new bond and ordered that it be prepared.	
Item	GBR 39/ 217 -222	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 5 April 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; J R Nicholson [James Nicholson]; Adam Bell; James Lisle; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Alexander Laing; William Richardson; John McLeod; John Archbold; John McGregor; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; George Hogg; Alexander Crossman; George Wood; James Laing; William Heron; Nicholas Bell; Nathaniel Dodds. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton. Chairman: Resolved that Alexander Smith be Chairman and Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke] Vice Chairman for the coming year.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Belford; Alnwick; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Tynemouth; [St Alkmunds].</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: R Sanderson (coals); M Anderson (bread); Joseph Milburne (groceries); George Young (groceries); Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (flour milk etc, shoes, besoms sand etc, arrow root straw etc); John Main (repairing clothes); J & J Gray (advertising); Shaw & Sons (forms); R Guthrie (metal pots); J Anderson (coffin for Rachel Tibbit).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p>	5 April 1845

			<p>Report from the Auditor, Robert Home, dated 7 April 1845, approving all the books and accounts of all the Officers and Overseers (apart from Shoreswood). He also approved the Bonds of the Officers of the Union in pursuance of the Order of the Poor Law Commissioners.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: W & E Willoby, (Clerks); James Atkinson, John Anderson, William Dods, (Relieving Officers); Robert Home, (Auditor); Andrew Henderson, Andrew Morison, John Paxton, James Watson, (Medical Officers); John & Jane Purdie (Master & Matron of the Workhouse).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Elizabeth Penman of Berwick; Thomas Rutherford of Tweedmouth; Isabella Sutherland of Berwick.</p> <p>Account for maintenance of Mary Ann Temple, of Cornhill at the Lunatic Asylum at Newcastle was paid with the amount to be charged as outrelief to the parish.</p> <p>The contracts for provisions, clothing etc. were due to expire on 21 April. To be advertised and the Workhouse Committee to draw up a handbill.</p> <p>The Poor Law Commissioners had approved the appointments for the Medical Officers for the ensuing year.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning continued payment to William Dods, Relieving Officer. They will allow this to the end of the Quarter provided Dods is appointed Assistant to the new Relieving Officer from the day he takes office.</p> <p>They then proceeded to election of Relieving Officer for Norhamshire in accordance with the following rules: Twelve candidates were considered admissible. An arithmetic test was set.</p>	
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			<p>The total number of candidates, who had passed the test, was then to be reduced by successive polls to two, the candidate who has the smallest number of votes to be removed.</p> <p>In the case of an equal number of votes for two or more candidates a fresh poll would be taken on them until a result is reached.</p> <p>When two candidates are left a poll is to be taken on them and the person with the majority is to be elected.</p> <p>If at any point one candidate has a clear majority over all the others he should then be elected.</p> <p>The candidates called for examination (except Peter Chirnside, Thomas Mangham and Robert Kinnaird) then sat the arithmetic test. After their testimonials were read the meeting proceeded to the first poll. The result was: Forster 10 votes; Davidson 9; Cleghorn 3; Wood 2; Bell 1. On the second poll Forster received 11 votes, the rest as before. On the third poll Forster received 12; Davidson 10; Cleghorn 3. On the final poll Forster received 15 and Davidson 10.</p> <p>Robert Michael Forster was therefore appointed subject to approval by the Poor Law Commissioners as Relieving Officer for Northhamshire at a salary of £70 per annum. Forster named John Batters of Berwick, corn merchant, and Edward Henderson of Lowick, farmer, as his sureties.</p> <p>Agreed to inform the Poor Law Commissioners forthwith.</p> <p>The following communications were continued to the next meeting: Letter from the Caistor Union re order of the Poor Law Commissioners on appointment of District Auditor.</p> <p>Reply from Kelmsley Union re non resident poor.</p> <p>They approved leave of absence for a period not exceeding one month for John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, as his health required a change of air.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/	Minutes of Berwick	Present at the meeting	22 April

	223 - 227	Board of Guardians meeting held on 22 April 1845	<p>Guardians: Alexander Smith; Alexander Crossman; Alexander Christison; James Lisle; John Dodds. Medical Officers: John Paxton; Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Belford; Alnwick; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Tynemouth; St Alkmund.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Alexander Smith (beef & mutton); M Anderson (bread); R Sanderson (potatoes, coals); George Young (tea & tobacco); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk flour etc, cartage etc, eggs etc); J B Atkinson (old rope); General Shipping Co.(freight of ditto); D A Lamb (water sprig?, ditto Register Office); R Guthrie (ovens); William Wilson & Son (dusters etc); B Clark (bonnets); J Main (repairing clothes). Funeral expenses were ordered for: Mary Wells of Berwick; Elizabeth Gough of Berwick; Patrick Hanlon of Tweedmouth; Ann Jordan of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance of Alice Bruce, of Twisel [Twizel]; Isabella Lough of Tweedmouth at the Morningside Asylum were paid with the amount to be charged as outrelief to the parishes.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Payment of £10 to Messrs Willoby, Clerk to the Union, was authorised for conducting the elections.</p>	1845
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		<p>Registration accounts were presented by Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Dods [William Dods] for parishes within their districts.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported that the following were the recommended tenders for provisions, clothing etc for the next six months:</p> <p>John Morton – beef 3s 10d per stone, mutton 6d per lb. Miss Anderson - bread 7/8d per 12 oz loaf, for outdoor poor 5 1/2 lbs for 6d, 4lb fine loaf 6 1/2d. John Young – sugar 50s per hundred weight, tea 4s 8d per lb, soap 45s 6d per hundredweight. George Weatherhead – coffee 1s 8d per lb, pepper 1s per lb, treacle 2s 8d per stone, rice 2 1/2d per lb, salt 2s 6d per hundred weight. Joseph Milburne – tobacco 3s 4d per lb, snuff 3s 1d per lb. George Young – soda 7s 6d per hundredweight, dip & mould candles 5s 6d and 6s 6d per 12 lbs. Thomas Cockburn – whisky 2s per bottle, porter 3 1/2d per bottle, vinegar 6d per bottle, wine 2s 9d per bottle. R Sanderson – coals 8s per ton. Robert Chrisp – wearing apparel men, boys under 7, boys 7 to 12, boys 12 to 15 [no prices given]. Charles Forsythe – 30 yds white calico 36 ins, 20 yds ditto 3d per yard, 50 striped cotton skirting, 30 check for aprons 6½, 20 scouring flannel 5½, 12 jaconet muslin [some detail missing]. James Jaffrey – copies per doz, 3 gross steel pens, McCullochs 3d reading book, ciphering books [no prices given]. William Rutherford – oatmeal per sack 29s. Accepted; the suppliers of bread and butcher meat to find security for performance of the contracts.</p> <p>Consideration of the resolutions of Caistor and Helmsly Unions deferred to the next meeting.</p>	
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			<p>Joseph Watson, medical officer for Holy Island, named Mr Davidson of Belford as his deputy and Andrew Henderson, medical officer for Berwick named Dr Edgar as his deputy.</p> <p>Reply from the Poor Law Commissioners to the letter and report prepared by Alexander Robertson concerning the operation of Vaccination Extension Act. They expressed their satisfaction concerning the amount of vaccinations performed.</p> <p>The Board expressed their thanks to Mr Robertson and asked that a copy of the Commissioners' letter be sent to him.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/228 - 232	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 6 May 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Thomas Pinkerton; Alexander Crossman; James Lisle; James Laing; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Alexander Laing. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Belford; Alnwick; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Tynemouth; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: M Anderson (bread); John Morton (beef & mutton); George Weatherhead (salt); R Sanderson (coals); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); John Young (groceries); Joseph Milburne (tobacco & snuff); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (flour, milk etc, straw sand etc, eggs &</p>	6 May 1845

		<p>arrowroot); J Main (repairing clothes); [funeral expenses] – William Nightingale.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: William Barnes' child of Berwick; Christian McKenzie of Berwick; James Taylor of Berwick; William Alexander of Berwick.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the payment of expenses to witnesses who attended the investigation held by the Assistant Commissioner in March 1844. They forwarded £3 12s 8d, travelling expenses for Messrs. Dippie and Thompson. As they had travelled more than 10 miles, it was not refundable from the common fund of the Union.</p> <p>Ordered that Messrs Willoby be refunded the expenses they had paid to witnesses in the investigation James Carr, Robert Purves, Robert Forsyth from the Establishment.</p> <p>The Board then considered the resolution of the Caistor Union concerning the Appointment of District Auditor in relation to the 32nd and other clauses 7th & 8th Vict. Cap 101.</p> <p>It resolved:</p> <p>Any change in the method of appointing auditors was unnecessary and inexpedient. They saw no advantage in forming audit districts and appointing a District Auditor.</p> <p>Since its formation the Board had thrice appointed an Auditor and are satisfied that on each occasion they could not have appointed a better qualified person. The current incumbent is of undoubted fitness. They would regret extremely if they were deprived of his services.</p> <p>The only change which they would wish to make in the audit arrangements was for a twice yearly rather than quarterly audit. This would save time and trouble particularly for the Overseers of the rural parishes any of whom provide their services gratuitously.</p> <p>They suggest that the Commissioners make Berwick Union a District on its own</p>	
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			<p>in accordance with the Acts and that the accounts be audited twice a year instead of four times. A copy of these resolutions to be sent to the Boards of Guardians in the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, York and Westmoreland.</p> <p>Resolved that the Guardians of the townships and parishes be requested to visit, examine and inspect in company with the Relieving Officer, the paupers in their area and report to the Board their state and condition and any circumstances and information they deem necessary.</p> <p>Ordered that Dr Henderson, Medical Officer for Berwick, and Mr Atkinson, Relieving Officer, visit Musselburgh Lunatic Asylum to inspect the establishment and ascertain the condition of the several paupers from the Union.</p> <p>Ordered that Mr Carmichael, Overseer for Cornhill, and Mr Paxton, Medical Officer for Northumberland, visit Dr Smith's Asylum, Newcastle to assess whether Mary Ann Temple of Cornhill is fit to be placed under the charge of her friends. If so they should take the necessary steps before the Justices for her removal.</p> <p>In future the meetings of the Workhouse and Finance Committee are to be held at 4pm.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/232 -236	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 20 May 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; John Laing; Adam Bell; Alexander Crossman; Nathaniel Dodds; James Laing; James Lisle; James Marshall. Medical Officers: none. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-</p>	20 May 1845

