

References and sources for Henry Portsmouth, Relieving Officer for the Guildford Union 1871-1895

The primary source of information was the Guildford Union Board of Guardians Minute Books, held at the Surrey History Centre, Woking, references BG6/11/20-28. Board of Guardian meetings were also reported extensively in the newspapers of the day, and references to representative articles are given below, sourced through The British Newspaper Archive/FindMyPast.co.uk. Ancestry.co.uk was used for parish, census and other records, unless otherwise specified.

Early life

1. **Henry Portsmouth** 18 Mar 1843 England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index; Hambledon Union; volume 4; page 169; mother's maiden name Evershed Digital copy from General Register Office GRO.gov.uk
2. **Henry Portsmouth** 23 Apr 1843 Baptism Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Church of England Parish Registers; Shalford, St Mary the Virgin; ref SHD/3/2
3. **William Portsmouth** 16 Aug 1840 Baptism Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Church of England Parish Registers; Shalford, St Mary the Virgin; ref SHD/3/2
4. **Benjamin, Mary Ann, William, Henry Portsmouth** 1851 England Census for Shalford, Hambledon, Surrey; class HO107; piece 1597; folio 369; page 20
Benjamin, Mary Ann, Henry Portsmouth 1861 England Census for Shalford, Hambledon, Surrey; class RG9; piece 438; folio 153; page 13

Marriage and Family

5. **Henry Portsmouth & Jane Champion** 20 Sep 1863 Marriage Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Church of England Parish Registers; Crookham, Christ Church; ref Crk/1/1
6. **Jane Champion** 1861 England Census for 11 Portsmouth Road, Guildford St Nicholas, Surrey; class RG9; piece 428; folio 132; page 38
7. **William Portsmouth** 23 Mar 1864 Baptism Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Church of England Parish Registers; Guildford, St Mary; ref Gum/4/1-3
8. **Emily Florence Portsmouth** 28 Jan 1866 Baptism Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Church of England Parish Registers; Stoke Next Guildford, St John the Evangelist; ref STK/4/3
9. **Henry, Jane, William, Emily Florence, Alfred, Alice Jane Portsmouth** 1871 England Census for Josephs Lane, Stoke next Guildford, Surrey; class RG10; piece 811; folio 4; page 1
10. **Alfred Portsmouth** 2 Aug 1868; **Alice Jane Portsmouth** 2 Oct 1870; **Millicent Mary Portsmouth** 16 Nov 1873; **Edith Kate Portsmouth** 6 Aug 1875; **Charlotte Maud Portsmouth** 16 Feb 1877; Baptisms Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Church of England Parish Registers; Stoke Next Guildford, St John the Evangelist; ref STK/4/3

From Carpenter in Guildford to Relieving Officer in Woking

11. **Millicent Portsmouth** 1 Nov 1872 England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index; Guildford; volume 2A; page 50 Digital copy from Government Register Office GRO.gov.uk
12. **The Vacant Relieving Officership** 22 Jul 1871 West Surrey Times; page 3
13. **Election of a Relieving Officer for the Woking District** 19 Aug 1871 West Surrey Times; page 3
14. **Guildford Union - Election of a Relieving Officer** 9 Aug 1871 The Daily Telegraph; page 9

What was the work of a Relieving Officer like?

15. **The General Consolidated Order Issued by the Poor Law Commissioners 24th July 1847, and the Other General Orders Applicable to the Unions to which that Order is Addressed; with a Commentary and Notes on the Several Articles**, author William Cunningham Glen Google.co.uk/books
The 1847 Consolidated General Order Workhouses.co.uk

