

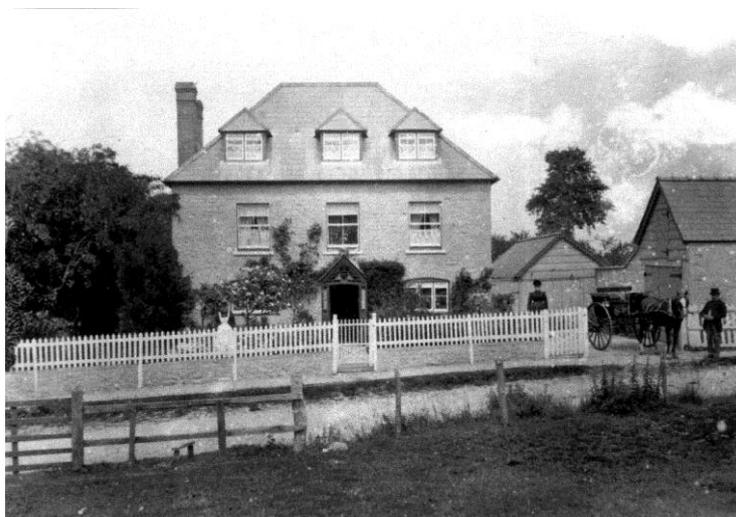
## WANBOROUGH'S WORKHOUSE

### Introduction

Parishes were made legally responsible for the relief of the poor of the parish in the reign of Elizabeth I, when in 1601 an *Act for the Relief of the Poor* was passed. The relief was usually in the form of “out-relief” – grants of money, clothing, food, or fuel to those living in their own homes. However, the work house evolved as an alternative form of “indoor relief” to save the parish money, and to act as a deterrent to the able-bodied who were required to work without pay in return for their board and lodging. Parish workhouses were often just local buildings rented for the purpose. The *Workhouse Test Act* of 1723 gave parishes the option of denying out-relief and offering only the workhouse. *Gilbert's Act* of 1782 simplified and standardized the procedures for parishes to set up and run workhouses, and it was probably as a result of this act that Wanborough's workhouse was set up. The *Poor Law Amendment Act* of 1834 instituted “Poor Law Unions” by which “Union Workhouses” were set up to accommodate the poor of several parishes. Wanborough became part of the Highworth and Swindon Union along with 20 other local parishes, and it was at this time that workhouse in Wanborough became redundant.

### The Crown Inn – Workhouse – Grocer – Tally-Ho

The land tax records for 1786 list the **Crown Inn** owned by John Fox and occupied by Richard Hatt rated at 14 shillings. The return for 1787 lists “late the Crown Inn” owned by the Parish Officers and occupied by John Reeves, again rated at 14 shillings. In 1788 the property appears to have been split into two plots, with the house noted as “**the work house**” rated at 10 shillings and sixpence. The property was acquired by the parish officers for a workhouse presumably as a result of the *Gilbert Act* referred to above. When the workhouse was no longer needed following the setup of the Highworth and Swindon Union by the *Poor Law Amendment Act*, the property was sold by the parish officers to **grocer Joseph Wright** who appears as the occupier in the 1861 census. The property is now known as **Tally-Ho Cottage**.



Tally-Ho Cottage 1890 with Joseph Wright's daughter Amelia