		<p>maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Belford; Alnwick; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Tynemouth; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk, flour & beer, repairing clothes, straw, arrow root, eggs etc.)</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Jane Cockburn of Berwick.</p> <p>Application made by Robert Wilks and wife, at present chargeable to Tweedmouth, for assistance from the Board to send them and their three children to America. The Board are willing to advance a sum not exceeding £25 for this purpose provided that the parishioners of Tweedmouth in vestry assembled assent.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported that the front wall and gable of the workhouse etc was in a bad state of repair. They had directed James Brown to prepare a specification of work required. They also reported that the interior needed whitewashed and coloured. Ordered the Workhouse Committee to advertise for tenders both for the whitewashing and colouring of the interior and repairing the east front and north gable, according to Brown's specification.</p> <p>Ordered that travelling expenses be reimbursed to Mr Atkinson, Relieving Officer of Berwick, for his visit to Holy Island to investigate the conduct of Robert Hopkins, apprentice bound by Berwick Parish to Thomas Thew.</p>	
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			<p>Letter received from Alnwick Union stating that they would no longer pay relief to non resident and non settled poor, under the Commissioners Order of 21 December 1844, after 28 May.</p> <p>Received from the Clerk of Peace for the County of Northumberland a request for the precept from the various parishes totalling £138 19s 4d by 20th June. This was towards the general county rate at ½ d in the pound as required to be collected by the Guardians (Act 7 & 8 Vict c33).</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Guardians' letter (meeting on 25th March) concerning the application of James Elliott to cease maintaining the apprentice, George Wilkie. Their opinion was that there would be no difficulty in ending the indenture with the consent of the Guardians, Overseers, master and the Justice as required by 56 Geo. 3 c139 s9. If the Guardians were to give relief to the apprentice it would not in law be relief to the master. Ordered that the necessary steps be taken to end the indenture.</p> <p>The Master of the Workhouse was empowered to purchase three cocoa fibre mattresses for the Workhouse.</p> <p>The Board had learnt that John Sanderson, a boy who was an inmate of the Workhouse, had ulcerated hands. He told the meeting that these had been caused by punishment inflicted by the schoolmaster. The Medical Officer was asked to examine the boy and report to the Workhouse Committee for them to investigate and report to the next meeting.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/236 - 242	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 3 June 1845	Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; Alexander Crossman; Thomas Pinkerton; George Smith; Alexander Christison; John McLeod; John Dodds; Nicholas Bell; John McGregor.	3 June 1845

		<p>Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Belford; Alnwick; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Tynemouth; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Morton (beef & mutton); M Anderson (bread); R Sanderson (coals); Joseph Milburne (groceries); Thomas Cockburn (wine & spirits); George Weatherhead (groceries); John Young (groceries); William Rutherford (oatmeal); George Young (groceries); George Oswald (barley); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk, flour etc, sweeping chimnies [sic] etc, repairing clothes etc, straw); W Thompson (stationery); Shaw & Sons (stationery); Alexander Meikle (repairing shoes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Catherine Clark of Berwick; Margaret Wilson of Berwick.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning Joseph Townley. The medical relief given to Townley ought to be chargeable to Tweedmouth as where there is no fraud in the removal of the pauper, the parish where the accident happens in cases of this kind is not necessarily liable for the pauper's relief and that the law raises an obligation against the parish where the pauper lies sick to provide necessities.</p>	
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		<p>The fee to be paid to Dr Morison and debited to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Letter received from Belford Union stating that they would no longer pay relief to non resident and non settled poor, under the Commissioners Order of 21 December 1844, after the end of the current quarter.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners to their letter of 6th May concerning the appointment of District Auditors. They said that they were bound by the legislation (7/8 Vict c101) to carry out what was enacted. They have no power to continue an auditor for a single Union and they cannot exempt the Berwick Union from the Act.</p> <p>Resolved that they expressed their regret at the reply. They could see nothing in the Act making it compulsory for the Commissioners to form districts. They unanimously and urgently appealed for the Commissioners to reconsider.</p> <p>The parishioners of Tweedmouth had agreed to the Board advancing a sum not exceeding £25 to Robert Wilks for the family to emigrate to America. Mr Atkinson, Relieving Officer, to arrange for them to go to Glasgow and secure a passage for them.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee presented their report, as directed by the last meeting, into the alleged improper punishment of John Sanderson by the Schoolmaster. This included statements from those involved.</p> <p>John Sanderson stated that he was an inmate of the workhouse and aged about 8 years. About two weeks before the Schoolmaster beat him with a cane upon the backs of his hands, holding him by the wrists. The sores on his hands were caused by these blows. He had beaten him before in this way and had also done so to other boys. He never had sore hands before this.</p> <p>John Henderson, an inmate aged 13, said that he remembered Mrs Joy, the nurse, asking him to look at John Sanderson's hands. He did so and they were very sore. He asked the cause and Sanderson told him that the Master had licked him with a cane, causing them to be sore. He did not see the Master beat</p>	
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		<p>him on the back of his hands on this occasion, but had seen him do so, holding him by the wrists.</p> <p>Mrs Joy said she was an inmate and had charge of the boys. John Sanderson was under her charge. A fortnight before he had complained of sore hands; she examined them and found three marks of blows on the backs of the fingers of one hand and two marks on the other. He told her the blows were given by the Schoolmaster and the sores were caused by the blows. Once before she had noticed blows on Sanderson's hands but had not enquired the cause. She had since heard that they were caused by the Schoolmaster striking him. His hands were never sore before the Schoolmaster had beaten them.</p> <p>Andrew Henderson, Medical Officer, stated that he was asked to examine Sanderson on 16th inst. His fingers were so swollen that he could not state the cause. He ordered poultices to be applied and when he examined him again he found distinct marks on the backs of the fingers of each hand as if caused by a wand or a cane. He was decidedly of the opinion that the injuries were caused by blows inflicted by a wand or cane. The boy was of a highly scrofulous disposition and the blows were more likely to result in such sores than in most.</p> <p>Mr Logan, the Schoolmaster, denied that he ever intentionally struck John Sanderson in the manner indicated by him and John Henderson but that he might by accident have hit him on the backs of his hands. He positively denied correcting the boys by holding them by the wrists and then beating them on the backs of the hands.</p> <p>The Board then requested Logan to attend and asked him whether he wished to add anything to his statement. He repeated his denial and asked that other children be examined on the matter to which the Board agreed.</p> <p>John Edgar, an inmate aged 12, said that he had seen the master flog the boys. He had seen him hold them by the wrists and lick them on the fronts of their hands but never the backs. He had been punished himself but never except upon his back.</p> <p>William Bennett, aged 11, said that he had seen the Master take hold of J Sanderson by the wrists and lick him on the backs of the hands with the cane. He was not in the class at the time but his attention was drawn by his roar and</p>	
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			<p>looked that way. The Schoolmaster had licked him and Joseph Atkinson in the same way. When Logan had licked him he had turned round his hand and therefore he hit him on the backs of his hands. He hit him wherever he could. With him he had used the tawse.</p> <p>Joseph Atkinson, an inmate aged 12, said that he had been licked by Logan but never on the backs of his hands. Once he took him by the wrists and licked him on the front of his hands. He had seen Logan lick Ann McMann on the back of one of her hands with the tawse, taking hold of her wrists. He once saw Logan lick John Emery in the same way with the cane. He was in the sick ward when he heard that Sanderson was licked.</p> <p>Resolved that the foregoing statement be taken into consideration at the next meeting.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 243 - 250	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 17 June 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; John McLeod; William Richardson; Alexander Christison; Thomas Hubback; Alexander Laing; Ebenezer Black; James Laing; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Alexander Crossman. Medical Officers: Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Agreed that Ebenezer Black take the Chair until the arrival of Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Belford; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Tynemouth; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: M Anderson (bread); John Morton (beef & mutton); R</p>	17 June 1845

