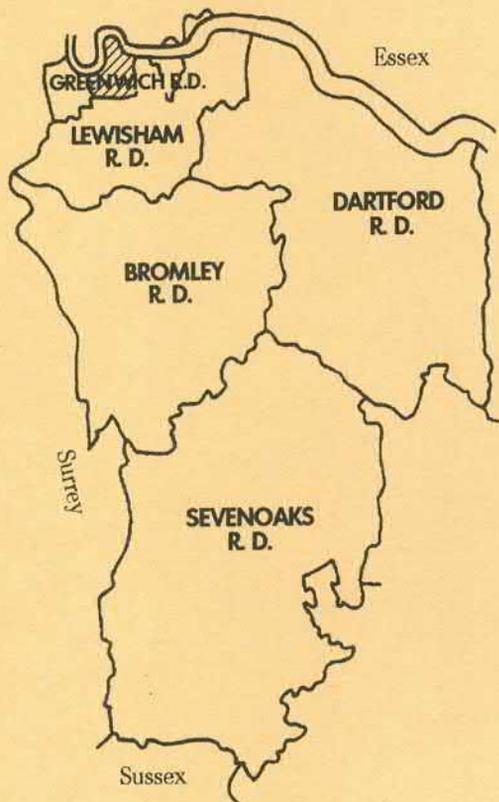


# 1851 CENSUS INDEX FOR NORTH WEST KENT



## Volume VII Greenwich Parish

Piece Nos. H.O. 107/1586-7

1851 CENSUS INDEX  
FOR NORTH WEST KENT

**Volume VII**  
**Greenwich Parish**

Piece Numbers

HO 107/1586 - Greenwich West

HO 107/1587 - Greenwich East

1999

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## Introduction

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This is the seventh in the Society's series of indexes to the 1851 census of north west Kent. Its production would not have been possible without the help of a number of volunteers over many years, and I would like to record my thanks and those of the Society to:

- *The transcribers and checkers - Brian Evans, Dorothy Gladwyn, Rose Medley, Edna Reynolds, Fred Tutt, Brian Waymont, May Waymont and Malcolm Youngs.*
- *The data inputters - Ron Anthony, Sabina Doust, Peter Etherington, Mike Ganly, Noel Livermore, Audrey Rainer, Mike Rowleron, Peter Searle and David Warren.*
- *Joan Field who took on a major portion of the final checking work.*
- *Susan Pittman M.A. who wrote the historical background.*
- *Stephen Archer, the 1851 census coordinator from 1986 to 1996 for all his advice and support in bringing this volume to publication.*
- *Finally to the Society's Publications Sub-Committee for their warm welcome and support since I took on the task of producing this publication.*

The entries for this census index were transcribed on to standard forms, and then typed into computer files. These were transferred into dBase III format (a PC database), and printed on an HP Laserjet 4 printer using a program written in Clipper. The introductory pages were produced from Lotus WordPro word processing software.

Please note that this volume should be treated only as a finding aid, and reference should be made to copies of the original returns for the full details of each individual. Also, there are liable to be mistakes because of the poor handwriting of the original enumerators as well as, in some cases, faint or damaged microfilm copies. Therefore, although we have endeavoured to be scrupulous in our checking, the Society cannot take responsibility for any errors herein.

Maureen Fearn  
1851 Census Project Coordinator  
July 1999

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## Location of Census Microfilms

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In addition to the Public Record Office census room which is now located at the Family Records Centre in Myddelton Street, microfilms of the 1851 returns for Greenwich parish (H.O.107/1586 & H.O. 107/1587) are held as follows:

- Greenwich Local History Library, "Woodlands", 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, London SE3 7SE (Tel: 020 8858 4631, Fax: 020 8293 4721) Mon & Tue: 9.00-5.30, Wed: closed, Thu: 9.00-8.00, Fri: closed, Sat: 9.00-5.00. 10 seats, 4 microfilm/fiche readers (3 with printing facilities). Appointment advisable.
- Centre for Kentish Studies, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ (Tel: 01622-694363 ). 24 microfilm / microfiche readers , which must be pre-booked. Mon: closed, Tue & Wed: 9.00-5.00, Thu: 10.00-5.00, Fri: 9.00-5.00, Sat: 2nd & 4th of each month, 9.00-1.00

Their 1851 census coverage for the county of Kent is extensive and includes the whole of the Greenwich Registration District, Bromley Registration District, Dartford Registration District and the remainder of Kent to the east of these areas.

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## Historical Background

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Greenwich Registration District covered the same area as the Poor Law Union including within it not only the parish of Greenwich but also those of Deptford and Woolwich, but as the N.W.K.F.H.S. has already published the indexes of the 1851 Census for the last two, this Historical Introduction only deals with the parish of Greenwich.

Greenwich lies on the south bank of the Thames about 6 miles down river from Westminster. It has an extended river front because it is situated at the southern end of a pronounced meander which loops southwards from Deptford past the centre of Greenwich town before turning northwards round the peninsula of Greenwich Marsh with its tip at Blackwall Point. The parish of Greenwich stretched west to east from the river Ravensbourne, the boundary with Deptford, to Lombard Wall, the boundary with Charlton, and north to south from the river Thames to the plateau of Blackheath. It was a compact parish covering 1750 acres, being about 2 miles across and nearly a mile from the centre of Greenwich town to its southern border which partly followed the original line of the Dover Road across Blackheath, with a section intruding further south. The Greenwich Marsh peninsula extended northwards beyond the general compact shape of the Parish by over a mile.

### Explanation of the use of the terms West and East Greenwich

In early times there had been 2 manors, East Greenwich and West Greenwich, which by the time of Chaucer were being called Greenwich and Deptford. Greenwich continued to be referred to as East Greenwich into more modern times though the term of West Greenwich for Deptford was used less frequently. By Victorian times the terms East and West Greenwich were once again adopted but with reference to sub-divisions within Greenwich itself. Then the main development round the old centre lying at the west end of the parish tended to be called West Greenwich to differentiate it from newer development to the east of Greenwich Park which became known as East Greenwich, the exact demarcation being vague. In the 1851 census Greenwich was divided into 2 Registration Districts, West and East (H.O.107/1586 and H.O.107/1587), within the Superintendent's Registration District of Greenwich 35. The line differentiating the two, roughly followed the west boundary of the Royal Hospital southwards along the east side of Croom's Hill and across Blackheath.

