
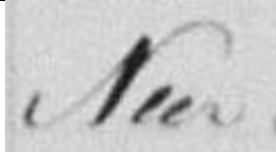
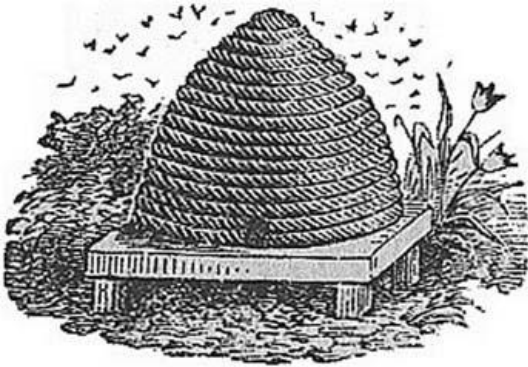






Glossary of Terms Used in the Erpingham Poor Law Union Minutes

I have included a couple of the more common weights and measures terms below, but for comprehensive coverage there is an excellent web site at <http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/units/index.htm>.

Arrow root	Root of the <i>Maranta</i> plant that has a variety of uses. In the Victorian era it was boiled, with a little flavouring added, as an easily digestible food for children and people with dietary restrictions.
Beverteen	An 'uncut' corduroy, woven white and sometimes dyed in dark colours.
Black Lead	A compound for cleaning and polishing grates and stoves.
Blistered	Medical 'treatment' using poultice or gauze to which a substance capable of raising a blister (blistering fluid) is applied. In the same category as 'bleeding.'
Blue (noun)	A compound added to water when rinsing clothes and linen to enhance whiteness.
Bolster (noun)	A double-length pillow.
Brazier	One who works in brass.
Bushel	Unit of volume equal to 8 Gallons.
Cabinet Maker	A skilled wood-worker who makes fine articles of furniture.
Calico	A cheap plain-woven textile made from unbleached cotton.
Cambric	A soft, white, closely woven, cotton or cotton blend fabric. Used extensively for handkerchiefs.
Chain	Measurement of length = 22 yards (20.12 metres).
Chambray	See Cambric above.
Consols	Also Consuls. Consolidated annuities, now meaning consolidated stock, being a form of British Government bond, or Gilt, dating from the 18th. century.
Coomb	Unit of volume equal to 4 Bushels.
Currier	One who stretches and finishes tanned leather.
Doll(y)	An implement used to agitate washing in a tub or barrel. 
Duffield	Also Duffel or Duffle. Fabric made of low-grade woollen cloth with a nap on both sides. Originally made in Flanders.
Dwiling	Cloth to be cut up and used (as a Dwile) for cleaning floors etc.
Edam	Dutch cheese made with part-skimmed milk.
Esquire	A person holding an office of trust under the crown, e.g. a justice of the peace.
Evil, The	See <i>King's Evil</i> below.
Exors	Executors.
Firkin	A measure of volume equal to a quarter of a barrel or nine imperial gallons. Butter and soap were also sold in firkins but the term was then a measurement of weight = 56 pounds.
Friends	At this period the term also means 'relations.'
Gouda	Dutch cheese made with whole milk.