			<p>Sanderson (coals); Joseph Milburne (tobacco); George Weatherhead (grocer); Thomas Cockburn ([porter & spirits]); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk flour & beer, crockery besoms etc, carpet shoes, garden seeds eggs etc); Joseph Brown(mason work); Thomas Allison (lamp rate for Register Office); John Drummond (smith); J Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>John Paxton, Medical Officer for Norhamshire reported on his visit with Mr Carmichael to Dr Smith's Asylum, Newcastle, in connection with Mary Ann Temple of Cornhill. [ref. meeting 6 May].</p> <p>They found her very anxious to be removed from there. Dr Macintosh surgeon of the Asylum, who, they understand, is in partnership with Dr Smith, said that she was then in her best state. At times she was very rude and in his opinion she would not recover but remain a lunatic for life. Paxton and Carmichael's opinion was that she was still of unsound mind but that she might recover if removed from any cause of excitement. From her own account she is not wholly free from this, but whether real or imaginary they could not tell. After consideration they applied to the Magistrates for her removal to another asylum. They were told that she was brought before them by the police and on examination by a surgeon proved to be insane. Their only course was to commit her to Dr Smith's Asylum as it was the only one in their jurisdiction. She could only legally be removed if the surgeon of the institution stated on oath that she should be removed. As they knew Dr McIntosh [sic] could not do so, they could do nothing further. They wished to state their strong opinion that, if possible, she should be removed to another asylum.</p> <p>To be entered in the minutes and expenses paid, debited to Cornhill parish.</p> <p>The sums collected from the various parishes for the county rate to be forwarded to the Treasurer for the County of Northumberland.</p> <p>The Board considered the statements relating to the punishment inflicted by Mr</p>	
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		<p>Logan, schoolmaster to John Sanderson. The resolution of the meeting was that the statements were not sufficient to indicate that punishment by beating the children on the back of the hand was habitually used, but that on the occasion in question it was and that there were other occasions he had been hasty and intemperate in inflicting punishment. They expressed in the strongest terms their disapprobation of such conduct. Taking into account the above, his want of attention in the discharge of several of his duties and his general deportment, they were convinced that Logan ought not to be entrusted with the post of Schoolmaster. They submit the case to the Poor Law Commissioners with an urgent request that they call upon Logan to resign and if he declines they organise his dismissal. All the statements and the resolution to be sent to the Commissioners and also an extract from Mr Robertson's report of his examination of the school [previous Chairman] to the Board meeting on 7 November 1843.</p> <p>Resolved that at the next meeting they elect a new Registrar of Births and Deaths for Northhamshire in place of Mr Dods who had resigned.</p> <p>Andrew Henderson, Medical Officer for Berwick, presented his report on his visit with James Atkinson, Relieving Officer, to the Musselburgh Lunatic Asylum. They visited the Lillybank private Lunatic Asylum on 26 May. Arriving at noon, they were shown into a small room where they were left a considerable time. They were then shown round by Mr & Mrs Hislop. The rooms were small and poorly ventilated. They did not allow any classification of the 19 inmates. They shared a common yard for exercise, with no attempt to separate the "insane and fatuous", men and women. As far as they could judge there was no attempt to treat the inmates. The report book did not contain a detailed account of any of the cases. The surgeon only visited twice a week and apparently only attended to physical needs. In their opinion, the opportunity of treating the mental illness in the early stages when likely to be successful was lost.</p>	
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			<p>They saw brutal treatment of the more violent which made them shudder. Therefore they visited Morningside Asylum to see if they could accommodate their patients. They were full as they were obliged to take paupers from the parishes which subscribed to them.</p> <p>On their suggestion, they then visited the Royal Lunatic Asylum in Glasgow. They were received with courtesy and shown all round it by the Medical Officer. It was an immense establishment, clean, comfortable and orderly. They were willing to take their patients currently at Lillybank. The cost was 6d per week more, but they considered this well worth it, as apart from grounds of humanity, there was a far greater possibility of improvement. With their treatment, cure was possible for 70% whereas in private asylums average cures rarely reached 10 or 12%.</p> <p>The report was approved and John Anderson, Relieving Officer, was to go to Musselburgh and arrange for transfer of all, or those who were able to be removed, to Glasgow Royal Lunatic Asylum.</p> <p>Henderson and Atkinson's expenses in relation to the above were approved, to be debited to the parishes of Berwick, Tweedmouth and Ancroft.</p> <p>The cost of the passage of Robert Wilks, wife and family to St John's, New Brunswick was paid to Messrs. Dryden Lamb & Co (£10 10s). Debited to Tweedmouth parish.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/250 -257	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 1 st July 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; John McGregor; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; James Lisle; Nathaniel Dodds; Alexander Crossman. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p>	1 July 1845

			<p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Belford; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Tynemouth; South Shields; Shrewsbury for the 13th week of the quarter. In the 1st week of the next quarter Belford and Tynemouth were not listed.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Morton (beef & mutton); Robert Sanderson coals); Joseph Milburne (tobacco etc); George Weatherhead (coffee etc); Thomas Cockburn (porter); M Anderson (bread); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk, flour etc, cartage, straw etc, repairing clothes etc, arrow root etc); D McGrigor (oakum (old rope); Cornelius Nesbit (carpenter); D Gibson (half year's rent Register Office); Union officers' postage; J B Atkinson (1/4 rent workhouse); coffin (Andrew Taylor); R Chrisp (clothing).</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: George Logan, schoolmaster; John Moor porter; Elizabeth Buglass sewing mistress; Thomas D Meston barber.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The porter's Book listed 481 vagrants relieved, 277 chargeable to Berwick and 204 to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Vaccination fees: Berwick, - Andrew Henderson; Tweedmouth, Ancroft, Kyloe, Holy Island, - Andrew Morison; Grindon, Twisel, Thornton; Cornhill, Shoreswood, Norham, Horncliff [Horncliffe], Duddo, Loanend, - John Paxton. Holy Island – Joseph Watson.</p> <p>Medical fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson, 5 cases midwifery, 1 case fractured leg;</p>	
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		<p>Norham Mains, John Paxton, 1 case midwifery; Loanend, John Paxton, 1 case midwifery.</p> <p>John Anderson, Relieving Officer, reported that he had visited Musselburgh Lunatic Asylum and arranged for transfer of 3 patients to the Glasgow Royal Lunatic Asylum. The fourth could not be transferred because of indisposition. The costs of removal were authorised: Ralph Low of Tweedmouth; Isabella Turner of Berwick; Margaret Cook of Berwick.</p> <p>Anderson also reported that he had accompanied Robert Wilks and family to Greenock and arranged passage to St John's New Brunswick as directed. Expenses were authorised, including clothing for the Wilks family and £1 in cash, transport to Greenock and then St. Johns, the total of £14 8s 2d being debited to Tweedmouth parish.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Barbara Grey of Kyoie; Andrew Gibson of Ancroft; Ann Marshall of Berwick; Ann Quickly of Berwick.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance of the following pauper lunatics were authorised, to be debited to the respective parishes: Luke Craggs of Ancroft; Margaret Cook of Berwick; Isabella Turner of Berwick; Ralph Low of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Further to the resolution of the last meeting, they elected Robert Michael Forster, Relieving Officer, to the post of Registrar of Births and Deaths for Norhamshire in place of William Dods who had resigned.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning George Logan, schoolmaster. It enclosed a copy of a letter to Logan requiring him to resign forthwith.</p> <p>During the course of the meeting a letter of resignation was received from Logan. This was accepted and the Commissioners to be informed.</p> <p>The Workhouse School Committee was asked to consider the best method of</p>	
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		<p>filling the vacancy and report back. They were authorised to confer with Mr Adams, Rector of the Corporation Academy, for his views on the subject.</p> <p>The Clerk reported the death of William Ainslie, Treasurer of the Union. Agreed that at the next meeting they would elect a new Treasurer.</p> <p>At the next meeting they would consider increasing the salary of the Schoolmistress to a sum not exceeding £45.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee were authorised to have a new gate made for the north entrance to the Workhouse.</p> <p>Order from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 6th June, forming the "Northumberland Audit District" including the Berwick Union, for auditing of accounts under 7 & 8 Vict. C101 and prescribing the mode of election of auditor.</p> <p>Letter received from Mr Lees, Writer, Musselburgh, on behalf of Mr Heslop, requesting a full quarter's payment of board for the three pauper lunatics transferred by the Board to Glasgow Royal Asylum.</p> <p>The Board decided that because of the short notice unavoidably given to Heslop, they would pay him £2 which they consider fully adequate for the short notice.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on the statements of relief given to residents of the Union, received from the other Unions with whom agreements had been made concerning payment for non resident poor under the provisions of the Poor Law Commissioners Order of 21st Dec. 1844. These were debited to the respective parishes: Glendale Union – parishes concerned: Berwick; Tweedmouth; Kyle; Ancroft; Holy Island; Lonend; Horncliff; Longridge; Thornton; Norham Mains; Shoreswood; Felkington; Duddo; Norham; Grindon; Twisel; Cornhill.</p>	
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			<p>Belford Union - parishes concerned: Berwick; Tweedmouth; Kylee; Ancroft; Holy Island; Longridge; Norham Mains; Duddo; Cornhill.</p> <p>Alnwick Union - parishes concerned: Berwick, Tweedmouth; Kylee; Ancroft; Longridge; Norham Mains; Grindon; Cornhill.</p> <p>Tynemouth Union - parishes concerned: Berwick; Tweedmouth; Ancroft; Holy Island; Thornton; Shoreswood; Duddo;</p> <p>South Shields Union - parishes concerned: Berwick, Tweedmouth;</p> <p>Bakewell Union - parishes concerned: Berwick.</p> <p>Rothbury Union - parishes concerned: Kylee; Duddo; Norham.</p> <p>Scalcoats Union [Sculcoates E. Riding] - parishes concerned: Berwick.</p> <p>Leyburne Union - parishes concerned: Berwick.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/258 -263	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 15 July 1845	<p>Present at the meeting</p> <p>Guardians: Alexander Smith; Ebenezer Black; C L Gilchrist [Charles Gilchrist]; John Dodds; William Heron; Nathaniel Dodds; William Richardson; John Laing; James Laing; Thomas Nesbit {Thomas Nesbitt}; Edward Davidson; Alexander Laing; John McLeod; George Smith; Adam Bell; George McGregor; George Wood; George Hogg; James Lisle; Alexander Christison; James R Nicholson [James Nicholson]; Nicholas Bell; James Marshall; Alexander Crossman.</p> <p>Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson.</p> <p>Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for:</p> <p>Supplies and services: M Anderson (bread); Joseph Milburne (groceries);</p>	15 July 1845

