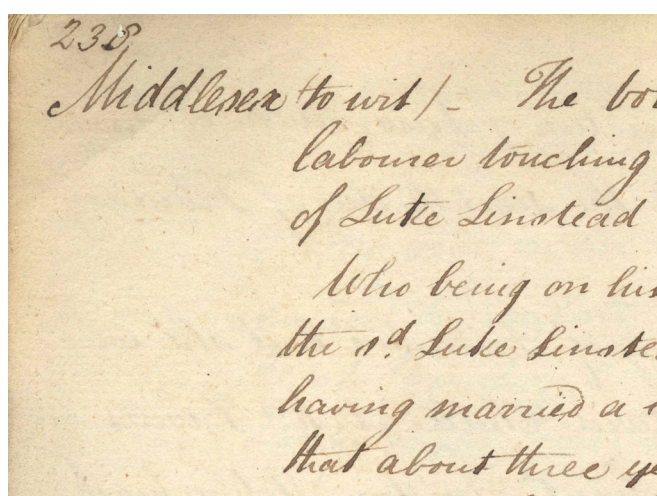


Take One... document

Teachers' notes

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Examination of James Studd, 1811



Context

This document was created under the Poor Law established in 1601. Relief of the poor was administered on a Parish basis, with each parish responsible for its own poor. Everyone had to have a parish of legal settlement and if relief was required it was the responsibility of that parish to provide it. Among the things that qualified you for legal settlement, were to be born in a parish of legally settled parents; renting property worth more than £10 per year; or being hired by a legally settled inhabitant for a continuous period of 365 days. If you or your family became or threatened to become reliant on parish relief and you could not satisfy the strict guidelines for legal settlement then you were liable to be removed to the place of your last legal settlement. This would usually involve an **Examination as to Settlement** carried out before the local justice, overseers and another ratepayer in order to ascertain your place of last legal settlement. In tenuous cases others may have to be examined also, parents, grandparents and siblings. These examinations could be fairly lengthy and provide the life story of the individual's family.

The examination of James Studd is one of hundreds of such examinations for the Parish of Bromley St. Leonard (now known as Bromley-by-Bow) entered into six volumes covering the period 1778-1843. These are preserved in the collections of Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives.

Middlesex to wit / - The voluntary Examination of James Stud
Labourer touching the Settlement of the 5 Orphan Children
of Luke Linstead and Mary his wife Deceased -

Who being on his Oath saith he was well acquainted with
the s.^d Luke Linstead and Mary his wife he this Examinant
having married a sister of the said Mary Linstead - saith
that about three years and a half ago the said Luke Linstead
and his wife and family resided at the Parish of Swaffling
in the County of Suffolk and kept a public house there
of the sign of the white horse and also rented or farmed
about thirty Acres of Land in the said Parish of Swaffling
- further saith that the said Luke Linstead and Mary
his wife were lawfully married at the Parish Church of
Swaffling aforesaid that three years and a half ago the
said Luke Linstead left his wife and family and came
to London - and this Examinant has heard and verily
believes that the said Mary Linstead she being then pregnant
And her said Children were relieved by the Officers of the Parish
of Swaffling aforesaid until they came to Bromley S. Leonard
near London where he the s.^d Luke Linstead followed the business
of a labourer in the East India Docks and elsewhere that about
three weeks ago the said Luke Linstead died and in a few days
afterwards the said Mary Linstead died - And this Examinant
further says that during the time of his living at Bromley
aforesaid which was during the whole period from his leaving
Swaffling until his death he constantly resided in a lodging
in Bromley aforesaid of the rent of three shillings by the
week and that he never occupied, or rented any tenements of
the value of ten pounds by the year or ever served as a yearly
hired Servant or did any other Act to gain a Settlement out of
the parish of Swaffling aforesaid And this Examinant
further saith that the following Children of the said Luke
Linstead and Mary his wife have become chargeable to the
Parish of Bromley S. Leonard aforesaid - Sophia aged twelve
years Harriet aged nine years Mary aged seven years Ann
aged four years and James aged four months -

I
Taken and sworn having been first
read over and explained to the Examinant
the 13th day of May 1824 before
J. W. Williams
R. Davies

JAMES STUDE

Transcript of the document

The document tells the sad tale of five orphan children. The following is a transcript of the document though retaining the spelling and punctuation of the original:

Middlesex (to wit) - The Voluntary Examination of James Stud labourer touching the Settlement of the 5 orphan Children of Luke Linstead and Mary his wife Deceased.