### **A note on street names**

Those familiar with modern Greenwich or attempting to use a modern map to find the locations of streets mentioned in the 1851 census will soon realise that very few of the old street names survive. This does not necessarily mean that the streets and the houses that lined them no longer exist but that the street name has been altered. This was largely done in the 1890s when the Post Office rationalised street names throughout London. In order to trace the location of streets in the 1851 census the following sources are recommended:-

The Landmarks of London Map series: Suburbs of London - Greenwich sheet by Edward Weller, c.1861.

Proposed S.E. Metropolitan Tramway Map, c.1869.

Names of Streets and Places in the Administrative County of London, London County Council, 1955.

All these are available for reference at the London Borough of Greenwich Local History Library, "Woodlands", 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, SE3 7SE

### **Historical background up to Victorian times**

There is evidence of Saxon settlement in Greenwich - the name itself deriving from the Saxon 'Grenevic' meaning 'green farm'. The Danish invaders used Greenwich as a base from which to launch their attacks and, by tradition, it was here in 1012 that the Danes murdered St. Alfège, the Archbishop of Canterbury, - the parish church still bearing his name.

Greenwich has a long and illustrious history which has been well covered by historians, the historical notes in this census volume will therefore concentrate on the period immediately prior to the 1851 census.

### **Developments from the 1830s leading up to 1851**

In the twenty years leading up to the 1831 Census the population of Greenwich had increased by over 10,000 to 24,553, making it the largest town to the south-east of London. It was to experience the same increase over the next twenty years, taking the total population in 1851 up to 35,028, though development was steady especially when compared with the rapid expansion of Deptford, Woolwich and Lewisham.

Somewhat distorting the population figures was the presence of many residential institutions ranging from very large ones with over a thousand inmates such as the Greenwich Union Workhouse and the Royal Hospital for Seamen with its associated Infirmary and School to smaller charitable almshouses and schools,

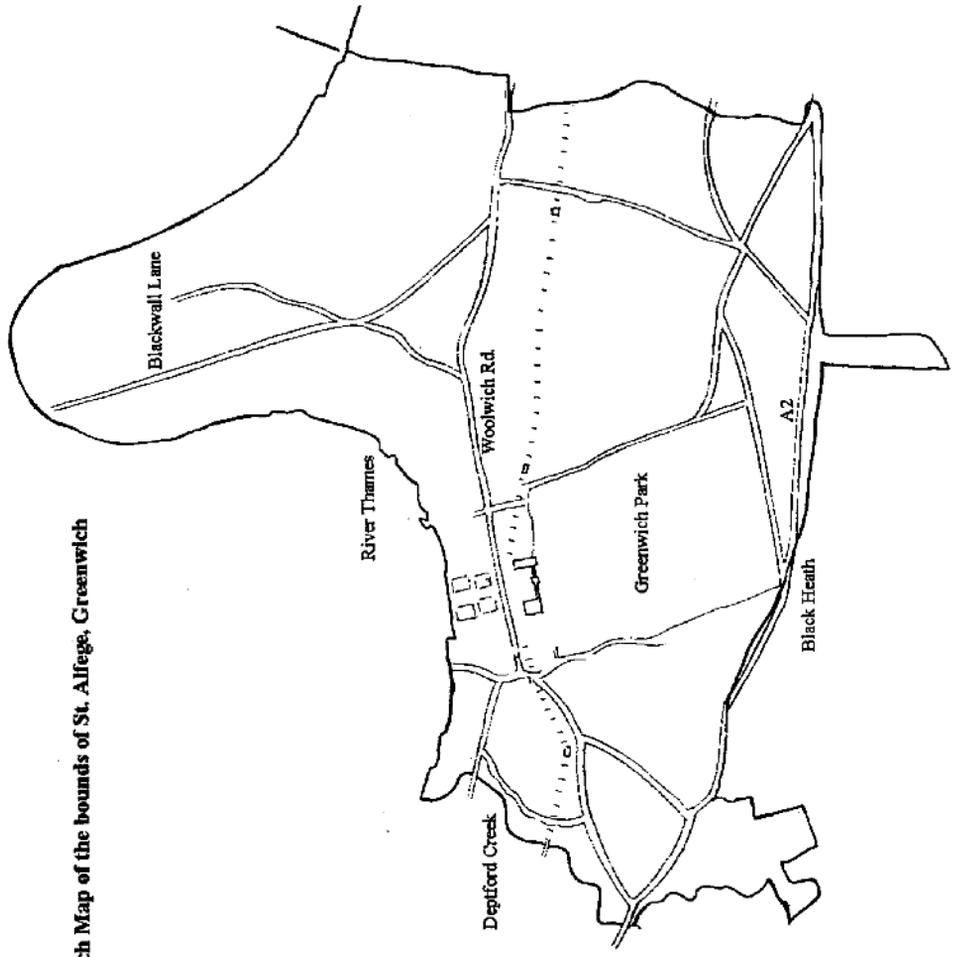
both charitable and private. These are dealt with after this section, but it is worth noting here that their influence spread beyond their walls affecting employment opportunities, the provision of services as well as the social mix of Greenwich especially through the number of ex-seamen and their families who were lodged outside the Royal Hospital.

One important change affecting the character of Greenwich in the first half of the 19th century was the re-modelling of the town centre in the 1830s. This was largely due to the initiative of the Trustees of the Royal Hospital who by Act of Parliament of 1831 bought up the area to the west of the Royal Hospital, pulled down the decaying houses between the church and the river and laid out new roads linking in with Romney Road. At the same time a new covered market was built to sell meat, fish, vegetables and household wares. As a result of this expansion and upgrading, Church Street, London Street and Stockwell Street formed a fashionable shopping area, by 1851 boasting a wide variety of specialist shops whose owners mostly lived on the premises.

In 1834 Henry Richardson, who wrote the first history of Greenwich, remarked with pride that the town was well paved, lit with gas and supplied with water by the Kent Water Works. The Phoenix gas works in 1851 were situated in Thames Street and were managed by a Scot who, like the foreman and the inspector, lived with wife and family on the site. 17 workmen were also resident there. (H.O.107/1586 f.70a-71a)

In the area between Bridge Street (now Creek Road) and the river Thames, in crowded and insanitary conditions lived many people with close connections to the river and the sea. The one agricultural labourer seems totally out of place among the many watermen, lightermen, fishermen, mariners and seamen with the odd pilot, sail-maker, mast maker and boat builder representing allied occupations. It is clear from reading the 1851 census that many men were not recorded because they were out at sea. This is reflected in the number of households without a male head whose wives describe themselves as wives of mariners, seamen etc., but there were other wives seemingly struggling to support themselves and families by taking in mangling, making straw bonnets, charring or becoming a seamstress or needlewoman. Of interest also is that among the many men born in Greenwich, there were others who had been born at other Thameside locations such as Wapping and Rotherhithe as well as at coastal places further afield such as Harwich, Faversham, Portsmouth, Hastings and Bristol. There was obviously a fair amount of movement of families between harbours and ports.