		<p>Thomas Cockburn (spirits); George Weatherhead (tobacco); John Morton (beef & mutton); R Sanderson (coals); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] (milk, flour etc, pig etc); General Shipping Company; Berwick & Kelso Warder; James Jaffrey (stationer); Thomas W Tait (stores etc); J B Atkinson (for poor rate on Workhouse and garden and Register Office); Alexander Meikle (repairing shoes); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The Treasurer had received the 4th dividend of the Tweed Bank on the notes in the possession of the Berwick Relieving Officer.</p> <p>Payment had been received from the Gravesend and Milton Union for the relief to their parishes.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Barbara Borham of Berwick; John McFarlane's child of Berwick; John Bishop's wife of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance of the following pauper lunatics were authorised, to be debited to the respective parishes: Alice Bruce of Twisel [Twizel]; Mary Ann Temple of Cornhill; Isabella Lough of Tweedmouth.</p> <p>The Workhouse School Committee reported back concerning the appointment of a new schoolmaster.</p> <p>As requested, they had consulted Mr Adams, Rector of the Corporation Academy. He suggested that they consider approaching the Glasgow Normal School, where he himself was educated. Between 50 and 60 young men qualify to be teachers every six months and Boards Of Guardians frequently approach the School to recruit teachers. Adams recommended they approach Mr Heslop, Master of the School to recruit a replacement. The Committee strongly recommended this, pointing out it that it was likely to be more successful than advertising.</p>	
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			<p>They had also observed the pupils of the Academy for an hour and were very impressed with the system of teaching used and the teaching of Mr Adams. They considered the Workhouse School would greatly benefit from adopting this system.</p> <p>The Board approved the report and asked the Committee to contact Mr Heslop and report back.</p> <p>The Board proceeded to the election of a new Treasurer to replace William Ainslie, deceased. The following applications were received: John Thomson of the North of England Bank; A Malloch of the Union Bank.</p> <p>Mr Christison proposed and Mr Dodds seconded that Mr Thomson be appointed. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>When this was communicated to Thomson, he nominated George Burdis, a Director of the North of England Bank, Newcastle, and Alexander Robertson of Tweedmouth as his sureties. These were accepted.</p> <p>A cheque from the Executors of the late Treasurer for £649 14s 11 1/2d for the balance due to the Union was passed to Thomson.</p> <p>They then considered increasing the salary of the Schoolmistress. They asked the Workhouse Committee to look at the possibility of recruiting a person competent to act as sewing mistress and assistant to the matron and capable in assisting in the education of the children at a salary not exceeding £15 per annum and report to the next meeting.</p> <p>Letter received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the fortnightly meetings of the Board and requesting that after 30th September they meet every week throughout the year.</p> <p>To be considered at the next meeting.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/263	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians	A L Park, Acting Clerk, attended and waited for over an hour but only two Guardians, Alexander Smith, Chairman, and George Smith attended.	29 July 1845

		meeting held on 29 July 1845		
Item	GBR 39/264 - 265	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 5 August 1845. This was an Extraordinary Meeting.	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; John McGregor; Nathaniel Dodds; Alexander Crossman; George Smith; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; William Richardson. Medical Officers: None Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>This Extraordinary Meeting was called to consider the appointment of a Master for the Workhouse School, to conduct other business considered proper and to sign cheques for the Relieving Officers to relieve the Out Poor in the 5th and 6th weeks of the quarter. This was necessary in consequence of no meeting being held on 29 July.</p> <p>Two replies had been received from Robert Hislop [sic], sent from Gerrick, near Kelso, concerning the vacancy for a Schoolmaster. The first recommends Mr Maxwell Gardner whom he says is well qualified and available and to whom he has written. The second confirms that Gardner is available if the post is offered to him. Any future communication should be sent to Glasgow. Agreed that the post be offered to Gardner, that they proceed to appointment at the next meeting and that Gardner be asked to attend.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p>	5 Aug. 1845
Item	GBR 39/266 -273	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 12 August 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; Nicholas Bell; James Laing; William Heron; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; James Lisle; Adam Bell; George Wood; Thomas Nesbitt [Thomas Nesbitt]; Alexander Christison. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison.</p>	12 Aug. 1845

		<p>Chairman: Not Named.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: M Anderson (bread); John Morton (beef); Thomas Cockburn (spirits); Joseph Milburne (tobacco); George Weatherhead (groceries); R Sanderson (coals & potatoes); John Purdie [Master of the Workhouse] milk flour etc, sand gravel etc, arrow root); J Thompson (rough casting and colouring per estimate); John Main (repairing clothes); Robert Cowe (garden plants).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported back on the appointment of a sewing mistress and assistant to the Matron. Miss Mary Atkinson, daughter of J B Atkinson, was prepared to take the post at £15 per annum. They were satisfied that she was very well qualified and recommended that she be appointed at a salary of £15 pa.</p> <p>It was agreed that Mrs Buglass, the present Sewing Mistress, should be dismissed on the grounds of incapacity from age and that the dismissal be reported to the Poor Law Commissioners. They should proceed to the election of a vacancy to Mrs Buglass at the Meeting on 26 August in terms of the report presented by the Workhouse Committee.</p>	
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		<p>The board was informed that John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, was unable to perform any of his duties because of continuing and increased indisposition.</p> <p>Agreed that John Moor, Porter, assist J B Atkinson in keeping the books and generally in the management of the Workhouse.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners approving the appointment of John Thomson as treasurer of the Union.</p> <p>The Meeting considered the letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, deferred from the meeting of 15 July asking that from 30 Sept. they hold their ordinary meeting once in every week.</p> <p>They replied that, whilst they were anxious to carry out the wishes of the Commissioners, with regret, on this occasion they asked the Commissioners to reconsider the change.</p> <p>The first reason given by the Commissioners was that in those Unions where meetings were held fortnightly, that in some instances applications for relief were not investigated as carefully and that the affairs of the Union, owing to accumulation so satisfactorily attended to. Matters dealt with could be more numerous or less recent in recollection. The Guardians replied that these points were speculative and not justified by any proceedings of the Union. Applications for relief have always been completely investigated and accumulation of business has never prevented them from dealing fully and attentively with it. If such an accumulation did occur they considered that it could safely be left to their discretion to take necessary measures. They pointed out that in reality a meeting is held each week as the Workhouse Committee is held on alternate weeks to the Board. These meetings, generally of two hours, as well as inspecting the Workhouse usually considered and reported on many issues referred to them thus lightening the workload of the Board. The Guardians are satisfied that the work of the Union is fully attended to and that they do not require more frequent meetings.</p> <p>The Guardians considered the other objections of the Commissioners</p>	
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		<p>embraced several matters relating to the integrity, zeal, activity and discretion of the Relieving Officers. The observation of the Commissioners concerning the amount of money entrusted to these officers only partly applies to the Union. Mr Atkinson, Relieving Officer for Berwick, never has in his possession more money than if the meetings were held weekly. He is issued with two cheques; one he cashes the first week, the second on the second week of the fortnight. The payments to the country officers are very small, averaging £35 to the one and £30 to the other each meeting. The security they provide to the Board more than covers these amounts. In the Guardians' opinion the discretion devolved to those officers is not made greater by the meetings being fortnightly and are satisfied from experience that it can safely be vested in them. Discretion in giving relief can only be prolonged for one week. And the Guardians cannot see how the meetings being held fortnightly can ever operate in such a way as a refusal of relief.</p> <p>Finally the Guardians say that the Commissioners are wrong in saying that the Union is not chiefly of an agricultural character. It contains an area of 49165 stat. acres and is almost entirely in tillage. There is one town of any consequence, Berwick upon Tweed, and several villages. With the exception of Tweedmouth, the villages are completely inhabited by agricultural labourers. There are 30 Guardians, 21 of whom are returned by the country parishes and all are farmers; the remaining 9 are returned by the parish of Berwick. As many large occupiers are tenants of the land forming that parish [i.e. Berwick] containing 5120 acres (all in tillage) generally a third of guardians are gentlemen resident in the country and engaged in agriculture. Except the town of Berwick the district forming the Union is entirely agricultural and the majority of guardians are agriculturalists. To attend meetings country guardians must devote the greater part and in some cases the whole day once a fortnight. The town guardians give the greater part of the day (and the most important part) once in every week [presumably this includes attendance at the Workhouse Committee]. They consider this is a sufficient sacrifice of time and that they should not be called upon to hold more frequent meetings.</p>	
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		<p>Report from the Auditor, Robert Home, who passed the accounts of the Officers and Overseers with the following exceptions: he had found no direct authority for the expenses incurred by the two Medical Officers when they visited the lunatic asylums at Newcastle and Musselburgh accompanied by in one case the Relieving Officers of Berwick and Tweedmouth and in the other by the Overseer of Cornhill. In the meantime he had allowed the expenses but was consulting the Poor Law Commissioners.</p> <p>Letter received from the Auditor, Robert Home, concerning the payment of £5 14s debited by Mr Dods, late Receiving Officer of Norhamshire to Grindon as payment for a pauper while under unexecuted order of removal. The money was actually paid by Ebenezer Black, Overseer of Grindon, whom Dods had not yet reimbursed. Home suggests that this sum be deducted from the balance of salary due to Dods to ensure Black did not lose out. The above suggestion was agreed.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: Clerks, W & E Willoby [William Willoby and Edward Willoby]; Auditor Robert Home; Relieving Officers, Messrs. Atkinson, Anderson, Forster and Dods (late); Medical Officers, Andrew Henderson, Andrew Morison, John Paxton and Joseph Watson; Master and Matron of the Workhouse, John and Jane Purdie.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee were authorised to arrange for the papering and painting of the Board Room provided it did not exceed £5 and also to paper the rooms of the Schoolmaster.</p> <p>Agreed that John Mazzonie be appointed interim Schoolmaster of the Workhouse until a permanent master is appointed at a salary of £1 a week.</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Ann Ross of Berwick; Robert Hindmarsh of Berwick; Henry Ivy of Kyloe.</p>	
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			The account for maintenance of Ralph Low, pauper lunatic, was authorised, to be paid to Glasgow Royal Lunatic Asylum and debited to the parish of Tweedmouth.	
Item	GBR 39/ 273 - 277	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 26 August 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Thomas Pinkerton; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Adam Bell; Thomas Nesbitt. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: M Anderson (bread); John Morton (beef); R Sanderson (coals); George Oswald (barley); George Weatherhead (coffee); J Milburne (tobacco etc); T Cockburn (spirits etc); J Purdie [Master of the Workhouse (milk flour etc, black lead etc, arrow root etc); W Thomson (stationery); Thomas Melrose (stationery); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The Treasurer had received payment from the following Unions for their paupers resident in Berwick Union under the Poor Law Commissioners order of 21 December 1844: Glendale; South Shields; Belford; Alnwick; Rothbury; Gravesend and Milton; Shrewsbury.</p>	26 Aug. 1845

