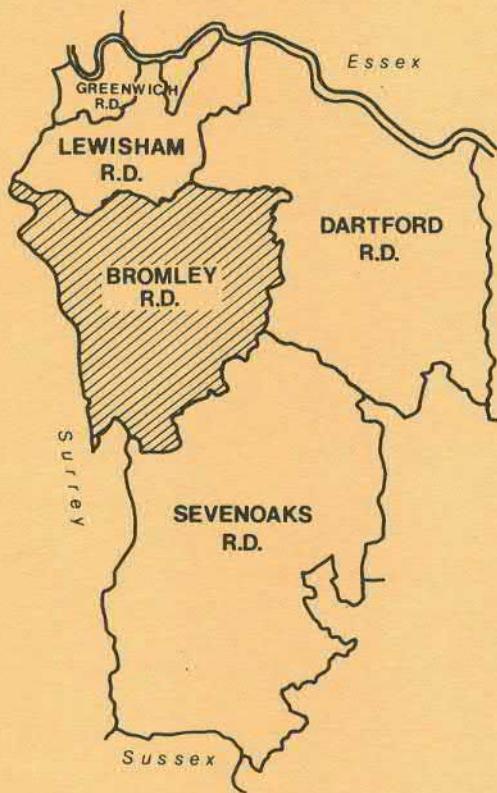


# 1851 CENSUS INDEX FOR NORTH WEST KENT



**Volume I**  
**Bromley Registration District**

(Piece No. H.O.107/1606)

NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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1851 CENSUS INDEX  
FOR NORTH WEST KENT

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Volume I

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(Piece Number H.O.107/1606)

1988

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## INTRODUCTION

This volume is the first of a series of indexes to the 1851 census of North West Kent. Its production would not have been possible without the help of a considerable number of volunteers, and I would like to record my thanks here:

- To my predecessors Pat Pingham and Ken Wickham who co-ordinated the project in its early years.
- To Guy Nevill who as Projects Organiser was instrumental in obtaining census films on loan from the PRO.
- To all the transcribers and checkers who have helped with Bromley R.D. - Basil & Jean Benwell, Denis Bowyers, T. J. Broad, Diana Dilley, Peter Eyers, Joan Field, Christine Lodge, Doreen Martin-Loat, Rose Medley, Mary Mullett, John Nightingale, Marjorie Payton, Hazel Starling, Jean Stirk, Fred Tutt, Fred & Priscilla Vernau, Ian Werrey-Easterbrook, and Malcom Youngs.
- To members of the Society's Computer Group for their work in entering the data into computer files - Sabina Doust, Win Grimmette, Paul Homer, Stuart Valentine, Sandy Williams and Barbara Zissell; also to Paul Homer and David Warren for their help in converting BBC files to IBM format ready for merging and printing.
- To Malcom Youngs for helping with the job of final checking against the enumerators' books.
- Finally to members of the Society's Committee for their support.

This census index was printed from computer files stored in dBase III format, using an Aptec Laserflow laserprinter for the final output.

Stephen Archer  
1851 Census Project Co-ordinator

June 1988

## **Location of Census Microfilms and Transcripts**

Apart from the Public Record Office census room in Portugal Street, microfilms of the 1851 returns for Bromley Registration District (Piece No. HO.107/1606) are held at:

- Bromley Local Studies Library, Floor 2, Central Library, High Street, Bromley BR1 1EX (Tel: 01-460-9955 Ext.261/2); three microfilm readers, appointment not usually needed. The return for Bromley parish itself is available for 1851 in two forms, microfilm and printout from microfilm. Bromley Library also holds the film which includes Penge, now inside Bromley Borough but in 1851 part of Surrey (and hence covered by the East Surrey F.H.S.). Bromley Library's coverage of the Borough also includes the other available census years, 1841 and 1861-1881.
- Bexley Borough Local Studies Section, Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1PQ (Tel: 0322-526574 Ext.42); two microfilm readers. Microfilmed returns for Dartford Registration District are also held at Hall Place.