Sketch Map of the bounds of St. Alfege, Greenwich



The impression given by the census in this district of Greenwich as in the other low-lying residential areas at the foot of the Thames valley escarpment especially just east of the Royal Hospital is of close dependency on water-borne commerce for employment. Yet this was very much a transitional period. The livelihood of local fishermen was being increasingly jeopardised by the discharge from over 300 sewers entering the river from Putney to Blackwall. Deep sea fishermen who had previously based themselves at Greenwich because of the convenient anchorage after unloading cargoes in London, found that with the arrival of steam boats and the train, it was necessary to relocate nearer the North Sea fishing grounds so in the 1840s the Greenwich deep sea fishing community moved to the new port of Great Grimsby. This period also saw the end of the Enderby brothers whaling expeditions to the South Polar Seas. New opportunities arose, however, as Greenwich pier opened in 1836 to provide a better steamboat passenger service between Tower Pier and Greenwich Pier. Day-tripping to Greenwich became very popular and on Fair Days at Easter and Whitsun 50 steamers would unload over 150,000 passengers. Cargo vessels also thronged the river, half of which were colliers. It was not until the opening of the Victoria Docks in 1855 north of the river that Greenwich ceased to be so pivotal in river-borne activity.

A key factor contributing to the growth of Greenwich from the 1830s was the advent of the railway. The area between Bridge Street (now Creek Road) and London Street (now Greenwich High Road) must have been particularly affected by the actual construction of the route through its midst. The railway was a major competitor to passenger transport by river but by 1851 the full impact had not been felt. The Greenwich line, running on a viaduct of 850 arches, was the first suburban railway in the world. It was opened from London Bridge to Deptford in 1836 and was continued to Greenwich by 1838 with a station in Church Row. It was not extended through to Maze Hill, Westcombe Park and beyond until the 1870s. By 1851 the London and Greenwich Railway had leased the line to South Eastern Railway. Already in the 1840s it was carrying over 2 million passengers with trains running every quarter of an hour from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The district through which the railway passed only had a scattering of people connected with the water. Behind the shops along the larger roads ran smaller alleys and tenements in which lived the working classes who typically included the labourer, coachman, coal porter, carpenter, bricklayer and railway guard.

In the triangle between London Street (now Greenwich High Road), Blackheath Road and the west side of Greenwich Park the social mix ranged from respectable working men, through lower middle class clerks and skilled men to wealthier professional and businessmen. To pick some random examples, George Street among other inhabitants contained a milliner, a plumber whose 21 year old son

was a whaler, a bricklayer, an undertaker, a plasterer, a sedan chairman aged 69, an umbrella maker and an assistant astronomer at the Royal Observatory whose son was the chaplain to Nunhead Cemetery's Dissenters' department. (H.O.107/1586 f.363b-372a) The family with the largest number of offspring noticed in the parish consisted of 11 children aged from 3 to 16. They lived with their parents in Thornton Place off London Street and their father worked as an attorney and coroner. Not unsurprisingly the household included a governess. (H.O.107/1586 f.342b-343a) Blackheath Road had several shops and businesses along its lower end, while the household residents included fundholders, accountants, a wine merchant, a patentee of preserved potatoes and a builder/boilermaker employing 20 men. The Police Station there contained 27 police constables, 4 with wives, and 2 sergeants. In the cells were 4 prisoners as diverse as a twine spinner, a fisherman's wife, an Irish labourer and a prostitute. (H.O.107/1586 f.271a-272a)

On the borders of Blackheath in the Ranger's House of Greenwich Park lived Lord Haddo and Lady Haddo, their 5 children all under 10 years of age, and 8 servants. (H.O.107/1587 f.33a) The post of Ranger of Greenwich Park was a prestigious and well-paid royal appointment being more honorary than onerous and was probably granted to Lord Haddo as the eldest son of the Earl of Aberdeen, who became Prime Minister in 1852. The only other noble person living in Greenwich was the Dowager Countess of Buckinghamshire who lived with her niece in East Coomb House in Charlton Road. (H.O.107/1587 f.330a-330b) Living in the Royal Observatory within the Park was the Astronomer Royal, Sir George Biddell Airy, 1801-1892. (H.O.107/1587 f.34b-35a) He held the post for 46 years from 1835 and used his own money to re-equip the Royal Observatory with new instruments some of which he designed himself. In 1851 he mounted a new Transit Circle which had such power and mechanical stability that the meridian he finally defined, passing through his Transit Circle, became adopted as zero longitude internationally in 1884.

The substantial Georgian houses nearer Greenwich Park and on the higher ground edging Blackheath both in West and East Greenwich continued to attract wealthy people, though several were given over to schools. 'Woodlands' was in the charge of a skeleton staff, the Angerstein family spending more time at their Norfolk home of Weeting Hall. (H.O.107/1587 f.332b) In 1832 when Greenwich (including Deptford and Woolwich) first became a parliamentary borough, John Angerstein became one of its two Members of Parliament.

While there was some additional building in the Blackheath area, it mostly contained large properties in spacious grounds. There were six houses in Vanbrugh Fields occupied by businessmen such as a retired soap manufacturer, an Australian merchant, a shipowner, and an attorney, while the other 2 heads were

knights. (H.O.107/1587 f.293b-294b & f.312a-313a) Each household had about 5 servants resident. Shooter's Hill Road contained more mixed housing with some developments like Waterfield Terrace being occupied by businessmen but Sungarden Cottages providing accommodation for gardeners and labourers. (H.O.107/1587 f.321a-323a & 328a-329b)

Between the Royal Hospital and Trinity Hospital lay one of the poorest and most overcrowded parts of Greenwich with 137 houses containing 1027 people. The Board of Guardians in 1848 reported that in one court in East Lane 12 families lived in 8 rooms without water and drainage. Even the census enumerator must have been appalled as he paused to make a particular note that in the cellar of no.8 Crane Street lived a corset maker aged 35 with her 4 young children. (H.O.107/1587 f.75a) East Lane and Queen Lane with their tenements were inhabited by some on parish relief, others described as helpless and the rest who could barely support themselves. It is noticeable that the inhabitants tended to congregate in definite communities, e.g. Sanderson's Tenements in Crane Street contained people who were locally born, yet in Law's Court Tenements in East Lane were 122 people, 101 of whom had been born in Ireland - perhaps driven to England by the Irish famine of the 1840s. (H.O.107/1587 f.75b-77a & 84b-87b) Before passing on the Census enumerator noted 10 people in boats and barges.

