



# Vagrant's Pass

A Vagrant was a person without a settled home or regular work, who wandered from place to place & live by begging.

Vagrant's passes were papers that enabled the "vagrant" to make their way back from wherever they had been caught wandering, back to their legal place of settlement – where they were born or had previously lived. The Poor cost parishes and counties money, so they were keen to transfer the vagrants away as quickly as possible.

The usual procedure was for the vagrant to be taken to the nearest place enroute to their place of settlement. At each place, the local constable or officer would check the vagrant's pass and then arrange for his or her transfer to the next place. On arrival at their place of settlement, the vagrant would be "*deliver'd to some Churchwarden, Chapelwarden, or Overseer of the Poor of the same Parish to be there provided for according to the law.*"

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## Mary Harris

### Vagrant's Pass

7 Jan 1764

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Dorset

The Borough of Shafton

Otherwise Shaftesbury

WHEREAS a Pass hath been directed by **Charles Penruddocke Esq;** one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the **County Of Wilts** for conveying to **Seskard** in the County of **Cornwall** **Mary Harris a Vagrant**, apprehended in the Parish of **Compton Chamberlain** in the County of **Wilts** And the fame Vagrant being brought to **this Borough** and delivered to the Constables thereof, in order to be further conveyed on, in the direct Way to **Seskard** aforesaid: I do therefore order and direct the said Vagrant to be conveyed by the Constables of the **Borough** aforesaid, with **One Horse** to **Henstridge** in the County of **Somerset** that being the first Parish in the next Precinct, in the direct Way to **Seskard** aforesaid; for which the said Constables are to be allowed the Sum of **Three Shillings and Sixpence**.

Given under my Hand this **7th** Day of **January** 176 **4**

Keeping 1 day ..... **1. -**

Conveying ..... **2.6**

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**3.6**