			<p>Agreed that the sums paid to the following Unions In the last quarter for the relief of non resident poor of this Union and which was transmitted on 15 July be debited to the non resident poor account: Glendale; Belford; Alnwick; Tynemouth; South Shields; Bakewell; Rothbury; Sculcoates; Leyburn.</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by James B Atkinson for parishes within his district</p> <p>Following notice given at the last meeting the Board appointed Maxwell Gardner as Schoolmaster in place of Mr Logan at a salary of £60 pa with apartments in the house, subject to the approval of the Poor Law Commissioners.</p> <p>They also appointed Miss Margaret Atkinson as Sewing Mistress and Assistant to the Matron at a salary of £15 pa with rations and apartments in the house, subject to the approval of the Commissioners.</p> <p>The Clerk to seek the agreement of the Commissioners.</p> <p>Agreed that the Porter be allowed extra rations whilst he is assisting in keeping the Workhouse books and its management.</p> <p>Authorised that the Workhouse Committee arrange for a passage be made through the boys' sleeping room to the rooms occupied by the Schoolmaster.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 277 – 280	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 9 September 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Mr H T Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner. Guardians: Alexander Smith; Thomas Pinkerton; John McGregor; George Wood; George Smail; Edward Davidson; John McLeod; Alexander Christison. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Smith though Thomas Pinkerton signed the Minutes of the previous meeting in the temporary absence of Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster]</p>	9 Sept. 1845

		<p>were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Morton; Miss M Anderson; J Milburn; T Cockburn; R Sanderson; G Weatherhead; Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk & flour, spectacles sand etc, eggs); M Mazzonie (interim teacher); J Hernaman (advertising); William Dods (postage); C Forsyth (scouring cloths etc); C Forsythe [sic] (clothing); A Meikle (repairing shoes); John Main (repairing clothes);</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by William Dods for parishes within his district.</p> <p>Accounts for maintenance and removal home of the following pauper lunatics in the Glasgow Royal Lunatic Asylum were authorised, to be debited to the respective parishes: Margaret Cook and Isabella Turner both of Berwick.</p> <p>The Workhouse Committee reported that since the last meeting “that excellent and respected officer”, Mr Purdie, Master of the Workhouse had died. In anticipation of the need to replace him and to save time, they had considered the actions to be taken by the Board and therefore had given members prior notice.</p> <p>Firstly, they considered that Mrs. Purdie should continue as Matron being very satisfied with her performance of her duties. They had confirmed that she wished to retain the post and would be satisfied with the Board’s decision on her salary.</p> <p>Secondly they recommended that J B Atkinson be considered for the post of Master or Superintendant [sic] Master as he had efficiently managed the</p>	
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			<p>Workhouse whilst Mr Purdie was ill. They had considered the difficulty that Atkinson could not be resident and considered this could be overcome by promoting the Porter, John Moor, to resident and Deputy Master. Again they considered that he had performed very well the extra duties he had undertaken during Mr Purdie's protracted illness.</p> <p>They had discussed this with Atkinson and Moor who were both agreeable. Atkinson said that on appointment as Master he would resign as Collector of Poor Rates for Berwick Parish.</p> <p>They therefore recommended that the Poor Law Commissioners be asked to sanction the appointments of:</p> <p>Mr Atkinson to be Superintendent Master - salary £35 pa. without rations and not to be resident in the House;</p> <p>John Moor to be Deputy Master, resident in the House – salary £15 pa.</p> <p>Mrs Purdie to be Matron – salary £15 pa.</p> <p>Mrs Purdie and John Moor to have rations equal to those of Master and Matron.</p> <p>The Board decided that the Workhouse Committee had given adequate notice and that they could consider the report that day.</p> <p>Mr Christison, seconded by Mr Pinkerton, moved that the report be approved with the following Amendment -</p> <p>The salaries proposed should be: Mr Atkinson £30; John Moor £15; Mrs Purdie £25.</p> <p>There were no other amendments and it was carried. The report and resolution were to be sent to the Poor Law Commissioners to allow time for a reply for the meeting on 23 September.</p> <p>The Auditor presented his letter to the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the accounts for visiting the Lunatic Asylums and their reply.</p> <p>As the Commissioners had not given an explicit direction he is now happy to pass the Accounts, but asks the Board to take notice of their observations.</p> <p>Home's letter outlined the details of the two visits, queried whether the statutes and orders fully covered the circumstances and also queried the amount of 3 Guineas per day claimed by the Medical Officers for loss of time. The amount</p>	
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			<p>allowed for attendance at Assizes was 2 Guineas. He also suggested it might have been cheaper to have asked a physician in the neighbourhood of each Asylum to undertake the visit.</p> <p>The Commissioners' reply said that the Guardians are empowered under 5 & 6 Vic c 57 s 6 to arrange such visits by a Medical Officer. They did not consider it was necessary in the circumstances for the Medical Officer to be accompanied by an Overseer or Relieving Officer. They also consider the sum paid to the Medical Officers for loss of time was unusually high.</p> <p>As Home was now taking leave of his post [the Poor Law Commissioners having introduced a system of District Auditors] he expressed his gratitude to the Board.</p> <p>The Board authorised the Workhouse Committee to have the gables of the hospital and the boys sleeping and dayrooms roughcast.</p> <p>[NOTE: There are 5 unnumbered pages in this section, between pages 279 and 280.]</p>	
Item	GBR 39/280 -290	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 23 September 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; Alexander Crossman. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton. Chairman: Alexander Smith</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for:</p>	23 Sept. 1845