Groats	An old Scottish word that describes oat kernels with the inedible outer husks removed. They take a long time to cook but have a high nutritional value. Also referred to in the Minutes as Grots/Grotts. Emden groats are <i>crushed</i> groats. Read more: http://chestofbooks.com/health/nutrition/Medicinal-Meals/Oatmeal-Continued.html#ixzz24H6meOW6
Highlows	Half-boots, laced to the ankle.
Hog Wash	Pig swill - decayed/left-over food discarded by the workhouse and used to feed pigs.
Joiner	A skilled carpenter, capable of finer work than a plain carpenter. i.e. skilled in making joints for doors, windows, architrave etc. Usually works off site.
Junk	First recorded in 1353, a word meaning "an old cable or rope."
King's Evil	Scrofula, or tuberculosis of the neck. The name relates to the fact that for many years it was thought that the touch of the King would effect a cure and the practice was common here and on the continent until King George the First saw it as being "too Catholic."
Lady Day	25th March; it was New Year's Day up to 1752, following the change from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar.
Loaf sugar	A large conical lump of concentrated refined sugar.
Manure	In the context of the minutes, the human dung generated by the workhouses.
Marl	Lime-rich mud that contains clay, silt and sometimes chalk, used as fertiliser. It is common in Norfolk to see marl pits in fields (now usually filled with water and vegetation).
Michaelmas	29th September; the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and what was once regarded as the beginning and end of the farming year.
Monthly Nurse	An attending woman during the first month following childbirth. Also known as 'Confinement Nurse'.
Neat	Domesticated cattle.
Neer Suet	 a mystery to me!
Oakum	The loose hemp or jute fibres produced by unravelling (picking) lengths of old ships' ropes into individual strands. Oakum was mixed with tar and used for packing (caulking) the joints between ships' timbers and deck planking.
Pattens	Overshoes for use outdoors over normal shoes. Generally comprised a wooden sole with retaining straps/twine.
Pauper	A person who could not maintain his/her self and was in receipt of Relief.
Period Nurse	Not known.
Porter	Dark, almost black beer with a heavily roasted flavour - think Guinness. Brewed with malt that has been kilned until it resembles burnt toast. Regarded as being nutritious in the 19th. & 20th. Centuries.
Rabetted	Rebated. Joinery constructed with a groove along or near the edge of the wood that allows another piece to fit into it to form a joint.
Relief	Benefit in cash or in kind granted to a Pauper.
Rood	A quarter of an acre.
Saint Vitus' Dance	<i>Sydenham's chorea</i> or <i>chorea minor</i> . A disease characterized by rapid, uncoordinated jerking movements affecting primarily the face, feet and hands. More common in females than males and most patients are children below 18 years of age.
Settlement (place of)	The Parish that is responsible for a person's support in the event that they are unable to maintain themselves. It is not necessarily

	<p>one's birthplace and could sometimes be a complex issue. There is a good explanation and excellent references in this document: http://www.anglia.ac.uk/ruskin/en/home/faculties/alss/deps/law/staff/0/home.Maincontent.0009.file.tmp/No3-Charlesworth.pdf</p>
Shift	An unwaisted loose-fitting dress that hangs straight from the shoulders, also a term for any loose shirt-like undergarment.
Skeleton suit	An outfit of clothing for small boys, popular from about 1790 to the mid-19th Century, consisting of a tight short- or long-sleeved coat or jacket buttoned to a pair of high-waisted trousers.
Skep	<p>A beehive made of straw.</p> 
Soap	Ox and sheep tallow, with the addition of resin, are the primary materials for making the hard yellow or primrose soaps; these tallows are often adulterated. The cheaper mottled and brown soaps have for their basis bone fat, obtained by treating bones with superheated steam or other methods. Lard yields lard oil, which is mainly applied in making hard toilet soaps. Curd soap and London grey mottled are prepared from kitchen or ship fat, whilst fuller's fat is employed in the manufacture of soft soaps.
Soda	In pre-detergent days, soda (sodium carbonate) was used as a cleaning agent, often in combination with soft soap.
Starch	A carbohydrate that can be extracted from a number of different plants. In Victorian times it was sold as a laundry product for stiffening fabric, particularly the collars and sleeves of men's shirts and the ruffles of petticoats. It was applied during ironing.
Stays	<p>Corsetry.</p> 
Steer Beef	Meat from a bullock (as opposed to a bull or cow).

Straw bonnet	
Straw plait	 Used for making bonnets.
Terrier	A document that described the lands of a manor, generally in the form of a list of holdings and tenants.
Ticking/Tick	A case of strong cotton or linen material for containing the feathers or straw of a bed.
Tippet	A stole or scarf-like narrow piece of clothing, worn over the shoulders.
Treacle	A dark syrup made during the refining of sugar.
Truss	A supportive device, usually a pad with a belt, worn after a rupture (a hernia of the groin or intestines). 
Ultimo	The preceding month.
Viz.	Namely (the modern equivalent is i.e.). Latin <i>videlicet</i> .
Wafers	Before the introduction of pre-gummed envelopes, letters were sealed with a wafer made of flour and water paste which became adhesive when moistened. Various devices could be impressed on wafers with a wafer-stamp.
Whitesmith	A worker in 'white iron;' a tin smith, also one who polishes or finishes metal goods, as distinct from one who forges them. More widely, a worker in metals.
Yeoman	A freeholder under the rank of gentleman, hence a countryman of respectable standing.