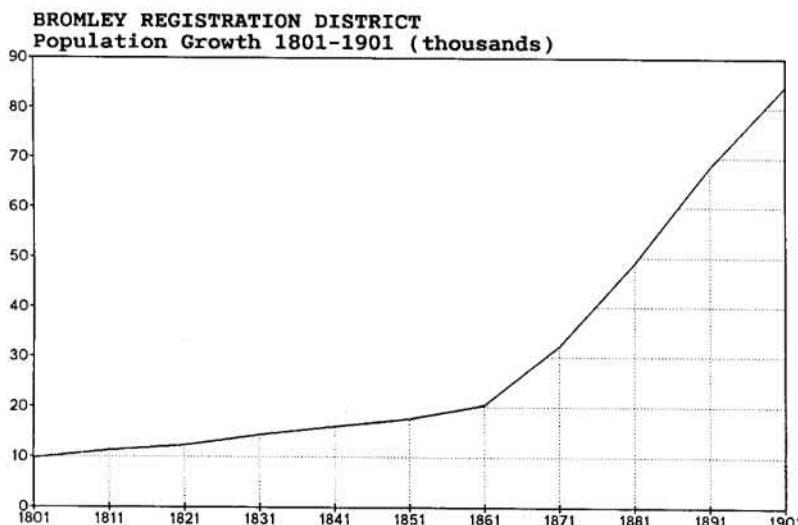
Note that neither the Kent Archives Office nor Springfield Local Studies Library in Maidstone hold 1851 returns for Bromley Registration District, although Springfield does have coverage for 1841 and 1881.

The transcripts from which this index was compiled will be available in the Society's own library at monthly meetings. Birthplaces for those born outside Kent ('strays') have also been collected and will be indexed on slips for eventual inclusion in the national strays index.

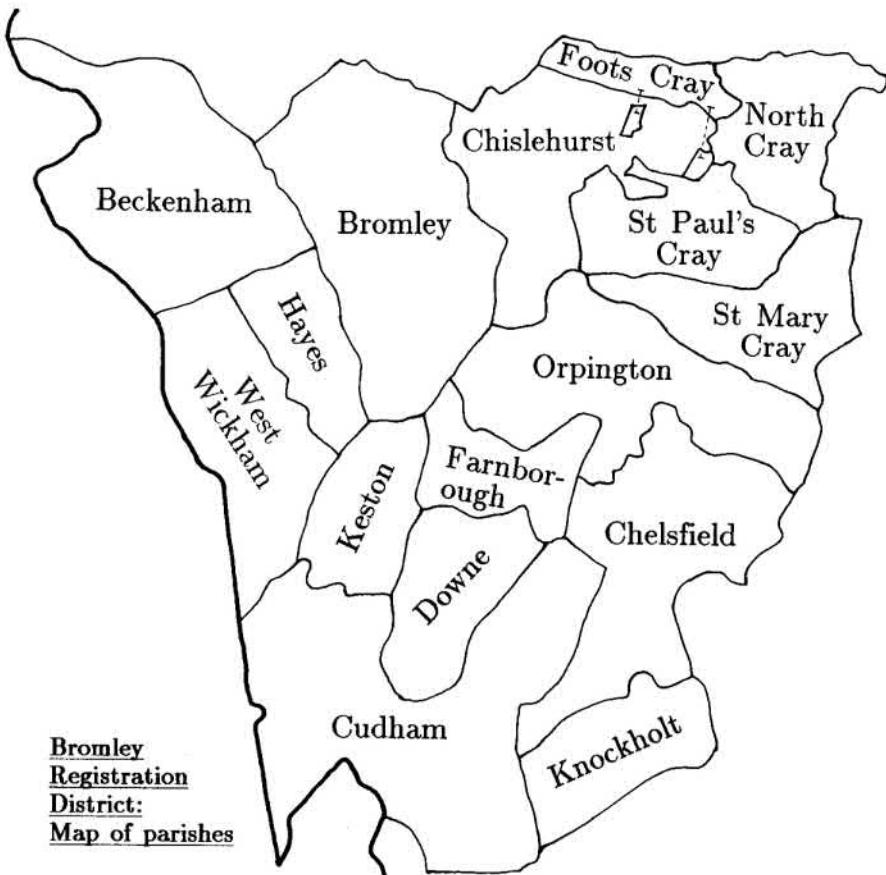
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## BROMLEY REGISTRATION DISTRICT: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Bromley Registration District in the 19th century comprised 16 ancient parishes and covered some 62 square miles of country on the western borders of Kent. It extended from the boundary with Lewisham in the north to the crest of the North Downs ridge at Knockholt in the south, an area of chalkland overlain towards the north by London Clay and Blackheath Beds. The Ravensbourne, Cray and Pool rivers and their tributaries drain northwards towards the Thames.