			<p>Supplies and services: John Morton (beef etc); Margaret Anderson (bread); Joseph Milburn (groceries); Robert Sanderson (coals); G Weatherhead (groceries); Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk etc, chimney sweeping & scissors grinding, eggs & arrowroot); Thomas Cockburn (porter etc); B Atkinson (painting schoolmaster's rooms and boardroom); Charles Knight & Co (official circulars); commission on remittance to Sunderland Union for relief under non resident relief order; J Main (repairing clothes); Parish of Berwick (quarter rent of Workhouse).</p> <p>Vaccination fees: Andrew Henderson, Berwick - 7 cases; Andrew Morrison [sic], Tweedmouth - 21 cases, Ancroft – 10, Kyloe – 13; John Paxton, Norham Mains – 5 cases, Twysel [Twizel] – 6, Duddo – 4, Cornhill – 2, Felkington – 2, Shoreswood – 22, Thornton – 1, Horncliff – 6.</p> <p>Medical fees: Berwick, Andrew Henderson – 2 cases midwifery.</p> <p>Payment of salaries for the quarter was ordered for: John Moor (porter); Elizabeth Buglass (sewing mistress); Thomas Meston (barber).</p> <p>The outrelief given from the Workhouse to vagrants for the quarter was £3 13s 2½.d. The Porter's book recorded 532 vagrants were relieved; 278 chargeable to Berwick and 254 to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded. These included the precept for the County Rates for Norham and Islandshire.</p> <p>The account from the Sunderland Union for non resident relief for the quarter ending at Midsummer was paid, with the amount debited to Longridge parish and Berwick.</p> <p>An account from the Newcastle Lunatic Asylum for the maintenance of Mary Ann Temple of Cornhill, pauper lunatic, was authorised, to be debited to the</p>	
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		<p>parish.</p> <p>The Clerk was ordered to make up the quarterly accounts and abstract.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 19 September, to the Board's proposals for the replacement of the late John Purdie, Master of the Workhouse, reached at the Meeting on 9 September.</p> <p>They did not authorise the appointments of Atkinson as Superintendent Master and John Moor as resident and Deputy Master. They were adamant that the Master must be resident and also objected because Atkinson was one of the Relieving Officers. They agreed to the continuation of Mrs Purdie as Matron. They requested that the Board proceed to appoint a fit person as Master, who should be required to live in, without delay.</p> <p>After consideration the Guardians replied asking the Commissioners to urgently reconsider as they are convinced of the superiority of the plan.</p> <p>They considered it would work to the great advantage of the Union. They were not motivated by any personal favour to those proposed, only by their merit and fitness for the posts. They did not want to run the risk of appointing an inefficient person. They pointed out that Atkinson, prior to the formation of the Union, then being Assistant Overseer of Berwick, had for several years had superintendence of the House. Sir John Walsham, the Assistant Commissioner at the start of the Union, declared it was the best managed House he had seen and quoted it as a pattern for others. It was acknowledged by all that this was due to Atkinson. When later the then Master was found to be incompetent it was understood that Walsham would have approved an arrangement such as now proposed. They finally pointed out that Atkinson had held the fort during Mr Purdie's long illness and that when Mr Hawley had made an unannounced visit to the Workhouse on 9 September he declared his entire satisfaction.</p> <p>Letter received from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 11 September, stating that Mr Hawley, Assistant Commissioner, had reported that the Union had appointed local committees of Guardians for the purpose of assisting the</p>	
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			<p>general Board. In these committees the local guardians met with the Relieving Officers of the district. After the cases of any paupers seeking relief had been heard, the Relieving Officers had orders to act on the suggestions of the committees until the next Meeting of the Board when a report of the cases is made and the acts of the committee are confirmed or sanctioned. The Commissioners state that these proceedings are unauthorised by law and that relief given, except in cases of emergency, is probably illegal and subject to be disallowed by the Auditor. They pointed out that the Guardians had no authority except as a Board and at a meeting of the Board. The Relieving Officers are only empowered to give relief on their own responsibility in cases of "sudden and urgent necessity" and then only food and clothing, not money.</p> <p>The practice was a strong argument for weekly meetings of the Board and a tacit admission that fortnightly meetings were insufficient [see letter from Commissioners Meeting 15 July and reply from the Board on 12 August]. If the Guardians continue with fortnightly meetings and consider local committees are necessary, the Commissioners will consider any application for the appointment of such committees in a legal form under the provisions of 5 & 6 Vict c 57. They enclosed a copy of an order which has been used in several cases.</p> <p>The Clerk was ordered to reply that no such practice as described has now or ever existed in the Union. The only Committees whose meetings are as stated are the Workhouse and Finance Committees. Unless there are matters referred to them by the Board, they visit the Workhouse, examine the stock of provisions and clothing and the tradesmen's' bills. Neither Relieving Officers nor any paupers attend the Meetings. The Board do not foresee any need for local committees, the business of the Union not requiring meetings more than once a fortnight.</p> <p>Letter received from the Poor Law Commissioners confirming the appointment of Miss Margaret Atkinson as schoolmistress at a salary of £15 pa and rations.</p> <p>Letter received from W H T Hawley, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, giving a list of the candidates for the post of Auditor for the Northumberland District and</p>	
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			<p>his declaration as Returning Officer that Robert Usher had been elected.</p> <p>Agreed that until 25 March next the Meetings of the Board to be held at 10 30.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/290 -294	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 7 October 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; Adam Bell; John Laing; N Bell [Nicholas Bell]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke].</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; South Shields; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: M Anderson (bread); J Morton (beef); Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk etc, flour & beer, straw chaff etc, chimney sweeping, eggs etc); John Gilroy; J Milburne; T Cockburn; G Young (soda); R Anderson (coals); commission on remittance of company rate.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the 8th instalment of the Exchequer Loan (£100) and that the interest on the remaining £300 (£12) were due on 31 October. To be paid.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The Overseers of Cornhill communicated that Mary Ann Semple presently in the Newcastle Lunatic Asylum was now sufficiently recovered to be discharged.</p>	7 Oct. 1845

			<p>They sought the directions of the board as to her removal and whether she should return to her father's house on outrelief or go to the Workhouse. Agreed that she should be admitted to the Workhouse and that Mr Carmichael should go to Newcastle to convey her back.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had made several attempts to get payment of the balance due from the sureties of the late Treasurer. On the last occasion Mr Weatherhead replied on behalf of himself and Mr Sharp to ask whether the Guardians would relieve them of the debt and look to Mr Sked to pay the remainder as they considered they had already paid their share. A letter had been received from Mr Sked. He expressed his concern that there was any cause for the letters he had received. As he had explained previously that because of circumstances over which he had no control and a combination of unexpected events he was without a choice or alternative in the matter and therefore left the case to the consideration and clemency of the Guardians. The Clerk was ordered to reply to Weatherhead to say that the Guardians could not accede and required the balance to be paid forthwith.</p> <p>The contracts for provisions and clothing were to expire on 20 October and the Workhouse Committee was ordered to advertise for tenders to be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>Letter received from Edwin Chadwick on behalf of the Poor Law Commissioners concerning local committees. He apologised for the Commissioners' letter stating that Berwick had such committees and accepting that they did not. The mistake had arisen as Mr Hawley, Assistant Commissioner, had wrongly included the Berwick Union in a list of Unions which had local committees. The subject of weekly meetings will be left in abeyance meantime and for the present the Board can continue with fortnightly meetings.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/295 -302	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians	Present at the meeting Guardians: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey];	21 Oct. 1845

		<p>meeting held on 21 October 1845</p>	<p>Alexander Crossman; Nicholas Bell; George Wood. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson, Andrew Morison; John Paxton. Chairman: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke].</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Margaret Anderson (bread); John Morton (beef); Thomas Cockburn (porter); R Sanderson (coals); G Weatherhead (coffee etc); Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk flour etc, arrow root eggs etc, Sand whitning etc, blue); J Main (repairing clothes); F Lough (coffin); T Wilson (glazing); W Thompson (stationery).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: Jane Beveridge's child.</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] for parishes within their districts.</p> <p>Relief of the non- settled poor under the provisions of the Poor Law Commissioners Order of 21 December 1844. The following parishes presented accounts they had received from other unions: Berwick (from Glendale, Bakewell, Sculcoats, South Shields, Sunderland); Tweedmouth (from Glendale, Houghton Le Spring); Kylee, Ancroft, Duddo, Norham (all from Glendale and Rothbury only); Longridge (from Glendale and Sunderland only); Holy Island, Lonend [Loanend], Horncliff [Horncliffe], Thornton, Norham Mains, Shoreswood, Felkington, Grindon,</p>	
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			<p>Twizel, Cornhill (all from Glendale only). These accounts were all settled and the parishes debited. The Clerk reported on amounts due from other Unions which he had sent to them and gave this summary by district of the Relieving Officers: Atkinson [James Atkinson] (Glendale, Rothbury, Sunderland, Gravesend, South Shields, Shrewsbury); Anderson [John Anderson] (Glendale, Rothbury); Forster [Robert Michael Forster] (Glendale, Rothbury). The Treasurer reported that he had received payment from Tynemouth and South Shields Unions for their paupers resident in Berwick Union.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded. This included contributions to the County Rate from Felkington, Cornhill, Twizel, Lonend [Loanend] and Grindon parishes.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Board's second letter, dated 26 September, concerning the appointment of Master of the Workhouse. Whilst they fully accept that Atkinson had managed the Berwick Parish Workhouse well when Assistant Overseer prior to the Poor Law Act as reported by Sir J Walsham, they cannot agree to the appointment. They consider it is absolutely necessary that the Master is resident in the Workhouse to provide constant supervision. To be considered at the next meeting and the Guardians notified.</p> <p>The following tenders for provisions, clothing etc were accepted: John Morton – beef at 4s 1d per stone, mutton at 6d per lb. Richard Thompson – second best flour at 47s per sack. George Young – sugar at 58s per cut, tobacco & snuff at 3s 4d per lb, candles dips at 5s per dozen lb, candles moulds at 6s per dozen lb. Joseph Milburne – coffee at 1s 8d per lb, soap at 45s per cwt, rice at 3d per lb, soda at 7s per cwt, treacle at 24s per cwt. Thomas Cockburn – porter at 3½d per bottle, whiskey at 2s per bottle, vinegar at 6d per bottle.</p>	
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			<p>Robert Sanderson – coals at 8s per ton. Alexander Darling – bread for outdoor poor at 6d per loaf. William Rutherford – 30 sacks oatmeal at 40s per sack, oatmeal for out door poor at 2s 1d per stone. Robert Chrisp – clothing - men's suit £1 2s 11d each, men's jacket 8s 9d each, boys suit (12 to15) 15s 1d each, boys suit (7 to 12) 11s 2d each, boys suit (under 7) 6s 11d each. Charles Forsythe – 47 yds calico at 4d per yard, 100 yds white calico at 5d per yard, 57¾ blue druggat at 10½d, 60 blue & white at 10¾ d. John Paxton – 50 yds blue flannel at 1s 5d per yard, 30 yds tweeled flannel at 1s 9d per yard, 100 yds tweeled sheeting at 9½d per yard. Messrs Rutherford – 3 doz linen tape no. 25 at 2s2d per doz, 3 doz linen tape no. 135 at 3s 1d per doz. Alexander Meikle – men's shoes sizes 7, 8, 9, women's shoes 5, 5½. 6, boys 8 all 2 pairs of each, boys 9, 3pairs of each, boys 10, 12, 13, 3 pairs of each, boys 11, 2 pairs of each, small size 1 pair, [no prices given]. Walter Thompson – copies ruled for text ½. text and small at 1s 8d per doz, Church of England catechisms at 6d per doz, Church of Scotland catechisms at 6d per doz, 2 reams of post paper at 9s 6d per ream, Browns catechism at 7d per doz.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/303 -305	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 4 November 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; G Smith [George Smith]; Mr Laing [not clear whether John or James Laing]; Adam Bell; E Black [Ebenezer Black]. Medical Officers: John Paxton; Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke].</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p>	4 Nov. 1845