Promotion to Guildford District

16. **Guildford, Board of Guardians—Saturday** 2 May 1874 Surrey Advertiser & County Times, page 8 (*covering the Guardians meeting of 25 April*)
17. **Relieving Officers** 12 May 1874 Epsom Journal, page 2 (*covering the Guardians meeting of 9 May*)
18. **Guildford, Board of Guardians – Death of Mr T Potter** 11 Jul 1874 Surrey Advertiser & County Times, page 8 (*covering the Guardians meeting of 4 July*)
19. **Guildford, Board of Guardians – Appointment of Relieving Officers** 25 Jul 1874 Surrey Advertiser & County Times, page 5 (*covering the Guardians meeting of 18 July*)
20. **The Relieving Officers** 22 August 1874 West Surrey Times, page 2 (*covering the Guardians meeting of 22 August*)
21. **Henry Portsmouth** 1877 & 1878 Markenfield Rd, Guildford Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Electoral Registers; ref QS6/7A/97 and QS6/7A/100
Henry Portsmouth 1878 2 Upfolds bldgs., Markenfield Rd, Guildford Post Office Directory for Guildford, Surrey; page 2244
22. **Appointment of Inspector of Nuisances** 29 August 1874 West Surrey Times, page 2

Was Henry's move to Guildford good careerwise and financially?

Inspector of Nuisances

23. **The Medical Officers and Inspectors** Guildford The Rural Sanitary Authority 25 Jan 1873 Surrey Advertiser; page 8
24. **The Training, Qualifications and Duties, of Nuisance Inspectors** 11 Nov 1871, British Medical Journal Vol. 2 No. 567; author David Davies MRCS (Inspector of Health for Bristol) JSTOR.org

Handbook for Inspectors of Nuisances 1873 author Edward Smith, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; publisher Knight & Co Wikimedia Commons upload.wikimedia.org

A Practical Guide for Inspectors of Nuisances 1881 author Frederick Richard Wilson Google Books books.google.com

25. **Guildford Union Rural Sanitary Authority, Appointment of Inspector of Nuisances** 1 Mar 1881 Epsom Journal; page 1

The worst of poverty

26. **A Serious Charge of Parental Neglect** 22 Sep 1882 Epsom Journal; page 3

27. **Sad Case of Parental Neglect** 23 Sep 1882 Surrey Advertiser; page 5

28. **Guildford Borough Bench – Desertion Disgraceful** 1 Oct 1883 Surrey Advertiser; page 3

Henry digs in his heels against the Board

29. **Vaccination Act** Wikipedia.org

30. **Durham Union, Inquiry Officer Wanted**, 25 May 1877 Durham County Advertiser; page 4

School Attendance Regulations 5 Jun 1880 Surrey Gazette and West Surrey Times; page 6

31. **School Attendance Officers** 1 Sep 1877 Surrey Advertiser; page 5 *Henry Portsmouth refuses position of Schools Inquiry Officer*

32. **The Guildford District Relieving Officer** 10 Nov 1877 West Surrey Times; page 8

33. **Summons for Maintenance of a Wife** 16 Jan 1875 Surrey Advertiser; page 5

Not Supporting his Wife 22 Jan 1876 Surrey Advertiser; page 2

Desertion of a Wife and Family 17 Nov Jan 1877 West Surrey Times; page 5

34. **Bank of England Inflation Calculator** £30,000 in 1877 = £305,263.91 in October 2025 BankofEngland.co.uk

Henry takes on yet another role

35. **Amalgamation of Offices for School Purposes** 29 Mar 1879 Surrey Advertiser; page 2

36. **Francis Faggetter** 31 Oct 1879 Surrey History Centre, Woking; National School Admission Registers and Log Books; Log Book; Pirbright Church of England/Board School; ref CC1143/1/1 FindMyPast.co.uk

Home move

37. **Henry Portsmouth** 1878 Markenfield Rd, Guildford Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Electoral Registers; ref QS6/7A/100

Fire and Loss of Life 22 Nov 1879 '*Henry Portsmouth, relieving officer, resident at 40, Stoke Road ...*', Surrey Gazette and West Surrey Times; page 5

38. **Henry, Jane, Emily F, Alfred, Alice J, Millicent M, Edith Kate, Charlotte M Portsmouth** 1881 England Census for Stoke Road, Stoke Next Guildford, Surrey; class RG11; piece 776; folio 43; page 4