The cumulative effect of the doubling of the population between 1801 and 1841 was the extension of housing to the east of the Royal Hospital and the beginning of industrial development along the riverside of the Greenwich marsh peninsula. After the turn-pike improvements of the 1820s several shops had been built along Trafalgar Road and Mr. Tyler built a housing estate on former market garden land nearby which inevitably was dubbed 'Tyler Town'.

Much of the remaining land was owned by the Trustees of Morden College, which lay in the manor of Wricklemarsh on the eastern fringe of Blackheath just outside the parish of Greenwich. Morden College remains with the original 17th century building at its heart. Founded by Sir John Morden in 1695 for poor, decayed and ruined merchants, major endowments came from the Manor of Old Court, the remnant of former Crown lands of the Royal Manor of East Greenwich. As the leases for marshland pasture expired in the 1830s more profitable development was considered by the Trustees. William Coles Child in the late 1830s was looking for a new wharf site from which to run colliers and he also wanted backland to develop as building speculation. The Trustees of Morden College leased large areas to him for these purposes. The new wharf with associated industries such as coke ovens and lime kilns was in working order by 1840. The first cottages in the new Pelton Road soon followed and building proceeded steadily over the next 20 years until about 400 houses along 21 new streets were

completed. Most of the development comprised narrow-fronted 2 storey terraced cottages which the census of 1851 reveals were tenanted by artisans in regular employment such as bricklayers, carpenters, tailors, shopkeepers and clerks. Many occupants were also employed in trades connected with the river and William Coles Child's own activities. Only in Church Street East does a higher class of tenancy appear. e.g. in 1851 a retired indigo planter, sail maker and master mariner. (H.O.1587 f.239b-240a) It is probable that the Trustees of Morden College would have preferred more upmarket housing but this proved unrealistic as workers attracted to the new industries springing up along the river urgently needed to be housed. It is to the credit of the Morden College Surveyor, George Smith, that he exercised strict control over construction and design ensuring that the small buildings were humane and visually attractive. Morden College also saw that land was reserved for a new church, Christ Church, built in 1849 as a chapel of ease attached to St. Alfege's, but becoming a parish in its own right in 1868.

At this point it might be appropriate to mention that apart from the 3 Anglican churches of St. Alfege, St. Mary and Christ Church, since the 1790s, Catholics had been able to worship in the Chapel behind Clarks' Buildings off East Street. In 1851 they moved into the new church of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Croom's Hill, though in the late 1860s Clark's Chapel was reopened for the use of the numerous Irish families nearby. There were also many Dissenting places of worship.

Despite the spread of new housing eastwards, the 1848 tithe map showed little change to the 500 acres of the Greenwich Marsh peninsula - it was only in the second half of the 19th century that dramatic changes occurred here, though evidence of industrial activity can already be detected. By 1851 apart from a few wharves such as Enderby's wharf with Enderby house nearby and Coles Child wharf with its allied works, other activities were a foundry and boiler works, a cement works, an iron steam boat works and a chemical works run by Thomas Down who with his family and one servant lived on the site. (H.O.107/1587 f.363a) A small residential area had developed at Ceylon Place from at least 1801. (H.O.107/1587 f.363b-365a)

The rest of the marshland was given over to agricultural activity. Some market gardeners lived along Woolwich Road but the main farm was Coomb Farm managed by a redoubtable widow, Mary Roberts, aged 64, who ran a market garden of 100 acres which employed 37 men and 28 women. (H.O.107/1587 f.307) The farm stretched from the marshes up to the borders of Woodlands estate and the farmhouse was situated in Coomb Lane on the lower valley slopes towards the bottom of what is now Westcombe Hill.

From a superficial study of the 1851 census, Greenwich emerges as a parish of contrast with a mixture of old and new housing, both substandard and of the highest quality, providing accommodation for a wide cross section of society. Employment opportunities linked with the river remained important, manufacturing jobs were just beginning to develop and the easternmost section of the parish still had a definite rural feel about it. Yet Samuel Bagshaw in 1847 saw Greenwich as essentially a market town of much interest and beauty and the pull of Greenwich Park with 'its delightful picturesque scenery from the summit' drew visitors to it - another factor which boosted its economy.

Much has changed since 1851 with Greenwich and its neighbours growing to become a contiguous part of South East London. It does, however, retain its architectural heritage and with Park and river, some of its past royal mystique lingers and continues to attract tourists from near and far.

## **INSTITUTIONS**

### **The Greenwich Union Workhouse (H.O.107/1587 f.383b-412a)**

The earliest workhouse for Greenwich parish opened in 1723 alongside St. Alphege's Church, but by the middle of the century this had become too cramped and another site was sought. Eventually, in 1765, land off Maidenstone Hill on which stood an 'ancient ruinous building, called the Pest House' was at first rented, and later bought, from the Crown and a 'better and more comfortable habitation for the poor' was erected there. This continued in use until 1840.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 united the parishes of Deptford, Greenwich and Woolwich into one Poor Law Union, known as the Greenwich Union, and subsequently the individual parish workhouses were closed and the poor of the Greenwich Union were relocated into one large new Workhouse built on a 5 acre site alongside Woolwich Road with its junction with Conduit or Green Lane (now called Vanbrugh Hill). The Union Workhouse cost £25,000 and was a three storey building with a 'plain but cheerful and almshouse-like appearance.' It was regarded as the 'Model Workhouse' in its arrangements to separate 16 classes of inmates, namely, the new admittances; male and female infirm; male and female able-bodied; women of irreclaimably bad character; boys, girls and nursery children; sick men and women; lunatic men and women; and male and female vagrants. It was designed to accommodate 1200 inmates but 1040 was considered to be its proper capacity. This was a particularly large institution because it was located in one of the most densely populated Unions in the country.