			<p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Morton (beef); Thomas Cockburn; R Sanderson (coals); J Milburne; Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse (chimney sweeping etc, eggs)]; Alexander Darling (bread); G Young (tobacco etc); G Forsythe; John Main (repairing clothes); James Thompson (repairing roofs gables etc); Alexander Moor (ironmongery).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for: James Beveridge's child.</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by Mr Atkinson for parishes within his district.</p> <p>As resolved at the last meeting, the Meeting then considered the letter from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the arrangements for the Workhouse. Ebenezer Black gave notice of a motion he would put to the next meeting. This would state that in consequence of the determined opposition of the Poor Law Commissioners to the arrangements proposed by the Board (the expediency of which the Board remain perfectly satisfied as they also are of the extreme uncertainty of any other mode of proceeding proving beneficial or satisfactory), it only remains for the members of this Board to resign their office of Guardians.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 306 - 312	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 18 November 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Thomas Pinkerton; James R Nicholson; John McGregor; George Smith; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Alexander Christison; Alexander Crossman; Ebenezer Black; A Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; John Paxton; Andrew Morison. Chairman: Alexander Smith</p>	18 Nov. 1845

		<p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk etc, baking bread yeast etc, eggs & straw etc, scouring cloth); Thomas Anderson (1 year's rent of garden); John Main (wages).</p> <p>The Clerk reported that Robert Usher, District Auditor, had audited the Union Accounts for the quarter ended at Michaelmas and had certified them.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: W & E Willoby, Clerks; J B Atkinson, J Anderson, R M Forster, Relieving Officers; A Henderson, A Morrison [sic], J Paxton, A Watson, Medical Officers; M Gardner, schoolmaster.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The Treasurer reported that he had received payment from Glendale, St Ackmands / Shrewsbury, Gravesend & Milton Unions for their paupers resident in Berwick Union.</p> <p>A precept had been received from the Clerk of the Peace for the County of Northumberland for payment from the listed parishes towards the general county rate: Kyloe; Ancroft; Holy Island; Loanend; Horncliffe; Longridge; Thornton; Norham Mains; Shoreswood; Felkington; Duddo; Norham; Grindon; Twisel; Cornhill; Tweedmouth and townships. The parishes to be asked for payment, to be forwarded to the County Treasurer.</p>	
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			<p>J B Atkinson, Registrar of Births and Deaths for Berwick upon Tweed reported that the Deputy Registrar, A L Park had ceased to live in the District and that therefore he wished to appoint Abraham Trousdale of Berwick, schoolmaster to the post in the case of his illness or unavoidable absence. Approved.</p> <p>Ebenezer Black intimated that the motion of which he had given notice at the last meeting be postponed to 2 December. Agreed. Ordered that the Clerk propose to the Poor Law Commissioners re the Workhouse appointments that John Moor be appointed as Master and J B Atkinson as Superintendent and to ascertain whether they would sanction this. They were to point out that Mr Usher, District Auditor, had been entirely satisfied with the Workhouse books, which had been kept by Moor from the 7th week of the last quarter, when he audited them. As far as he could judge, Usher considered Moor to be perfectly qualified to fulfil the duties of Master. They requested that the Commissioners consult Usher.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners ordering that from 1 January 1846 paupers were prohibited from being employed in grinding, pounding or breaking bones.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners stating that because of the failure of the potato crop it may be impracticable to supply potatoes as prescribed by the dietary and that they would consider any modifications to it to enable use of a substitute to potatoes.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners referring to the official circular containing papers relating to the potato disease. They would have no objection if inmates of a workhouse were employed on the premises in performing any processes which enabled farina or starch from diseased potatoes to be extracted and the necessary utensils purchased. They were not suggesting that any farina produced should be for use in the workhouse but could be given to poor in the neighbourhood who had brought diseased potatoes which could be</p>	
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			<p>scraped, bruised or washed and that the actual produce given back to them without any diminution or charge for labour.</p> <p>Agreed that the letter on alteration to the dietary to be referred to the Workhouse Committee.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/312 - 316	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 2 December 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Ebenezer Black; Adam Bell; James Laing; Nicholas Bell; William Heron; George Smith; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; Nathaniel Dods [Nathaniel Dodds]; John Archbold; George Wood; William Richardson.</p> <p>Medical Officers: John Paxton; Andrew Morrison [Andrew Morison] Chairman Alexander Smith</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Morton (beef etc); Richard Thompson (flour); George Young (sugar, tobacco etc); J Milburne (soap coffee etc); George Oswald (barley); R Sanderson (coals); Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk beer etc, eggs etc, whitening etc); Thomas Cockburn (porter etc); gas from 1 April to 25 September; D Gibson (half years rent Register Office); John Main (repairing clothes); Alexander Meikle (repairing shoes); Rutherford & Co (goods as per contract).</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for Mrs Purdie, Matron of the Workhouse.</p>	2 Dec. 1845

		<p>The amount collected from the parishes for the County Rate to be sent to the County Treasurer.</p> <p>An account for the expenses incurred by John Carmichael, Overseer for Cornhill, to remove Mary Ann Temple from Newcastle Lunatic Asylum to the Workhouse, as ordered at the meeting on 7 October, was presented and passed.</p> <p>J B Atkinson [Relieving Officer] presented an account for expenses in visiting a pauper of Berwick parish resident at Chirnside, Scotland, which was granted.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>The Treasurer reported that he had received payment from Sunderland Union for their paupers resident in Berwick Union.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a reply from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the Workhouse appointments. Ebenezer Black then put his motion [see meeting on 4 November] and asked that the correspondence with the Commissioners and resolutions of the Board re the Workhouse appointments be read. The meeting considered that as the matter was under consideration by the Commissioners, any discussion was premature. Black agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting.</p> <p>The ledger showed a balance of £25 14s 0 ¼d at the end of every quarter. This was an account for butcher meat provided to the Workhouse by the late William Lough of Berwick. It had been impossible to pay this as no administration had been taken out to his effects. Agreed that the amount be paid to his representatives.</p> <p>There was a difference of 3/4d between the ledger and the receipt and payment book caused by the Treasurer not taking fractional parts of pence into account. This was rectified.</p>	
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Item	GBR 39/ 316 - 319	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 16 December 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; John Laing; Nathaniel Dodds; Thomas Pinkerton; Adam Bell; William Heron; Thomas Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; Alexander Crossman; James Laing, Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]. Medical Officers: Alexander Henderson; Andrew Morrison [Andrew Morison] Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk etc, eggs etc, chimney sweeping etc); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the Workhouse appointments. It stated that if Moor possesses the necessary qualification for Workhouse Master they do not see what necessity there was for a Superintendent Master. As the Commissioners were so satisfied with Atkinson's competency they would immediately sanction his appointment as Master provided the Guardians could make arrangements for him to live in the Workhouse or they would sanction the appointment of Moor on the representations of his fitness by the Guardians. On the directions of the Chairman, the Clerk had replied that if the Commissioners wanted Atkinson to be entirely resident in the Workhouse, this was not practicable nor would Atkinson undertake the sole duties of Master but</p>	16 Dec. 1845
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			<p>that he would be prepared to devote a period each day as would be necessary to ensure the strictest discipline. They were awaiting the reply so it was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/ 319 -325	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 30 December 1845	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Edward Davidson; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; William Richardson; George Wood; J McLeod [John McLeod; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]. Medical Officers: Andrew Henderson; Andrew Morrison [Andrew Morison]; John Paxton. Chairman: Dr Clarke with Edward Davidson acting until Clarke's arrival.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Richard Thompson (flour); John Morton (beef etc); Thomas Cockburn (wines etc); William Rutherford (oatmeal); R Sanderson (coals); J Milburne (groceries); G Young (groceries); Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk etc, bread knife, eggs,); C Knight & Co (books forms etc); Phoenix Fire Insurance Office (insurance on Workhouse etc); J Brown (stones); George Lauder (binding books); Joseph Brown (mason work); W Thompson (stationery etc); J Paxton (17 yds scouring cloth etc, flannel etc); W & E Willoby (union postage and petty disbursements); J Main (repairing clothes); R Chrisp (suit clothes for J Middleton); R Cairns (carpet shoes); Berwick Overseers (quarter rent of Workhouse); Relieving Officers (postages); John Thompson (commission on remitting County Rate); [Floor rate] on Workhouse garden etc.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: John Moor, porter; Thomas Meston, barber; Miss Atkinson, schoolmistress.</p>	30 Dec. 1845