Population figures from successive censuses tell the story of a rural area which has been gradually encroached by urban development. At the beginning of the 19th century the 16 parishes together contained only 9,751 people, and this slowly crept up to 17,637 by 1851. The arrival of railway communications in the 1860s however led to a doubling by the early 1870s, and a further doubling to 68,216 by 1891. This population increase mainly affected those parishes with railway stations such as Bromley, Beckenham, Orpington and Chislehurst, while the outer parishes such as Hayes, Keston, Downe and Knockholt barely grew at all. Fortunately Green Belt restrictions have helped to slow down the march of urbanization, and even today there are many green fields in the southern part of Bromley Borough.



Bromley  
Registration  
District:  
Map of parishes

Bromley Registration District was also coterminous with the Bromley Poor Law Union set up under the Act of 1834, and the 1851 census returns list 209 paupers in the Union Workhouse at Locks Bottom in the parish of Farnborough. Prior to this some of the poor had been housed in smaller workhouses such as those at St Mary Cray and Bromley. The population of Bromley parish even dropped slightly between 1841 and 1851, partly for this reason and partly owing to the closure of four large schools.

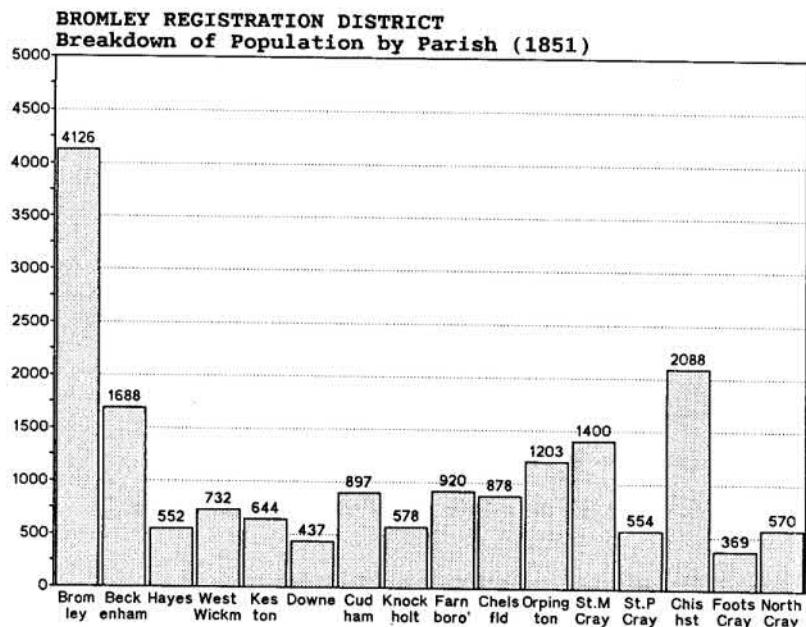
The Tithe maps, trade directories and indeed the census returns themselves give a picture of the economy of the Bromley area in the mid 19th century. We know the area was largely arable, supporting wheat, barley, oats, root crops, peas and beans, and small quantities of hops and fruit. The latter was just beginning to make its presence felt by 1851: already Orpington parish was producing 'fruits of all kinds' for the London market, and before long many of

the surrounding villages had embarked on a period of several decades of intensive fruit cultivation. Apparently St Pauls Cray was noted for its peas, for the 1851 Census Report tells us that its population was swelled by '42 persons temporarily employed gathering peas for market'!

The land of course was divided up into many farms, and these were usually leased from a small number of landowners who formed the local gentry. Some of these men came from families settled in the locality for several generations, and contemporary trade directories speak of the large number of imposing country houses and villas, some with parklands attached, which were scattered all over our area at the time. In Bromley parish lay the Sundridge Park estate (Scott family), the Widmore estate and the Oakley estate at Bromley Common. In West Wickham Charles Farnaby was lord of the manor and owned most of the parish, part of the remainder forming Langley Park which extended into Hayes. In the centre of Hayes parish itself was Hayes Place, once the home of the elder Pitt (Earl of Chatham). Downe was the home of the Lubbock family (at High Elms), while in the same parish lived Charles Darwin at Down Place (although absent from the household on census night). Over to the east, the Townshends (Viscounts Sydney) lived at Frogner Manor in Chislehurst, and owned most of the land both there and in St Pauls Cray. Fooths Cray Place was the home of Lord Bexley (who had just died when the 1851 census was taken), and who had owned a fair slice of Fooths Cray village as well as his own parklands and the North Cray Place estate. At Kewington lived Joseph Berens, whose lands included much of St. Mary Cray. Further up the Cray valley lay a number of farms held by members of the Hart-Dyke family of Lullingstone Castle.

