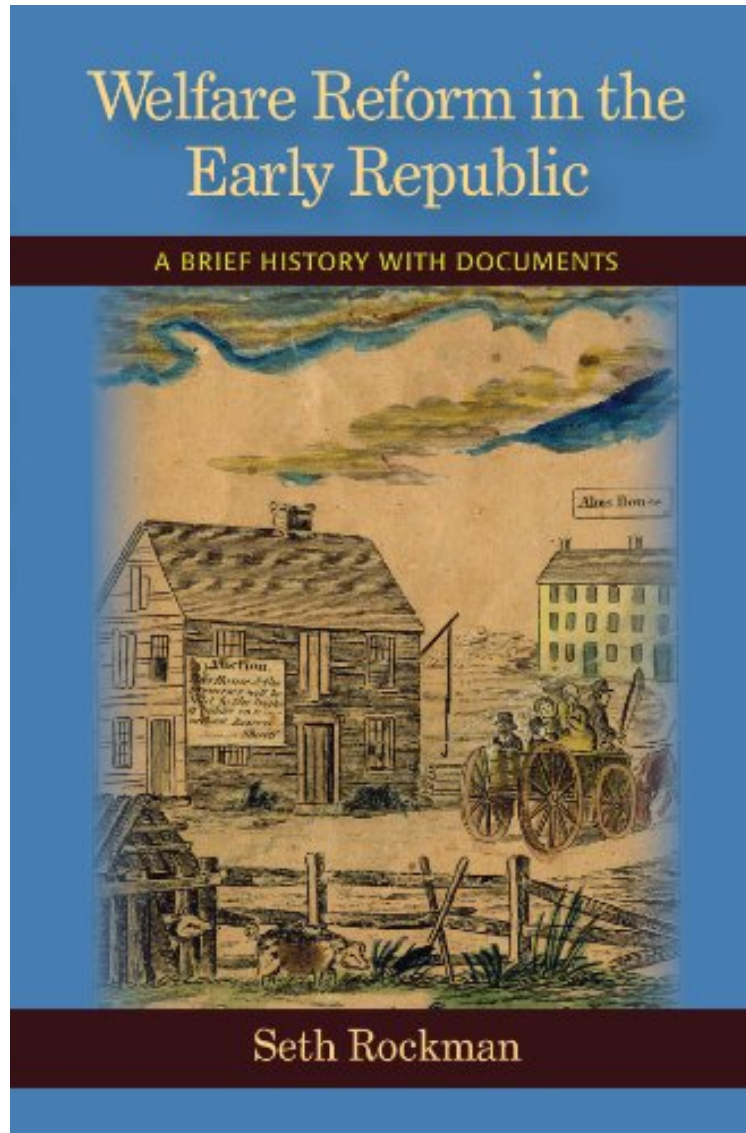


# Welfare Reform in the Early Republic: A Brief History with Documents

Seth Rockman

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**Seth Rockman : Welfare Reform in the Early Republic: A Brief History with Documents** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Welfare Reform in the Early Republic: A Brief History with Documents:

In the decades following the American Revolution, elected officials, moral crusaders, and relief administrators scrutinized the public welfare programs that assisted thousands of impoverished people. Seth Rockman uses documents ranging from sermons to almshouse admission rolls to show how reformers investigated the causes of poverty and pursued solutions that ranged from massive institutionalization of the poor to the total abolition of public charity issues that are remarkably similar to the welfare debates of today. Also included are headnotes to the documents, questions for consideration, an annotated chronology, suggestions for further reading, and an index. Table of Contents: Part I: Introduction: Poverty "in a Land Flowing with Milk and Honey" Poor Relief in Early America / The Growing Problem of Poverty and Its Victims / Religious Reform and Moral Benevolence / Public Responsibility for the Poor / Structural Solutions for Poverty / The Legacy of Welfare Reform / A Note about the Text Part II: The Documents Elite Perceptions of Poverty as a Moral and Social Crisis<sup>1</sup>. The Pennsylvania Society for the Promotion of Public Economy, 1817<sup>2</sup>. The New York Society for the Prevention of Pauperism, 1818<sup>3</sup>. On Doing Good to the Poor, 1818 (Heman Humphrey)<sup>4</sup>. Of Intellectually and Morally Neglected Children, c. 1828 (Joseph Tuckerman)<sup>5</sup>. Private Benevolence and Moral Cures for Poverty<sup>6</sup>. The Friendly Society of St. Thomas's African Church, 1797<sup>7</sup>. The Providence Female Society for the Relief of Indigent Women and Children, 1801<sup>8</sup>. The Female Humane Association Charity School, 1803<sup>9</sup>. Preacher to the Poor in New York, 1811 (Ezra Stiles Ely)<sup>10</sup>. The Boston Society for the Moral and Religious Instruction of the Poor, 1819<sup>11</sup>. Subjects of the New York House of Refuge, 1825 1830<sup>12</sup>. Letter to Graduates of the House of Refuge, 1829<sup>13</sup>. Subjects of the New York Colored Orphan Asylum, 1837 1838<sup>14</sup>. Public Institutions<sup>15</sup>. Rules for the Government of the New York Almshouse, 1801<sup>16</sup>. Rules and Regulations of the Salem Almshouse, 1816<sup>17</sup>. The Boston House of Industry, 1821<sup>18</sup>. Inmates of the Baltimore Almshouse, June 1825<sup>19</sup>. Report of the Trustees of the Baltimore Almshouse, 1827<sup>20</sup>. Philadelphia Board of Guardians of the Poor, 1827<sup>21</sup>. Structural Explanations and Cures for Poverty<sup>22</sup>. Petition of New Jersey Working Widows to the U.S. Senate, 1816<sup>23</sup>. The Working People of New Castle County, Delaware, 1829<sup>24</sup>. Rights of Man to Property, 1829 (Thomas Skidmore)<sup>25</sup>. Lecture on Existing Evils and Their Remedy, 1829 (Frances Wright)<sup>26</sup>. Address to the Wealthy of the Land, 1831 (Mathew Carey)<sup>27</sup>. The Manayunk Working People's Committee, 1833<sup>28</sup>. On Wage Slavery, 1836 (Philadelphia National Laborer) Appendixes: A Chronology of Welfare Reform (1788 1840) / Questions for Consideration / Selected Bibliography

"As yet another generation of elected officials and moral reformers debate the issues of poverty, public welfare programs, and social inequality, Seth Rockman demonstrates how these very same issues bedeviled Americans in the early years of the republic. The book is expertly designed to combine primary sources (including political speeches, almshouse records, and religious tracts) with insightful historical context for any course on American social and economic history. I have had great success with this book in my own classroom, and recommend it highly." --Jonathan Earle, University of Kansas "Welfare Reform in the Early Republic is a superb teaching tool for undergraduates studying the operation of capitalism and the problem of poverty in American history. Rockman's collection covers welfare reform from multiple angles: elite perceptions of poverty; private and public institutions providing poor relief; and structural explanations and cures for poverty. That Rockman is so attentive to variables of gender and race while highlighting the factor of class only adds to the utility of this impressive document collection." --Konstantin Dierks, Indiana University "I enthusiastically recommend this collection for scholars and their students of all levels who want to explore the rich debate about the nature of poverty and poor relief in the early republic. Seth Rockman's lively introductory essay offers a nuanced and balanced account of the plight of the poor and how diverse groups formulated responses to the problem of poverty. My students particularly appreciate how Rockman's sources include the voices of working people and provide a glimpse inside of the almshouses they inhabited." --Joshua R. Greenberg, Bridgewater State University