

# TITCHFIELD SETTLEMENT EXAMINATION

In the 1700's there was a rudimentary welfare safety net for the poor administered by the local parish. Each parish was responsible for those born in their parish. If someone applied for parish relief it was necessary to determine what parish they were born in and where they resided. From time to time a person might be forced to return to his parish of birth as they were responsible for him. These Settlement Examinations can provide very valuable family history details. The following entry was sent in by Muriel Allen:

SOUTHTON (to wit) Stephen Whitlock now residing in the Parish of Hound [Titchfield crossed out and Hound added] in the county of Southton Laborer on his Examination on his Oath saith that he was born in the Parish of Landford in the County of Wilts and is about twenty one years of Age as he believes that before Michaelmas 1781 he hired himself to one William Buckland of the Parish of Hound in the said County Husbandman till the Michaelmas following at the Wages of five pounds [Guineas crossed out and pounds added] that he served the said year and received the said wages [line crossed out here] and that he hath done nothing since to gain a Settlement to his Knowledge or Belief and that he hath a Wife named Elizabeth who hath two Bastard Children the one named Mary [Elizabeth crossed out and Mary added] born in the Parish of Titchfield and that [blank] was the Father of the said Mary [Elizabeth the Child crossed out] aged about four years, the other named Elizabeth aged about one year and born in the same Parish of Titchfield and that he the Examinant is the Father of the last mentioned Child

Sworn at Fareham in the County  
of Southton this 25th day of August  
1784 before us two of his Majesty's  
Justices of the Peace in and for the  
said County

W. Benett  
Richd Bargus

The Mark of  
X  
Stephen Whitlock

[Note: Southton County or Southampton Co is now know as Hants.ed]

Source:R1133