An analysis of the occupations given on the census returns reveals a tremendous variety, even within villages as small as Knockholt or Downe. But by far the largest category were the agricultural labourers: in Orpington some 45% of working people were described simply as 'Ag. lab.' or 'Worker in the fields', and even higher proportions are found in some of the outlying parishes. The pattern of employment was already beginning to change however, especially in the villages along the Cray, where the demands of the paper industry were absorbing more and more of the working population. In St. Mary Cray itself page after page of the returns record these people, many of them single men and women, grouped together in cramped or rundown lodging houses. Some were immigrants from Ireland, creating problems for the census enumerators with the spelling of their names, and giving us problems in turn in trying to decipher them. One of the largest mills was that of William Joynson in St. Mary Cray, which was already employing 500 workers by 1851.

So where did the local people originate? Of course the majority came from the immediate locality, although the number of adults who had been born in the same village where they were living in 1851 was not high - between 40% and 50% in most parishes - but our area is not unusual in this respect. Furthermore, being an area adjacent to the county boundary and indeed fairly close to London, the number of birthplaces recorded as outside the county is quite high. For instance, in Beckenham a full 43% of people were born outside Kent (half of these in Surrey or Middlesex), with 30 outside England. Birthplaces as remote as the East Indies and Ascension Island are given in the Beckenham returns.



#### Minor Places within Bromley Registration District

This list is restricted mainly to places which occur in the 1851 census returns. Some modern suburbs do not seem to be separately listed, but the names of the more important ones are given here:

Bickley Bickley Park was a country estate on the eastern borders of Bromley parish. Developed for housing after 1861, it became a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1866.

Biggin Hill Farm near Leaves Green hamlet (Cudham parish), later developed as a separate village. A separate ecclesiastical district was formed in 1928.

Broad Street Green See Green Street Green.

Bromley Common Ecclesiastical district formed in 1843, carved out of the southern part of Bromley ancient parish. Church built 1841.

Crockenhill Ecclesiastical district formed out of St Mary Cray, Eynsford and Sutton-at-Hone parishes in 1852. Church erected 1851.

Elmers End Hamlet one mile south-west of Beckenham village.

Elmstead Hamlet two miles north east of Bromley town.

Farwig Hamlet half a mile north of Bromley town, formed into a separate parish (with Plaistow) in 1864.

Foots Cray Small parish on the edge of Bromley R.D., sharing its southern boundary with Chislehurst. Note that Fooths Cray *village* extended beyond the boundaries of its own parish into the eastern part of Chislehurst parish.

Green Street Green Hamlet on the Sevenoaks-Bromley high road (now the A21), partly in Chelsfield and partly in Farnborough parishes. Also known as Grinstead Green or even Broad Street Green. Expanded considerably following the establishment of Fox's Oak Brewery (1834).

Keston Mark Hamlet on the northern boundary of Keston parish, separate from Keston village.

Kevingtown Small hamlet in the eastern part of St Mary Cray parish.

Leaves Green Hamlet within the western part of Cudham parish, extending also into Keston.

Mottingham Extra-parochial hamlet mainly in Eltham but partly in Chislehurst (1851 pop. 131). Not separately identified on the census returns. Formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1884.

Penge Now part of Bromley Borough (adjoins ancient Beckenham parish), but in 1851 part of the county of Surrey (and technically a chapelry of Battersea parish). Transferred to Kent in 1900.

Plaistow Hamlet half a mile north of Bromley town, formed into a separate parish (with Farwig) in 1864.

Pratts Bottom (or Spratts Bottom) Hamlet one mile south west of Chelsfield village, wholly contained within the parish.

Ruxley Manor/farm in the southern part of North Cray parish.  
Constituted a separate parish until 1557; its church survives, in ruins.

Shortlands Now a suburb midway between Bromley and Beckenham towns.  
Formed as an ecclesiastical parish out of Beckenham in 1870.

Sidcup Village which straddled the Chislehurst-Foots Cray parish boundary. A separate Sidcup ecclesiastical parish was formed out of Chislehurst parish in 1844, to which a portion of Foots Cray parish was added in 1862. Church erected 1844.

