

NOTES AND QUERIES

LIVERPOOL'S INSTITUTIONAL AND QUASI-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN 1841 AND 1851:

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Unlike many national censuses, those of the United Kingdom have always enumerated population as it was located on census night: the so-called **de facto** population. In other words, persons were enumerated where they slept that night whether or not it was their usual place of abode. While the advantages of avoiding double counting can be seen, a disadvantage is that anyone not sleeping at home on census night is nearly impossible to find in the census enumerators' books.

Other countries allocate this 'floating' population to its 'usual' place of residence: the **de jure** population. The significance of these two different practices for those interested in tracing individuals should be apparent.

While it would be well-nigh impossible to trace single visitors in private homes without tabulating the entire national census, it would be feasible to accumulate over time a listing of establishments which catered for the traveller, the homeless, orphaned, sick, poor, student and criminal classes as research on the enumeration books proceeds. In addition such listings would also provide a quantitative gauge of the broad dimensions of the 'non-household' or institutional population of the country — itself an important consideration when questions of preparing representative samples of the population as a whole are being asked. The material presented below represents an examination of the sizes and types of such institutional and 'quasi-institutional' populations of Liverpool at mid-century.

Liverpool as a major seaport and point of embarkation for foreign migrants had a large number of persons passing through the town, frozen like a single frame in a movie film, by the census enumeration on census night. Liverpool might be reasonably expected therefore to present something of an extreme case in the size and diversity of such typical populations. However, further research could provide some perspective on this matter.

The groups of transients and segregated persons I encountered fell broadly into two classes. The first class was officially recognised by the census as 'institutional', and a separate schedule was distributed by the persons in charge of the institution. In Liverpool such places included: gaols, hospitals and asylums, schools, almshouses, refuges and institutes, barracks and military establishments. Persons on board ships (not inland craft) were separately enumerated by ships' captains and the results forwarded directly to London.

However, a second class of 'household' was not officially designated as an institution but in its non-family nature it is clearly closer to an institution than to a normal household. Some of these were obviously small 'institutions', considered too small for a separate enumeration, others have been termed 'quasi-institutions' by researchers in that they lie on the border-line between 'normal' households and definite institutions. In my

work I used an arbitrary figure of more than ten persons described as, lodgers, boarders, etc. in the household to designate such a group 'quasi-institutional'. While examining the enumeration books for the parish of Liverpool in 1851 (which constituted 70 per cent of the borough population) I encountered many such households and recorded their presence. The list of these households is presented in the Appendix. While some of these households were undoubtedly inadvertently missed, the number is probably not very large. It is fairly easy to spot such extraordinarily large 'households on the census page. The total size of this floating (some of it literally) and adventitious population unrecorded by the official institutional returns is impressive. A total of 2,766 persons was found in such quasi-institutional households — a figure which represents only about ten per cent less than those listed in the **parish** of Liverpool's bulging official institutions, which held 3,055 persons. In total the institutional population broadly defined constituted 8,511 (and this figure excludes the quasi-institutional population of the out-townships) — in all about 2½ per cent of the total population of the borough.

I did not examine the individual returns for the 1841 population so that the number of persons in quasi-institutions in that year is not known, but in all probability the figure would approximate that for 1851. Table 1 summarizes the totals by registration sub-district of this population.

Table 1. Liverpool: institutional and quasi-institutional population, 1841 and 1851.

Registration sub-districts	institutional population		quasi-institutional population	total population	
	1841	1851	1851	1841	1851
1. St. Martins	18	—	818	35,478	61,777
2. Gt. Howard	732	954	206	26,197	27,942
3. Dale Street	98	—	328	33,866	31,763
4. St. George	—	359	189	19,723	19,823
5. St. Thomas	506	—	109	34,932	33,957
6. Mt. Pleasant	2,294	1,431	654	33,042	41,990
7. Islington	114	311	462	37,730	40,970
Parish	3,762	3,055	2,766	220,968	258,222
cut	—	—	—	—	—
township	558	2,690	—	—	—
Borough	4,320	5,745	—	286,026	367,700

Note: The quasi-industrial population of the out-townships is excluded.

Tables 2 and 3 provide a list of all separately enumerated institutions in the 1841 and 1851 censuses. Such schedules are usually found at the end of the relevant sub-district returns.

The appendix lists by sub-district and enumeration district all 'official' institutions separately enumerated, 'unofficial' institutions (not separately enumerated), and quasi-institutions encountered in 1851. Using such a list as an index to the enumerators' books, it should be possible to scan the 'non-household' population of Liverpool fairly quickly.

Table 2. Liverpool: Institutional population, 1841. (Enumerated on separate schedules).

Registration sub-districts	Institute	Population		total
		male	female	
St. Martins	North Battery	11	7	18
Gt. Howard	Gaol	271	265	536
	North Hospital	56	30	86
	Night Asylum	72	38	110
Dale Street	Bridewell, Chapel St.	50	40	90
	Bridewell, Vauxhall Rd.	2	6	8
St. George	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas	Blue Coat Hospital	247	116	363
Mt. Pleasant	Workhouse	688	955	1,643
	Infirmery	129	98	227
	Almshouses	20	106	126
	Refuge for destitute	—	30	30
	Penitentiary	—	62	62
	Catholic Orphan Asylum	—	74	74
	Deaf & Dumb Institute	25	14	39
	Lock Hospital	23	32	55
	Lunatic Asylum	19	19	38
Islington	Military Hospital	8	5	13
	Bridewell	7	3	10
Toxteth Park	Blind School	55	36	91
Kirkdale	Workhouse	57	12	69
Everton	Prison	435	54	489
West Derby	Workhouse	—	—	—
		2,175	2,002	4,177

Table 3. Liverpool: Institutional population, 1851. (Enumerated on separate schedules).