			<p>Vaccination fees: Berwick 27 cases, Mr Henderson; Tweedmouth 43 cases, Ancroft 15, Kylee 24, Holy Island 1, Mr Morrison; Shoreswood 1 case, Thornton 4, Horncliffe 3, Twisel [Twizel] 1, Cornhill 11, Norham Mains 1, Mr Paxton.</p> <p>Medical fees: Berwick 5 cases midwifery, Mr Henderson; Tweedmouth 1 case midwifery, Mr Morrison.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Whitechapel; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>In the last quarter outrelief was given to 276 vagrants, according to the Porter's book, of which 125 were chargeable to Berwick and 151 to Tweedmouth.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners agreeing to the appointments of Mr Atkinson as Master of the Workhouse, Mr Moor as Assistant Master who is to reside in the Workhouse and Mrs Purdie as Matron and these to be formally made and the particulars to be forwarded to the Commissioners.</p> <p>Agreed that the elections be held at the next meeting and the salaries to be decided. They would also consider the remuneration to be given to Mr Atkinson for the assistance he had given to the management of the Workhouse during the illness and following the death of Mr Purdie.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/325 - 331	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 13 January 1846	<p>Present at the meeting</p> <p>Guardians: Alexander Smith; Dr Clarke [Henry Clarke]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; T Nesbit [Thomas Nesbitt]; George Wood; Adam Bell; Nicholas Bell.</p> <p>Medical Officers: Alexander Morrison [Alexander Morison]; John Paxton.</p> <p>Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p>	13 Jan. 1846

			<p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk etc, yeast & baking, eggs, black lead etc); John Main (repairing clothes).</p> <p>Funeral expenses were ordered for paupers of other Unions: Mary Garnett of the Newcastle Union; Robert Middlemiss of the Glendale Union.</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by Mr Forster [Robert Michael Forster] for parishes within his district.</p> <p>Accounts were ordered to be paid and charged to their parishes for the following lunatic paupers: Isa Lough of Tweedmouth in the Royal Glasgow Asylum; Alice Bruce of Twisel [Twizel] in the Morningside Lunatic Asylum.</p> <p>Payment of salaries was ordered for: Messrs Atkinson [James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster], Relieving Officers; A Henderson [Andrew Henderson], A Morrison [Andrew Morison], J Paxton [John Paxton], J Watson [Joseph Watson], Medical Officers; Maxwell Gardner, schoolmaster; Mrs Purdie Matron of the Workhouse.</p> <p>Relief of the non- settled poor under the provisions of the Poor Law Commissioners Order of 21 December 1844. The following accounts had been received from other unions under the parishes of origin: Berwick (from Glendale, Sculcoates, Houghton le Spring, Leyburn, Sunderland); Tweedmouth (from Glendale, Bakewell); Kylee, Ancroft, Duddo, Norham (all from Glendale and Rothbury only); Longridge (from Glendale and Sunderland only); Holy Island, Lonend [Loanend], Horncliff [Horncliffe],</p>	
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			<p>Thornton, Norham Mains, Shoreswood, Felkington, Grindon, Twizel, Cornhill (all from Glendale only). These accounts were all settled and the parishes debited. The Clerk reported on amounts due from other Unions which he had sent to them and gave this summary by district of the Relieving Officers: Atkinson [James Atkinson] (Glendale, Rothbury, Sunderland, Gravesend, Shrewsbury, Whitechapel); Anderson [John Anderson] (Glendale, Rothbury); Forster [Robert Michael Forster] (Glendale, Rothbury).</p> <p>Financial transactions between the parishes and the Treasurer were recorded.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Whitechapel; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>The Board then approved the appointments and salaries as follows: J B Atkinson [James Atkinson] - Master of the Workhouse, £40 per annum without rations; John Moor - Assistant Master, £15 per annum with rations; Jane Purdie – Matron, £20 per annum with rations. They then decided on the motion of Dr Clarke seconded by George Wood, remuneration of £40 to Atkinson for his services during the illness and following the death of Mr Purdie. Agreed that the appointments be forwarded to the Poor Law Commissioners and that they be asked to sanction the payment to Atkinson.</p>	
Item	GBR 39/331 -338	Minutes of Berwick Board of Guardians meeting held on 27 January 1846	<p>Present at the meeting Guardians: Alexander Smith; Dr. Clarke [Henry Clarke]; A R Lowrey [Alexander Lowrey]; J Laing [not indicated whether James Laing or John Laing]; T Nesbitt [Thomas Nesbitt]; C L Gilchrist [Charles Gilchrist]; W Heron [William Heron]. Medical Officers: A Morrison [Andrew Morison]. Chairman: Alexander Smith.</p> <p>Financial accounts for the Union and the Relieving Officers Messrs Atkinson</p>	27 Jan. 1846

		<p>[James Atkinson]; Anderson [John Anderson]; Forster [Robert Michael Forster] were presented, and payments ordered as required for out-relief and in-maintenance.</p> <p>Relief was given to non settled poor from the following Unions: Glendale; Rothbury; Sunderland; Gravesend; Whitechapel; Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Payments were ordered for: Supplies and services: John Morton; T Cockburn; G Young; J Milburne; Mrs Purdie [Matron of the Workhouse] (milk beer etc, eggs etc, sweeping chimneys etc); R Sanderson (coals & potatoes); J Main (repairing clothes); A Meikle (shoes according to contract); Messrs Shaw & Sons (books & forms); B Atkinson (painter); J & W Nicholson (repairing Board Room clock); Thomas Wilson (plumber work); A Thompson (slater work); lamp rate for Register Office; James Jeffray (stationery contracted for); coffin ordered for Robert Middlemiss.</p> <p>Registration accounts were presented by J B Atkinson and John Anderson for parishes within their districts.</p> <p>Ordered that the following Unions be paid for the relief given to non resident poor from this Union in the last quarter: Glendale; Rothbury; Bakewell; Sculcoates; Houghton le Spring; Leyburn; Sunderland.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners sanctioning the payment of £40 to J B Atkinson for his services.</p> <p>Under the powers given by order of the Poor Law Commissioners, 6 June 1845, the Union Ledger being made and balanced for the last quarter, the Guardians ordered payment of the last quarter's salary [recipient not named ? J B Atkinson].</p> <p>Demand received from the Clerk of the Peace for the County of</p>	
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		<p>Northumberland for payment of the general County Rate due from the following parishes: Kyloe; Ancroft; Holy Island; Loanend; Horncliffe; Longridge; Thornton; Norham Mains; Shoreswood; Felkington; Duddo; Norham; Grindon; Twisel [Twisel]; Cornhill; Tweedmouth, Ord Township.</p> <p>Reply received from the Poor Law Commissioners sanctioning the appointments of J B Atkinson as Master, John Moor as Assistant Master and Mrs Purdie as Matron of the Workhouse with the salaries and allowances as proposed.</p> <p>Ordered that Atkinson enter into a Bond with two sureties of £70 and Mrs Purdie of £30 for the due performance of the duties of their respective posts.</p> <p>Atkinson notified the Board of his resignation as Collector of rates for the parish of Berwick.</p> <p>To be reported to the Poor Law Commissioners and to seek their opinion whether the Board could proceed to elect a successor or whether they could only do so when requested by the Churchwardens and Overseers of Berwick. They asked whether in the meantime Atkinson could continue to carry out these duties.</p> <p>With John Moor's appointment as Assistant Master, the post of Porter was now vacant. Agreed that the post should be filled at the next meeting and the Clerk was asked to advertise this in the two Berwick newspapers and testimonials were to be sent to the Clerks by 9 February.</p> <p>Letter from the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the claim by the Overseers of Preston against the township of Norham for the expenses incurred in serving a suspended order for the removal of John Downey and his wife from Preston to Norham. The Commissioners considered that Preston are not entitled to recover the costs and that they could not advise the Overseers to make the attempt despite the existence of an Order of Justice in their favour.</p>	
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			<p>Letter received from W & E Willoby, Clerks to the Board concerning their salary. They had long thought that this was inadequate for the duties involved and asked the Board to give careful consideration. They were aware that most of the work involved was not apparent to the Guardians as most of the business occurred outwith the meetings. In the week the Board met both they and a clerk spent most of the day before, the day of the meeting and the day after on Board work. At the end of each quarter, making and balancing the books, preparing the Quarterly Abstract and attendance on the Auditor generally take 7 or 8 days. In addition there is attendance at the Finance and Workhouse Committees between each Board meeting when one of the two must set aside the time to attend. There are also considerable demands on their time in dealing with the requirements of the Poor Law Commissioners, and in dealing with all the correspondence. Generally not a day passes without some demand on their time. They asked therefore that the Board consider an increase in their remuneration.</p> <p>Agreed to consider this at the next meeting and that special notice be given to each Guardian.</p>	