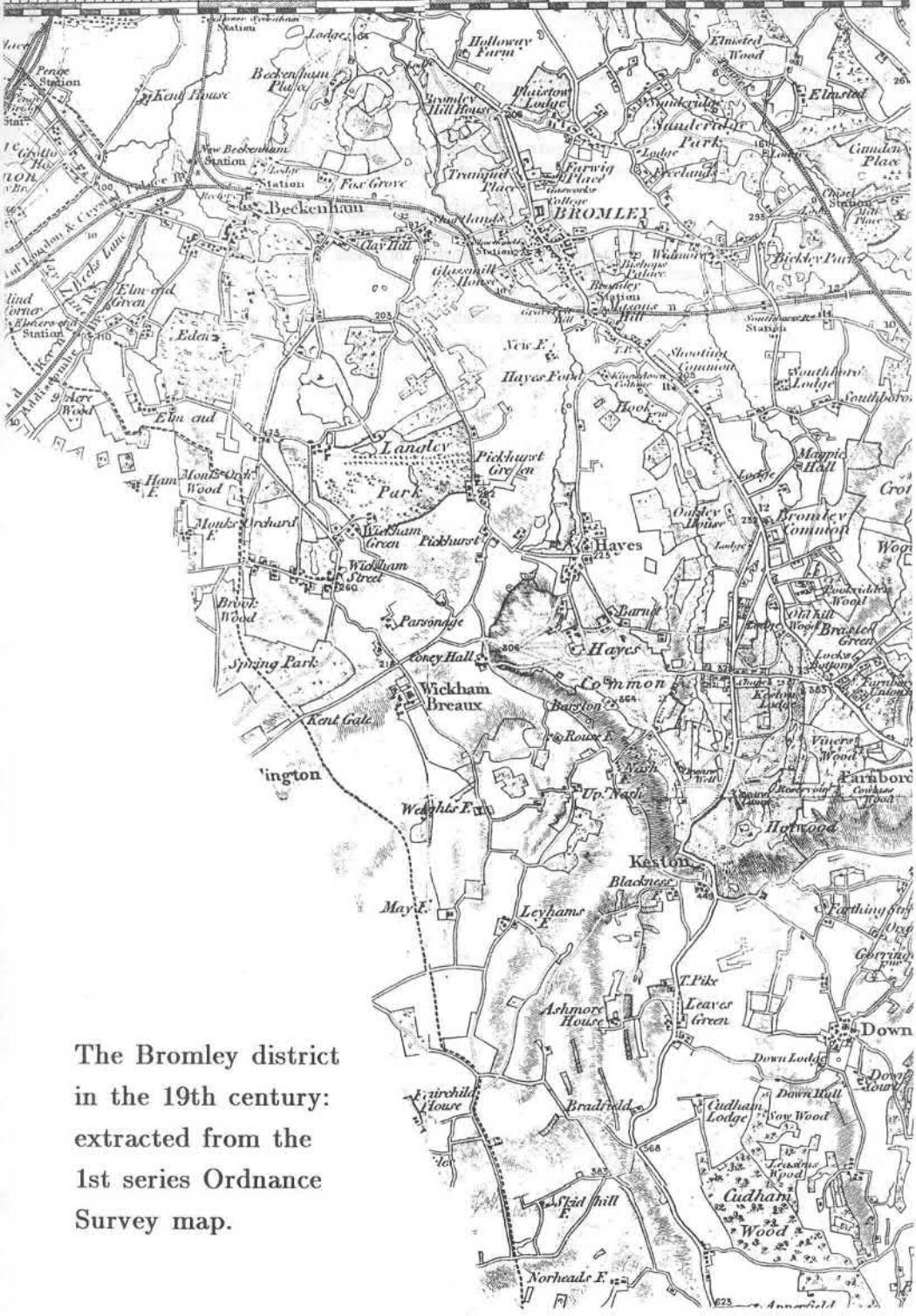
Southborough Hamlet in Bromley parish, two miles south east of Bromley town.

Sundridge Park Estate on the north eastern borders of Bromley parish, near Elmstead.

Well Hill Hamlet in Chelsfield parish, south east of the village.

Widmore Village in Bromley ancient parish, one mile east of Bromley town.

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The Bromley district  
in the 19th century:  
extracted from the  
1st series Ordnance  
Survey map.



## ARRANGEMENT

The whole of Bromley Registration District has been indexed in a strictly alphabetical sequence of names, and then for individuals with the same name in order of folio number.