In 1851 it had been in use for nearly 11 years and housed 1047 inmates of whom 489 were male and 558 female. Among the men labourers, ex-servicemen and seamen predominated while many female domestic servants seem to have ended their days in the Workhouse. The oldest man was aged 90 and the oldest woman was 95 years old. As would be expected, several inmates were categorised as being infirm, idiot, cripple, blind or deaf and dumb. There were 164 boys and 159 girls of school-age, that is between 3 and 16 years old, most of whom were born locally, though many a place of birth was unknown. The Master and Matron, their Assistants, 3 teachers, the porter, a master tailor and a master shoemaker were all resident, but other employees lived locally. Apart from the resident inmates, about 1080 people per week received out-door relief and Greenwich residents dependent on parish relief can be spotted in the Census scattered throughout the poorer districts.

### **The Royal Hospital of Greenwich (H.O.107/1587 f.414b-469a)**

Samuel Bagshaw in 1847 referred to a shrewd foreigner's observation that "in England the hospitals are like palaces, and the palaces like hospitals." This is particularly apposite to the Royal Hospital at Greenwich since it incorporated the only block of Charles II's grandiose plan to replace the ruinous Tudor palace fronting the river Thames. The rest of the Royal Hospital was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, with the assistance of Nicholas Hawksmoor, at the instigation of Queen Mary II.

It was she who in 1694 founded the Royal Hospital for the relief and support of Royal Naval seamen 'who by reason of their age, wounds or other disabilities shall be incapable of further service at sea, and unable to maintain themselves.' Under the Charter, needy wives and children of slain or disabled seamen were also to be sustained, though in the event, little or nothing was done for the wives.

The construction of the Royal Hospital extended over several decades but in 1755 when it was almost complete 1550 Pensioners had moved in and by 1814, with the human toll of the Wars against France, the Hospital was filled to capacity with 2710 men. For the next three decades the Hospital continued to attract these numbers but at the time of the 1851 Census, many of the veterans of the French Wars were reaching the end of their lives and years of peace and naval cut-backs meant that there were fewer Pensioners to fill the vacancies. In 1851 there were 1817 In-Pensioners (excluding the Infirmary inmates) living in the Hospital itself - most were aged in their sixties and seventies but the oldest was 90 and the youngest 21 years of age.

Many In-Pensioners were married but were not allowed to live with their families, unlike 19 Officers who lived in style with families and servants. The Governor of the Hospital was Admiral Sir Charles Adam aged 70 and the Lieutenant Governor was Rear Admiral Sir James Gordon who became the last Governor of the Hospital in 1853 - his job ending in 1869 when the Hospital ceased to house inmates, all former In-Pensioners receiving a pension to live outside instead.

The 1851 Census shows that some flexibility in the rules of residence seems to have already taken place in that throughout the lower-lying areas of Greenwich in the poorer to moderate quality housing a few In-Pensioners were lodging as well as numerous Out-Pensioners. Originally an In-Pensioner was maintained within the Hospital, receiving one shilling (5p) a week as pocket money, while the Out-Pensioner lived outside the Hospital and not necessarily in Greenwich on a pension provided by the Crown, but by the mid 19th century it is clear that some In-Pensioners were being boarded out.

#### **The Infirmary of the Royal Hospital** (H.O.107/ 1587 f.508b-520b)

This lay on the corner of the junction of King William Street and Trafalgar Road. The original building of Classical design was damaged by fire and rebuilt in 1811. It continued as the Infirmary for the Royal Hospital until 1870 when it was handed over to the Seamen's Hospital Society to become the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital - closed in the late 1980s. From 1821 the Seamen's Hospital Society had been using an old man-of-war called Dreadnought anchored in Greenwich Reach, but this hulk does not feature in the Greenwich census return of 1851, though the Post Office Directory of the same year noted that it had 185 seamen patients of all nations.

At the time of the 1851 census there were 357 male patients in the Infirmary of whom two were aged 92, while the youngest was 16 years old. Nine officers managed the Infirmary, headed by the Infirmary Inspector Sir John Liddell M.D

#### **The Royal Hospital School** (H.O.107/1587 f.472b-506a)

Queen Mary II's original Hospital Foundation of 1694 included the setting up as part of the Royal Hospital of a school for sons of seamen killed or disabled in action. This was known as the Hospital School. Over 100 years later, in 1798, The Royal Naval Asylum for children was set up in Paddington. The Asylum was transferred to Greenwich in 1807 under Royal patronage with 70 boys and girls taking up residence in the Queen's House. There was an urgent need to improve naval recruiting so it was planned to expand the School with the addition of two

separate wings linked to the Queen's House by colonnades. Eventually in 1825 the Hospital School was amalgamated with the Asylum School - the numbers of pupils then being 200 Hospital School boys, 600 Asylum boys and 200 Asylum girls, whose school closed in 1842. In 1851 there were 790 boys in the Royal Hospital School including 16 pupil-teachers aged 15 to 18.

The emphasis of the curriculum was reflected in the description of the occupations of the staff and in the background of the management team. The Schools were headed by the Beadle, Sir Henry Hart, an ex-naval officer. The Superintendent of Schools and the Secretary were also naval men - the former being a Lieutenant and the latter Paymaster and Purser. The Headmaster of the Upper School was, however, a clergyman. Among the resident teaching staff three taught Nautical Science, one the elements of Navigation, one Mathematics and Magnetism and 9 were Drill masters.

The Royal Hospital School continued to be centred in Greenwich until 1933 when it moved to Holbrook in Suffolk.

## **CHARITABLE ALMSHOUSES**

### **Queen Elizabeth's College** (H.O.107/1586 ff.263b-264b)

This was the oldest charitable institution founded in 1558 by William Lambarde for 20 poor men and their wives. It was run by the Draper's Company. Except for 2 inmates who might come from anywhere, the rest had to come from within the Hundred of Blackheath. The almshouses still lie near Greenwich Station and were rebuilt in 1817 on the original site. In 1856 additional almshouses were built to double the number of inmates.

In 1851 18 men, aged between 63 and 95, and their wives or other family members lived in the College. The oldest almsperson was a widow of 96. Most men seem to have come from labouring backgrounds, but there were also two fishermen, a shipwright and a tallow chandler reflecting Greenwich's maritime tradition. Though they might have qualified for a place through residence many of the inmates were not born locally.