Relentless life for Henry

39. **Alton: Shocking Murder** 12 Jul 1879 Surrey Advertiser & County Times; page 5 *Henry Portsmouth took James Rock from Guildford police station to Brookwood Asylum, then collected him at Brookwood*
40. **Alleged Death of a Child Through Neglect – Who's to Blame?** 24 Sep 1878 Epsom Journal; page 3
41. **Registering the School Attendance Committee** 12 Apr 1884 West Surrey Times; page 5
42. **School Inquiry Officer** *Henry Portsmouth recorded in Board of Guardians Minute Books as receiving £10 pa 1887-1892* Guildford Union Board of Guardians Minutes; ref BG6/11/21-24; Available at Surrey History Centre, Woking
43. **Elementary Education Act 1891** legislation.gov.uk
Compulsory and free primary education: 1880s and 1890s History of Education in England Wikipedia.org

Henry's wife Jane passes away

44. **Jane Portsmouth** 24 Sep 1888 England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index; Guildford; volume 2A; page 46 Digital copy from General Register Office GRO.gov.uk
Deaths - Portsmouth 28 Sep 1888 West Surrey Times, page 4
45. **Jane Portsmouth** 28 Sep 1888 Burial Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Church of England Parish Registers; Stoke Next Guildford, St John the Evangelist; ref STK/5/5
46. **Jane Portsmouth** 28 Sep 1888 Burial Stoke (old) Cemetery; plot C/#/216
discovereverafter.com

Henry asks for a pay rise

47. **More Salary Wanted** 16 March 1889 West Surrey Times, page 6
Increasing Mr Portsmouth's Salary 30 March 1889 West Surrey Times; page 2
48. **Poor Law History, The 1662 Poor Relief (Settlement Act) and The Old Poor Law, Settlement Workhouses.org.uk**

Temporary Master of the Workhouse - twice

49. **Minutes of the Guildford Union Board of Guardians** 26 Jul, 23 Aug, 4 Oct 1890 ref BG6/11/23; Surrey History Centre, Woking SurreyCC.gov.uk
50. **“Plunging” by Guildford Paupers** 11 Aug 1890 Surrey Advertiser; page 3
Guildford - Cards at the Workhouse 16 Aug 1890 Surrey Mirror; page 3
51. **Minutes of the Guildford Union Board of Guardians** 30 Apr & 13 Jun 1891 ref BG6/11/23; Surrey History Centre, Woking SurreyCC.gov.uk
52. **Henry, Emily F, Alice J, Edith K, Charlotte M Portsmouth** 1891 England Census for 43 Stoke Road, Stoke Next Guildford, Surrey; class RG12; piece 559; folio 58; page 7
53. **Henry Portsmouth** 1891 Kelly's Directory of Kent, Surrey & Sussex; Pt 3 Surrey; Guildford Union, Relieving, Vaccination and Inquiry Officers; page 1315; 2 Fawcet Villas, Stoke Road, Guildford

54. **Borough Bench, Wilful Damage** 13 Dec 1893 Surrey Times; page 1
- Guildford Borough Police, Unprovoked Violence** 16 Dec 1893 Surrey Times; page 6

Sudden Death

55. **Henry Portsmouth** 3 Jan 1895 England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index; Guildford; volume 2A; page 69 Digital copy from General Register Office GRO.gov.uk
56. **Death of Mr Henry Portsmouth** 5 Jan 1895 Surrey Advertiser & County Times; page 5
57. **Henry Portsmouth** 9 Jan 1895 Burial Surrey History Centre, Woking; Surrey Church of England Parish Registers; Stoke Next Guildford, St John the Evangelist; ref STK/5/5
58. **Henry Portsmouth** 9 Jan 1895 Burial Stoke (old) Cemetery; plot C/#/209 discovereverafters.com
59. **Funeral of the late Mr H Portsmouth** 12 Jan 1895 Surrey Advertiser & County Times; page 2
60. **Board of Guardians Election of Chairman, the Vice-Chairmanship (condolences and regret re death of Mr Portsmouth)** 12 Jan 1895 Surrey Advertiser & County Times; page 2
61. **Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman; Death of Mr Portsmouth** 12 Jan 1895 Surrey Times; page 6
62. **Henry Portsmouth** 25 Feb 1895 Probate Date Principal Probate Registry, London; Calendar of the Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration made in the Probate Registries of the High Court of Justice in England
63. **Bank of England Inflation Calculator** £434 in 1895 = £49,810.08 in October 2025 BankofEngland.co.uk