Registration sub-districts	Institute	Population		total
		male	female	
St. Martins	—	—	—	—
Gt. Howard	Gaol	599	355	954
Dale St.	—	—	—	—
St. George	Bluecoat Hospital	242	117	359
St. Thomas	—	—	—	—
Mt. Pleasant	Workhouse	536	648	1,184
	Infirmery	133	114	247
Islington	Brickfield Barracks	279	32	311
Toxteth Park	—	—	—	—
Everton/Kirkdale	Industrial School	656	497	1,153
	Workhouse	318	430	748
	Barracks	333	34	367
	Gaol	339	83	422
West Derby	—	—	—	—
		3,435	2,310	5,745

Further work that could be undertaken by family historians might include an indexing of the names and origins of persons found in these institutions. If that were done for other large cities, many persons who 'went missing' in the mid-nineteenth century might be found. Similar listings for other large cities would also provide social historians with comparative data on this not insignificant but easily neglected population.

APPENDIX

Liverpool: Locations of the institutional and quasi-institutional population, 1851.

The references on the left of the items below indicate the respective call numbers for the enumerators' schedules at the Public Record Office. The general class mark H.O. has not been repeated after the initial entry. The final three figures designate the enumeration district code (top right hand corner of enumeration book cover).

1. **St. Martins**

H.O. 107/2177/1tt Irish Lodging House, Regent St. (57 Lodgers) emigrants
 107/2177/1tt " " (15 Lodgers) "
 107/2177/1tt " " (25 Lodgers) "
 107/2177/1tt " " (16 Lodgers) "
 107/2177/1uu " Clay St. (11 Lodgers) Boarding House
 107/2177/1vv 'A large number of persons, not inhabitants, almost exclusively Irish emigrants to America, 163 persons'. Boats and barges in canal 145 persons
 107/2177/1hh '27 temporary residents'
 107/2177/1jj 66 'visitors from the country'
 107/2177/1NN 4 persons on a barge
 107/2177/pp 283 'emigrating to America'
 107/2177/1rr 6 emigrants
2. **Great Howard**

107/2178/1J 27 on a barge
 107/2178/1L 11 in an Irish Lodging House
 107/2178/1P 19 on barges
 107/2178/1Q 42 on barges
 107/2178/1T 107 Cavalry (Polish) in barracks
 107/2178/1S 954 in Gaol, Great Howard Street
3. **Dale Street**

107/2179/1E 32 persons in Irish Lodging Houses, Lace St.
 107/2178/1U 33 persons in a hotel
 107/2178/1U 25 Welsh emigrants in a Welsh emigrant house, Union St.
 107/2178/1U 17 emigrants in a licenced victuallers
 107/2178/1U 15 Lincolnshire emigrants in a boarding house
 107/2179/1V 20 emigrants in a licenced victuallers
 107/2179/188 55 persons in the 'Royal Hotel'
 107/2179/1CC 131 persons in the 'Crooked Billet', the 'Wellington', and the 'George' hotels
4. **St. George**

107/2180/1A 34 persons in barns, sheds, etc.
 107/2180/1A 9 shop assistants, Haymarket
 107/2180/1I 11 shop assistants, in two shops, Colquit St.
 107/2180/1J 52 draper's assistants in shops, Bold St.
 107/2180/1J 13 boarders at a commercial travellers hotel
 107/2180/1L 70 'Americans proceeding to Exhibition'
 107/2180/1.S. 359 persons in Bluecoat Hospital, including 334 Scholars
5. **St. Thomas**

107/2181/1F 27 Scottish seamen in a boarding house
 107/2181/1U 82 persons in the Southern and Toxteth Hospitals
6. **Mount Pleasant**

107/2182/1A 78 persons in the 'Waterloo Hotel'
 107/2182/1D 76 persons in the 'Adelphi Hotel'
 107/2182/1G 24 girls at school
 107/2182/1U 44 persons at the Lock Hospital
 107/2182/1U 68 persons at the Lunatic Asylum
 107/2182/1EE 160 female orphans
 107/2182/1EE 44 in deaf and dumb institute
 107/2182/1HH 57 females in penitentiary

107/2182/1II 79 females in Almshouses
 107/2182/1JJ 24 persons in Asylum
 * I.S. 1184 persons in the Workhouse
 * I.S. 247 persons in the Infirmary

7. Islington

107/2184/1A 47 persons in the 'Stork Hotel'
 107/2184/1B 124 persons in a drapers training school
 107/2184/1C 137 persons in five hotels
 107/2184/1D 102 inmates at the Blind Asylum
 107/2184/1J 11 females at the Catholic Lying in Hospital
 107/2184/1GG 22 persons in the Catholic Blind Asylum
 107/2184/1II 19 assistants in a grocer's store
 * I.S. 279 military in Brickfield Barracks and 32 females

8. Toxteth Park

107/2188/1AD 3 persons living in a 'boat on the beach last three years'
 107/2188/1AO 24 females in the Beneficial Female Institute

9. Everton

107/2189/1C 46 men (and women) in a military hospital
 107/2189/1D 36 children in the Soho Ragged School
 * 107/2190/I.S. 1153 at Kirkdale Industrial School
 * 107/2190/I.S. 748 in the Workhouse
 * 107/2190/I.S. 367 in Barracks
 * 107/2190/I.S. 422 in the Gaol

10. West Derby

107/2192/1A 39 persons in hospital
 107/2192/1H 64 nuns at the Mount Vernon Convent

* I.S. institutional schedule