### **Trinity Hospital** (H.O.107/1587 f.182a-182b)

This was founded by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, in 1613 for 20 poor unmarried men over 56 years of age, 12 were to come from Greenwich and 8 from Shottisham, Norfolk, where the Earl was born. It still exists in its original building by the river to the east of the Royal Hospital and is run by the Mercers' Company.

In 1851 the 20 inmates were widowers aged between 62 and 81, cared for by the Warden, a cook, nurse and servant. 4 were born in Greenwich and 7 in Norfolk and many had been labourers or shoemakers, though 1 had been a surgeon.

#### **Jubilee Almshouses** (H.O.107/1586 f.267a)

These were founded in 1809 to celebrate the 50th year of George III's reign. In 1811 money raised in Greenwich was used to build the first 4 houses for necessitous widows over 60 years old, 6 more houses were added in 1815 (2 for unmarried women), and a year later money was left for another 2 houses. The site of the Jubilee Almshouses lay at the junction of the present Greenwich High Road and Egerton Drive. The old almshouses were replaced in 1974.

In 1851, 2 of the units were unoccupied and the rest housed 13 women, 4 with a companion, servant or younger relative.

### **CHARITABLE SCHOOLS**

There were several charitable schools in Greenwich parish but only 2 figure in the 1851 Census since the others did not accommodate boarders. The day schools included the Grey Coat School for boys, 3 National Schools catering for 600 children, a British School for 220 boys as well as 3 Congregational Schools, 1 Wesleyan and 1 Catholic School.

#### **The Green Coat School** (H.O.107/1586 f.238a-238b)

This was situated in Orange Lane near Straightsmouth and in 1851 had 25 boys aged between 8 and 13. The School was originally built and endowed in 1672 by Sir William Boreman who stipulated that apart from being born in Greenwich, which in 1851 all were, the boys were to be sons of watermen, seamen and fishermen especially if they had served the King in wars.

#### **The Blue Coat School** (H.O.107/1586 f.456b-457a)

In 1851 this was situated on Maidenstone Hill near the junction with Point Hill and educated 26 girls aged 8 to 14. The school had been founded in about 1700 with the aim of training about 30 poor girls from the area for domestic service.

### **PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

Thirty-four private schools appear in the census, though perhaps no conclusion as to the total number of their pupils can be reached since only the boarders were listed and some might also have admitted day pupils. Judging by boarding pupils

alone, several schools appear to have been little more than dame schools catering for up to about 10 children. The 7 mixed schools seem to fall into this category. They had boys up to about 10 years of age, though some had teenage girls.

There were 8 boys' schools, the largest being the Blue Stile House Academy, off the lower Croom's Hill area, with 30 pupils aged 10 to 16, and Vanbrugh House Academy, near the Westcombe end of Blackheath, with 33 boys aged between 5 and 13. (H.O.107/1586 f.211a-212a; H.O.107/1587 f.311a-312a)

There were 19 girls' schools, far outnumbering the mixed and boys' schools. The 2 largest of these were a school in 4 May's Buildings off Croom's Hill with 34 girls aged between 7 and 18 and Park Hall School on Croom's Hill with 51 girls aged 7 to 18. (H.O.107/1586 386b-387a; H.O.107/1587 31a-32b)

Most schools were sited near Croom's Hill and in the late 18th to early 19th century houses on the lower slopes to the west. The use of formerly quite grand residences for boarding schools indicates the withdrawal of the gentry or upper middle classes from Greenwich at this time.

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### Reference list

The following were among the sources used and are available for reference at the London Borough of Greenwich Local History Library.

#### Books and Pamphlets

Anon.	Greenwich – Palace, Hospital and College	Greenwich 1955
S. Bagshaw	History, Gazetteer & Directory of Kent, vol I.	Sheffield 1847
L. Baker	Churches in the Hundred of Blackheath	Greenwich 1961
F. Barker	Greenwich and Blackheath Past	London 1993
G. Callender	The Queen's House 1617-1937	Isle-of-Wight 1937
J. Charlton	The Queen's House	London 1976
N. Hamilton	America Began at Greenwich	Greenwich 1976
O. & N. Hamilton	Royal Greenwich	Greenwich 1969
S. Jenkinson	Woodlands & John Julius Angerstein	Greenwich 1986
P. Joyce	The History of Morden College	Henley-on-Thames 1982
J. Kimbell	An Account of the Legacies, Gifts & Fees etc. appertaining to the Church and Poor in the Parish of St. Alphege	Greenwich 1816
B. Platts	A History of Greenwich	Newton Abbott 1973

Post Office	Directory of the Six Home Counties	London 1851
N. Rhind	Blackheath Village and Environs, vol. 2	Blackheath 1983
D. Spurgeon	Discover Greenwich and Charlton	Greenwich 1991
9th edition	Official Guide – The Metropolitan Borough of Greenwich	c. 1960

#### **Dissertations**

N. Arber	Development of Industry on the Blackwall Peninsula 1800-1985	1985
P. Collier	The Effect of the Growth of Victorian Greenwich	1985

#### **Transactions of the Greenwich and Lewisham Antiquarian Society**

Several articles on topics such as charities, Coomb Farm, Westcombe, social conditions, town planning, railways etc.

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## Arrangement of the Greenwich 1851 Census Returns

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The census was conducted on Sunday 30th March 1851. This volume is only concerned with the parish of Greenwich which is covered by two sub-districts within the Registration District of Greenwich. The two sub-districts are named Greenwich West and Greenwich East and each has a separate Public Record Office Piece Number i.e. H.O.107/1586 for Greenwich West and H.O.107/1587 for Greenwich East. Census Indexes for the remaining parishes within the Greenwich Registration District have already been published in this series by NWWFHS as follows:

Woolwich parish	Volume II
Deptford St. Paul & St Nicholas parishes	Volume III

The published population figure for the whole of Greenwich parish is 35,028, whereas the total obtained from the sum of persons in each enumeration district is 34,780. Even allowing for certain persons not enumerated e.g. absent or sleeping in boats & barges, we have been unable to account for the discrepancy.

This index combines the entries from Greenwich West and Greenwich East sub-districts (total of 34,780 persons) into a single alphabetical sequence, and shows for each person their full name and age. Details of the arrangement are as follows:

**Names** Under each surname heading, individuals are listed in order of enumeration, thereby keeping related people in the same household together. This is the same arrangement as used in previous volumes of the series.