Who being on Oath saith he was well acquainted with the sd. Luke Linstead and Mary his wife he this examinant having married a Sister of the said Mary Linstead - saith that about three years and a half ago the said Luke Linstead and his Wife and family resided at the Parish of Swaffling in the County of Suffolk and kept a public house there of the sign of the White horse and also rented a farm of about thirty Acres of land in the said Parish of Swaffling - further saith that the said Luke Linstead and Mary his wife were lawfully married at the Parish Church of Swaffling aforesaid that three years and a half ago the said Luke Linstead left his Wife and family and came to London - and this Examinant has heard and verily believes that the said Mary linstead she being then pregnant And her said Children were relieved by the Officers of the Parish of Swaffling aforesaid until they came to Bromley St. Leonard near London where he the said Luke Linstead followed the business of of a labourer in the East India Docks and elsewhere that about three weeks ago the said Luke Linstead died and in a few days afterwards the said Mary Linstead died - And this Examinant further says that during the time of his living at Bromley aforesaid which was during the whole period of his leaving Swaffling until his death he constantly resided in a lodging at Bromley aforesaid of the rent of three shillings by the week and that he never occupied or rented any tenement of the value of ten pounds by the year or ever served as a yearly hired servant or did any other Act to gain a Settlement out of the Parish of Swaffling aforesaid And this Examinant further saith that the following Children of the said Luke Linstead and Mary his wife have become chargeable to the Parish of Bromley St. Leonard aforesaid - Sophia aged twelve years Harriet aged nine years Mary aged seven years Anne Aged four years and James Aged four Months-

James Studd

Taken and sworn having been first read over and explained to the Examinant the 13th day of March 1811 before

Danl Williams
R Davies

Teaching ideas

The following ideas are starting points. Your project will emerge as you explore the document and link it with your school's priorities and schemes of work.

You can use the reproduction of the document in the classroom to initiate a dialogue with your students by helping them imagine...

How would the family have travelled from Suffolk to Bromley-by-Bow? How long would this journey have taken?

What were the East India Docks? How much is three shillings? How big is 30 acres?

What could have caused Luke and Mary Linstead to have died at such a comparatively young age? What might have happened to the children?

Working with the document you can also develop descriptive and literacy skills...

Why does it begin with the word Middlesex?

Why is James Studd's name spelt two different ways in the document?

What can we tell about James Studd?

Who are the two people who sign their names at the very bottom of the document?

How different is the handwriting compared with that of your students?

Once students are more familiar with the document, it can be a springboard for developing creative projects across the curriculum. It is important to look beyond what you can see. For example:

The document uses language and terms in a formal and unfamiliar manner. Use examples to examine how language has changed. How would the same information be expressed in modern English?

Examine the materials used to create the document. What is the paper made out of? And the ink? What sort of pen was used? Make your own paper and ink and recreate the document.

The Linstead family travelled to London from Suffolk. Investigate what this journey would have been like. Explore the theme of journeys. What journeys have your students been on in the last day/week/month/year?

London was growing at the time of the document as people moved in from other parts of the country. When did the families of your students move to London and where from?

What do we mean by 'creative project'?

Create a design, a product. Write a poem, a short story. Act an event, a story. Record the learning process through a photo slideshow, a podcast. And so much more...

About Take One

Inspired by the National Gallery's Take One Picture programme, Take One aims at inspiring primary teachers to use historic buildings and archive documents as a springboard for creative cross-curricular work in the classroom.

Take One is also part of the Find Your Talent programme in Tower Hamlets to enable schools and learning providers to work more closely together through continuing professional development programmes (CPD).

Take One is supported by Find Your Talent, the Education Service at Historic Royal Palaces-Tower of London, MLA London and MLA Strategic Commissioning.

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