

**Settlement Examination Agnes Brook 1840**

Devon to wit The Examination of Agnes Brook taken on oath before us John Morth Woollcombe and James Harris Veale Esquires two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace acting in and for the County of Devon this Twentieth Day of June in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty who on her oath saith

I am now about sixty four years of Age and an Inmate of the Okehampton Workhouse belonging to the Okehampton Poor Law Union situate at Okehampton in the said County of Devon

I am the widow of Thomas Brook late of the Parish of Ashbury in the said County of Devon, Yeoman deceased -- I was lawfully married to Thomas Brook about forty years since in the Parish Church of Bridestowe in the County of Devon -- The said Thomas Brook died at Blagadon in the aforesaid Parish of Ashbury about twenty four years since

He rented the said Estate of Blagadon at the time of his decease and for many years before his Death at the Yearly Rent of thirty pounds and he paid his Rates and outgoings for the same Estate during the time he so rented it -- I continued to reside upon the same Estate of Blagadon with my Family for about for about eighteen months after my Husbands decease when I quitted it -- I then went and lived a servant with Mr Browne in the Parish of Beaworthy Devon for about six months and at this time I received relief of the said Parish of Ashbury for my maintenance of my two younger children. After I had resided with Mr Browne for about six months I left him and went to reside with my children in Beaworthy for about six months longer -- I then went and hired myself a servant with Mr Thomas Phear of Northlew in the County of Devon at the wages of Three pounds per year and I lived in Northlew with him as such yearly Servant for one year and half. I have lived with Mr Weeks of same parish for 18 months at same Wages. I then quitted his service and then went and hired myself a yearly Servant with Mr James Breyley of the same parish at the wages of three pounds for the year and I lived with him for one year -- I then quitted his service and went to reside at different places with my Friends for about two months --

I then went into the service of Mr Widdecombe in the parish of Staverton in the said County of Devon and lived there with him for five years and three months -- I went into Mr Widdecombes service on the twentieth of May, nothing was said about wages or time before I went with him, but shortly after I was with him we agreed I think for two shillings per week and I lived on at these wages until the Lady Day next after. We then made a fresh agreement for Two shillings and Five pence per week and I lived on with him for one year at these wages. We then agreed at three shillings per week and I lived with him the remainder of the Five Years and three Months under this last agreement -- I quitted Mr Widdecombes Service in August and during the time I was with him I received my wages as I wanted them --

After I left Mr Widdecombes Service in Staverton aforesaid I remained out of Service for about one month -- I then went and hired myself a Servant with Mr Thomas Hext a Farmer, in the Parish of Ashburton in the said County of Devon and on my first entering his Service we agreed to the best of my recollection at per week until the next Lady Day came round -- We then agreed for the Year at

wages of Eight pounds for the year and I lived this year out with him in Ashburton and received my wages – We then made a Bargain for another year at the yearly wages of Eight pounds and I lived out this year with him also and received the full years wages all at one time when my year was up and left him – I lived with Mr Hext in the Parish of Ashburton as a servant for about Two years and six months –

After I left Mr Hext I remained in Ashburton for about two months and then went to reside in the Parish of Bratton Clovelly in the said County of Devon with my daughter for about ten months – I then went and hired myself a servant with Mr William Northcott of the Parish of Thrushelton in the said County of Devon – We agreed by the week at the wages of Two shillings per week – Mr Northcott said he would not agree any other than by the week because he would not make me a parishioner – I lived with him under this agreement for about one year and ten months and received my wages as I wanted them – I went into Mr Northcotts Service at Lady day and quitted it a month after Christmas – I do not recollect that I gave him any notice before leaving him – I am certain that our agreement was by the week and that Mr Northcott refused to make any other agreement than by the week because as he said he would not make me a parishioner. I considered during the time I was in his Service that I could have quitted him or he could have compelled me to leave at any weeks end –

It was six years since last January that I quitted Mr Northcotts Service and I have never done any act since whereby I could gain a settlement to the best of my knowledge and belief – I was living the aforesaid Parish of Bratton Clovelly in the County of Devon about six weeks since when I became chargeable thereto – I am now an Inmate of the Okehampton Poor Law Union Workhouse and chargeable to the said Parish of Bratton Clovelly [the mark of Agnes Brook]

Taken and sworn before us the day and year first above written [signed John Morth Woollcombe James Harris Veale]

Put a correct copy of the above Examination in the Okehampton Post Office directed to “the overseer of the Poor of the Parish of Ashburton” this 22 Day of June 1840 [signed Henry Churchward Clerk to Mr Hawkes Okehampton]

Transcribed by Kim Baldacchino  
23 November 2013