The spelling of surnames in this index is exactly as recorded in the original, even where there is some suspicion of their being "incorrect", e.g. cases have been noted where members of the same family have their surnames recorded differently on consecutive pages, or even on the same page! Spellings of christian names should also appear as given in the original with abbreviations such as Jno. and Wm. retained. Certain abbreviated names may not be obvious from their format in the index. For instance, *Edd.* appears on the original as Ed<sup>d</sup>, i.e. presumably *Edward* or *Edmund*, while *Care.* appears as Car<sup>c</sup>, i.e. presumably *Caroline*. Other examples are *Sl.* (Samuel), *Sh.* (*Sarah*) and *My.* (*Mary*).

Where the sex of the individual is not obvious, (*m*) has been added for male and (*f*) for female. Individuals who appear in the census without a christian name *or* initials are entered as "unnamed" under the appropriate surname heading - most of these are infants.

In the original returns a handful of entries have christian names only, with the surname blank or shown as "N. K.". Others have the whole name recorded simply

as "N. K." or "U. K.". These are usually vagrants, travellers or foreign nationals. All of these are grouped together at the beginning of the index under the heading "SURNAME NOT KNOWN".

Since the lists have been sorted on a computer, spelling variants have not been grouped but must be checked for individually. Also, where there has been some doubt by the transcribers and checkers as to the correct rendering, the entry is generally duplicated under two or more alternative spellings.

Where the name being searched for does not appear in the index, it may be worth checking under a different spelling - e.g. note the possible confusion between the following groups of letters:

F, I, J, L, S and T	e.g. Fowler and Towler
A, C, E and O	e.g. Akens and Okens
H and K	e.g. Hearn and Kearns
M and W	e.g. Mills and Wills
B and R	e.g. Byan and Ryan
H and St	e.g. Haines and Staines
Fl and H	e.g. Flight and Hight
a, o and u	e.g. Barton, Borton and Burton
e and i	e.g. Wells and Wills
l and t	e.g. Buller, Butler, and Butter

**Ages** The second column gives the ages as stated on the returns. These are in years except for ages under one year where the following apply:

<i>d</i>	= <i>days</i>
<i>w</i>	= <i>weeks</i>
<i>m</i>	= <i>months</i>
<i>inf</i>	= <i>infant</i>

In a very few cases the age given on the returns is unknown or only approximate, and the following abbreviations have been adopted:

<i>c</i>	= <i>circa</i>
<i>u</i>	= <i>under</i>
<i>+</i>	= <i>over</i>
<i>nk</i>	= <i>not known or not stated</i>

Note that a few ages originally recorded as *nk* were later crossed through and a figure inserted, probably the enumerator's own estimate of the person's age. In these cases the inserted figure is given, with a question mark.

**Folio Numbers** The third column shows the folio number. Note that these are the numbers stamped at the top right corner of alternate frames of census microfilm, not the numbers at centre top which are *page numbers* - each enumeration district has a separate sequence of page numbers. To help pinpoint an entry, the suffixes "a" and "b" have been used in the index to identify respectively

the numbered frame and the following (unnumbered) frame. Also since Greenwich West and Greenwich East are covered by separate Piece Numbers, the folio numbers for each are distinguished with a prefix, as follows:

prefix 6/	Greenwich West sub-district	i.e. H.O.107/1586
prefix 7/	Greenwich East sub-district	i.e. H.O.107/1587

e.g. 6/205a            refers to H.O.107/1586, folio 205, numbered page.

## Guide to Enumeration Districts and Folio Numbers

<u>Enumeration District</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Folio Number Range</u>	<u>Approximate Coverage</u>
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### GREENWICH WEST SUB-DISTRICT (H.O. 107/1586)

1	843	f. 4-26	Garden Stairs, Brewhouse Lane, Gallery, Maiden Row, Well Yard, Church St. [pt], Billingsgate St. Billingsgate Court, Fields Yard, Manns Court, Bakers Yard, Wood Wharf [pt], Coltman's Bldgs., Coltman St. [pt], Thames St. [pt], Frederick St.
2	459	f. 30-45	Thames St. [pt], Sherry's Place, Horseferry Rd. [pt], Colgate's Bldgs, (New) Ferry Rd., Sherry Court, Bishop Bldgs, Wood Wharf [pt], Sexton Place, Coltman St. [pt]
3	1166	f. 49-79	Church St. [pt], Garret's Court, Major's Court, Edward Place, Thames St. [pt], Valentine Place, Devonport Place, Sophia Place, Horseferry Rd. [pt], Ferry Place, Norway St., Little Thames St., Cross St., Esther Place, Bridge St. [pt]
4	954	f. 83-107	Church Passage [pt], Church St. [pt], Skinner's Court, Pemmell's Court, Church Court, Bridge St. [pt], Lamb Lane
5	846	f.111-143	Roan St. [pt], Union St. [pt], Bell St., York St., Clive Place
6	658	f.147-164	Union St. [pt], John Bull's Row, Ravensbourne St., Pearson St., Charlotte St., Albert Place
7	465	f.168-180	Union St. [pt], Claremont Place, George's Place, Frederick Place, Bluchers Bldgs., Cottage Bldgs., Cottage Place, Skinner's Bldgs.
8	859	f.184-205	Roan St. [pt], Church Fields [pt]
9	835	f.209-231	Greenwich Rd. [pt], Blue Stile [pt], Vansittart Terrace, Goss Place, Deptford Bridge [pt], North Place, Norman Rd., Chapel Place
10	968	f.235-259	Church Fields [pt], Orange Lane, Woods Bldgs., Green Coat School, Straights Mouth, Rymers Bldgs., Three Tuns Square, London Court, Gales Row, Church Passage [pt], Skelton St., Greens Terrace, London St. [pt], Bexley

