

ELY GAOL

John Howard | 1782 | Transcription of the supplied extracts

GAOLER: John Allday. Salary, none.

Fees: Debtors, £0 : 15 : 3. Felons, £0 : 13 : 4.

Transports, £5 each. Licence, Beer.

PRISONERS: Allowance, debtors and felons, none.

Garnish, £0 : 1 : 4.

Visit	Debtors	Felons &c.
1774, Jan. 30	6	0
1774, Dec. 13	1	2
1776, Feb. 9	11	3
1776, Sep. 28	7	1
1779, Sep. 23	7	1. Lunatic 1.
1782, Feb. 6	4	2

CHAPLAIN, none. SURGEON, none.

THIS gaol, the property of the bishop, who is lord of the franchise of the isle of Ely, was in part rebuilt by bishop Mawson in 1768, upon complaint of the cruel method which, for want of a safe gaol, the keeper took to secure his prisoners.*

For master's-side debtors three rooms up stairs: a room on the same floor for condemned felons. Below stairs is the felons day-room; and their cell or night-room, 18½ feet by 10, with a window about a foot square. There is a court for felons, with an offensive sewer. No water. - For debtors a court with a pump; but no free ward. No infirmary. No straw. Clauses against spirituous liquors, and act for preserving the health of prisoners, not hung up. Keeper, a sheriff's officer for the isle, and for the county of Cambridge. No table of fees.

Assize in this isle, of late, twice a year, viz. Lent at Ely, Summer at Wisbech.

* This was by chaining them down on their backs upon a floor, across which were several iron bars; with an iron collar with spikes about their necks, and a heavy iron bar over their legs. An excellent magistrate, James Collyer, Esq. presented an account of the case, accompanied with a drawing, to the king; with which his majesty was much affected, and gave immediate orders for a proper inquiry and redress.

Continuation on page 292

At my last visit, the debtors and felons were together.* One of the former was confined for 3s. 5½d. the charges 8s. 3d. another, who had a wife and five children, only for costs 4s. 9d. and gaol-fees 3s. 6d.†

Transcription note: Long "f" is rendered as "s"; the administrative details and visit figures have been arranged for readability. The * and † footnotes for the final paragraph are not present in the supplied images.