**Names** Since the lists have been sorted on a computer, spelling variants have not been grouped but must be checked for individually - e.g. CHEEL and CHEAL appear under separate headings. Where there has been some doubt by the transcribers and checkers as to the correct rendering, we have either given alternatives in the main surname heading or duplicated the entry under two or more spellings. The spelling of christian names is as given in the original with abbreviations such as Jno. and Wm. retained. Where the sex of the individual is not obvious, we have added (*m*) 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. A few entries on the original returns have neither christian nor surname - these have been excluded altogether.

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

m	= months
w	= weeks
d	= days
inf	= infant

In a very few cases the age shown is only approximate, and the following abbreviations have been used:

c	= circa
u	= under
nk	= not known or not stated

**Folio Numbers** The third column shows the folio number. Note that this is the number stamped at the top right of alternate frames of census microfilm, not the numbers at centre top which are *page numbers*\*. To help pinpoint an entry, we have used the suffixes '-a' and '-b' in the index to identify respectively the numbered frame and the following (unnumbered) frame. In all cases the folio numbers refer to the same P.R.O. piece number, i.e. HO.107/1606. The folio numbers given below for minor places are an approximate guide only, since in many cases precise addresses are not recorded, and the route taken by the enumerators is not always clear.

\* Each Enumeration District has a separate sequence of page numbers

## Guide to Parishes and Folio Numbers

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Enum- eration District</u>	<u>Popu- lation</u>	<u>Folio Number Range</u>	<u>Hamlets or villages contained in the parish</u>
<b>1. Bromley Sub-District</b>				
BROMLEY	1a	962	f.4-29	North part of parish (London Road) etc.
	1b	612	f.33-49	Market Place / High Street
	1c	702	f.53-71	incl. f.53-63 f.63-71
	1d	988	f.74-99	Farwig Plaistow incl. f.74-82, } f.90-97 } f.97-98 }
	1e	862	f.103-126	Bromley Common Southborough [part] incl. f.103-06 f.106-08 f.108-11 f.112-14 f.114-24
BECKENHAM	2a	987	f.130-156	Gravel Pits Isards Fields
	2b	701	f.160-178	Masons Hill Elmers End Langley Eden Park incl. f.168-72 f.172-74 f.174
HAYES	3	552	f.182-197	
WEST WICKHAM	4	732	f.201-220	
KESTON	5	644	f.224-241	Leaves Green [part] incl. f.229-30
DOWNE	6	437	f.245-256	
KNOCKHOLT	8 <sup>1</sup>	578	f.260-277	
CUDHAM	7a <sup>1</sup>	533	f.281-295	Western part of parish, incl. Leaves Green village and Biggin Hill farm
	7b <sup>1</sup>	364	f.299-308	
<b>2. Chislehurst Sub-District</b>				
FARNBOROUGH	1	920	f.312-336	Locks Bottom incl. f.322-24
				Green Street f.324-26 } f.328-30 } f.331-36 Union Workhouse

CHELSFIELD	2a	528	f.340-354	incl. f.340-43 f.350-53	Well Hill Maypole
	2b <sup>2</sup>	350	f.358-369	incl. f.358-62 } f.369 } f.365-68?	Green Street Green [part] Pratts Bottom
ORPINGTON	3a	599	f.373-389	East side of parish	
	3b	604	f.393-409	West side of parish	
ST. MARY CRAY	4a	1147	f.413-442		
	4b	253	f.446-453	incl. f.449-50 f.451-53	Crockenhill [part] Kevingtown
ST. PAULS CRAY	5	554	f.457-473		
CHISLEHURST	6a	1216	f.477-508		
	6b	872	f.513-535	Sidcup & Foots Cray	[part]
FOOTS CRAY	7	369	f.539-548	incl. f.539-41 f.542-43 } f.547-48 }	Foots Cray village [part] Sidcup village [part]
NORTH CRAY	8	570	f.552-567	incl. f.556 f.557-60	Ruxley Foots Cray Bridge

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Numbered in this order on the film.

<sup>2</sup> Incorrectly numbered on the film as Enum. District 3.

It must be pointed out that this is *only* an index, and reference must be made to copies of the original returns for the full details of each individual. Furthermore, there are liable to be mistakes because of the poor handwriting of the original enumerators as well as, in some cases, feint or damaged microfilm copies. Although the difficult entries have been checked with the original enumerators' books at the Public Record Office, we cannot claim to have correctly deciphered all of these, and it could even be worth searching the original returns if the person being sought is not found within these pages.

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