- Place, Greenwich Rd. [pt], Blue Stile [pt]
- |    |                  |           |  |
|----|------------------|-----------|--|
| 11 | 987              | f.263-289 | Greenwich Rd. [pt], Queen Elizabeth Row, Simmon's Cottages, Jubilee Almshouses, Blackheath Rd. [pt], Jean's Place, Police Stn., Devonshire Terrace, Catherine Grove, Monmouth Cottages, Valentine Terrace, Egerton Rd., South St. [pt], Laurel Gardens, Guildford Rd., Cambridge Terrace, Ashburnham Rd., Ashburnham Grove |
| 12 | 547              | f.293-307 | South St. [pt], Arlington Place, Camden Place, Prospect Place, Blissett St. [pt], Green Lane [pt], Brand St. [pt]  |
| 13 | 719              | f.311-330 | Brand St. [pt], Prior St., Topham Place, (Royal) Circus St. [pt], Royal Hill [pt], Green Lane [pt]   |
| 14 | 978              | f.334-359 | London St. [pt], Busby's Court, Thornton Row, (Royal) Circus St. [pt], Royal Hill [pt], Blackheath Court, Peyton Place, Orchard Row, Burney St., Stockwell St. [pt]  |
| 15 | 503 <sup>1</sup> | f.363-376 | George St., Briggs Place, George Place, Luton Place, Little George St., Upper George St. [pt]  |
| 16 | 930              | f.380-403 | Crooms Hill [pt], Crooms Hill Grove, May's Bldgs., Wellington Grove, Glen Mohr Terrace, Hyde Vale Cottages, Royal Hill [pt], Royal Place Court, Royal Place, Circus, Gloucester Place  |
| 17 | 637              | f.408-426 | Hyde Place, Hyde Vale, Hamilton Terrace, Conduit Vale, Grove (Blackheath), Diamond Terrace, Point Hill, Royal Hill [pt], Upper George St. [pt]   |
| 18 | 618              | f.430-446 | Royal Hill Row, Martin Court, Maidenstone Terrace, Blissett St. [pt], Blissett Place, Lakes Cottages, Green Lane [pt], Victoria Place [pt], Atlas St., Grove Place, John Street  |
| 19 | 997 <sup>2</sup> | f.450-475 | The Point (Blackheath), Blackheath Hill [pt], Maidenstone Hill [pt], Blue Coat Girls School, College Place East & West, Trinity Terrace, Lewisham Rd. [pt], Commercial Place, Burling St., Merton Place  |
| 20 | 902              | f.479-502 | Blackheath Hill [pt], Maidenstone Hill [pt], White House Court, Chamber's Court, Telegraph Place, Cottage Place, Blissett St. [pt], Melville Terrace, South St. [pt], Grove St., Orchard St. & Court, David's Place, Plumridge St.   |
| 21 | 560              | f.506-522 | Deptford Bridge [pt], Queen's Court & Place, Deal's Yard, Skinner's Court & Row, Catherine Place, Union Place, Holwell Place, Cold Bath Row  |

- 22      427    f.526-537    Lewisham Rd. [pt], Cold Bath St. [pt], Ditch Alley, Spencer's Cottages, Garden Row, Cold Bath Cottages & Place, Olive Place, Ravensbourne Place, South Crescent
- 23      1068<sup>3</sup>    f.541-568    Lewisham Rd. [pt], Morden Place, Orchard Hill [pt], Bath Place, Cold Bath St. [pt], Bennett St., Morden St.
- 24      682      f.572-589    Lewisham Rd. [pt], Mount Tabor, George's Terrace, Morden Grove & Terrace, Prospect Place, Ravensbourne Cottages & Hill, Mount Nod Square, Victoria Place, Bath Cottages & Terrace, Orchard Cottages, Orchard Hill [pt]

GREENWICH EAST SUB-DISTRICT (H.O. 107/1587)

- 1        830      f. 4-25      Market Place, Vine Court (Greenwich Mkt), Turnpin Lane, Nelson St. [pt], King St. [pt], Haddington Terrace, Romney Place & Terrace, King William St., Church St. [pt], Fry's Court, Clarence St.
- 2        753      f. 29-48      Crooms Hill [pt], Park Hall, Ranger's House, Paragon, Royal Observatory, Greenwich Park, Maize Hill [pt], Park Lodge, Leaches Alley, King St. [pt], Silver St., Gillett's Place, Stockwell St. [pt], Church St. [pt], Nelson St. [pt]
- 3        635<sup>4</sup>    f. 52-69      Park Row [pt], Police Stn., Bear Lane, East Lane [pt], Smith's Rents, Nybourn's Court, Trafalgar Rd. [pt], Reece's Place, Moses Rents, Park Place [pt]
- 4        1017<sup>5</sup>    f. 73-104     Crane St., Sanderson's Tenements, Highbridge, East Lane [pt], Well's Tenements, Law's Court, Hog Lane [pt], Queen St., Victoria Place, Queen Court, Park Row [pt]
- 5        760      f.108-127    Trafalgar Rd. [pt], Park St. [pt], Norfolk Place [pt], West Norfolk Place, Hog Lane [pt], Union Place [pt], St. Andrew's Court, East St. [pt], Slaughter Rents, Jubilee Court
- 6        813      f.131-160    Park St. [pt], Trafalgar Rd. [pt], Trafalgar Grove, East St. [pt], Clark's Bldgs., Wright's Court, Park Place, Plume of Feathers Court
- 7        723      f.164-182    Bennett St., Little Bennett St., Bachelor's Hall, Collington St., Marlborough Place & St., Old Woolwich Rd. [pt], Hampshire Place, Ballast Quay [pt], Crowley's Wharf, Anchor Wharf, Norfolk Trinity Hospital
- 8        819      f.186-207    Trafalgar Place & Terrace, Trafalgar Rd. [pt], Nelson Place, Reform Place, Latham's Cottages, Morden Place, Gothic Row, Sweetlove's Yard, Burford's Cottages, Old

Institutions Book 1	470	f.383-395	Union Workhouse
Institutions Book 2	577	f.398-412	Union Workhouse (continued)
Institutions Book 3	950	f.414-438	Greenwich Hospital
Institutions Book 4	637	f.441-456	Greenwich Hospital (continued)
Institutions Book 5	445	f.458-469	Greenwich Hospital (continued)
Institutions Book 6	876	f.472-506	Greenwich Hospital School
Institutions Book 7	474	f.508-520	Greenwich Hospital Infirmary

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<sup>1</sup> Figure excludes 10 males absent – Chiefly gentlemen's servants, 1 or 2 seamen and 2 lodgers.

<sup>2</sup> Figure excludes 2 males absent. No reason given.

<sup>3</sup> Figure excludes 2 males and 1 female absent. No reason given.

<sup>4</sup> Enumerator's figure = 634. He missed one person on folio 59b when totalling.

<sup>5</sup> Figure excludes 10 males in barges, boats etc.

<sup>6</sup> Figure excludes 2 males & 1 female absent. No reason given.

<sup>7</sup> Figure excludes 12 males in barges, boats etc.