
*Adaptation*

Greenpoint is a neighborhood in northwestern Brooklyn. The Dutch acquired the area in 1638 from Keshaechqueren Indians and named it for a grassy expanse that extended into the East River. By the early nineteenth century it was a farming area sparsely populated by the descendants of Pieter Praa, a Dutch Huguenot.

Between 1840 and 1860 the neighborhood became an industrial center. Two ferry lines [built] during the 1850s offered the first convenient access to the East Side of Manhattan. Successful industries included printing, pottery, petroleum and gas refining, glassmaking and iron making. Shipbuilding developed along the East River: leading firms included the Continental Iron Works, which build the *ironclad* ship the *Monitor*, of Civil War fame.

Most of the population was Dutch, English or Irish until the 1880s when immigrants from Poland, Russia and later Italy settled in the area to work in the factories and warehouses lining Kent Avenue, West Street and Newtown Creek.

During the first half of the twentieth century shipbuilding, manufacturing and warehousing gradually diminished and the industries of Greenpoint declined after World War II. During the 1950s there was a marked increase in the number of Polish immigrants who settled in the neighborhood. Others came from Puerto Rico, Guyana, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, China and Pakistan. Two bridges, Kosciuszko and Pulaski, honor Polish heroes.

The neighborhood’s industrial past reappeared in 1978 when oil that had been leaking since the 1940s and 1950s was found in Newtown Creek; the spill is considered to be the nation’s largest. Cleanup of the area continues into the twenty-first century.

Growth resulted in residential conversion of industrial buildings in 1986 and the *rezoning* of the waterfront in 2005.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Find Greenpoint on DOCUMENT 1. What is it near?

2. What separates Greenpoint from Manhattan?

3. How would somebody from Greenpoint travel to Manhattan to sell their produce in 1820?

4. How do people travel between Greenpoint and Manhattan today?
The Ericsson Battery, a sketch of which will be found on this page, is now in process of construction at the Continental Iron Works at Green Point, Long Island. She will be launched in the course of a few days. She is about 200 feet in length with 36 feet beam and 11 feet depth of hold. Her hull is built of iron ... making her shot-proof ... She will be propelled by a powerful Ericsson engine. She is one of the most novel and interesting pieces of naval architecture constructed in this country. For proper reasons we forebear to give very full details in relation to this vessel, as we do not desire to give the rebels any information on such matters.

Other iron-clad vessels are being built at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Mystic, Connecticut. By next summer we shall have several afloat.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. List 3 facts from DOCUMENT 2 about the Ericsson Battery:

2. What is the significance of the ship’s hull being built out of iron?

3. Why do you think Greenpoint was chosen for shipbuilding (hint: think about the industries Greenpoint was known for producing at this time in history)?

4. Think about Greenpoint’s geography. What about it makes it an ideal location for shipbuilding?
GLEASON-TIEBOUT GLASS COMPANY.

Two Large Plants in Brooklyn—Leading Manufacturers of Highest Grade of Cut, Etched, Decorated and Pressed Glass for Public and Private Lighting Purposes.

The Gleason-Tiebout Glass Company, manufacturing glass for illuminating purposes, operates two plants, one on Commercial Street and Newtown Creek, of three and four-story buildings, covering an area 90,000 sq. ft., and the other at Flushing Avenue and Harrison Street and the Long Island Railroad, covering three acres, with direct track and shipping facilities over that line.

Both of these plants are equipped with machinery and devices of the most approved type and employ a force of five hundred hands. The business enjoyed by this company is well distributed over the United States and throughout many foreign countries and branch offices are maintained in New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

This industry was founded as the E.P. Gleason Manufacturing Company, and in 1902 was reorganized and continued as the Gleason-Tiebout Glass Company.

The company manufactures the highest grades of cut, etched, decorated and pressed glass for lighting both public and private buildings. It is one of the three largest exclusive manufacturers of this line in the country and is the largest manufacturer of Hall of Records, New York State Capitol, Executive Mansion at Washington, United States Mint, Denver; Capitals of Minnesota and Rhode Island, Boston Public Library, Columbia University, Syracuse University, Amsterdam Apartments, Watertower’s, Alman’s, Maury’s, Savoy Hotel, Holland House, Knickerbocker Hotel, Terminal Building, Syndicate Building and the new Washington Terminal.

The officers of the company are: Marshall W. Gleason, president; Cornelius H. Tiebout, treasurer; Charles F. Gleason, vice president; Cornelius H. Tiebout, Jr., secretary.

Marshall W. Gleason is vice president of the American Association of Flint and Lime Glass Manufacturers, and also of the National Association of Manufacturers of Pressed and Blown Glass, a member of the Union League Club, New York Manufacturers Association, New England Society and a trustee of the Home Savings Bank.

Cornelius H. Tiebout is a trustee of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank, a director of the North Side Bank and founder of the firm of C. H. Tiebout & Sons, iron merchants. He is also a member of the Union League Club.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did the Gleason-Tiebout Company make?

2. Describe the buildings pictured in DOCUMENT3:

3. What role do you think large industrial companies like Gleason-Tiebout played in Greenpoint’s community?

4. The article accompanying this document outlines the Gleason-Tiebout Company’s convenient location to Newtown Creek and the Long Island Railroad. Why was it important to be close to this waterway and railroad?
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. List 3 companies you see named on DOCUMENT 4:

2. What industries do these companies cover?

3. What do you think the dashed lines on Greenpoint Avenue represent?

4. Not many private houses are shown next to these companies’ factories. Why do you think this is the case?
**DOCUMENT 5: Census of Inmates in Almshouses and Poorhouses, 1875-1921. 1885. Web. New York State Archives.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record Number: 8182</td>
<td>County: Kings</td>
<td>Town or City: Greenpoint</td>
<td>Date of Admission: Mar 19th 1885</td>
<td>Birth Place of Father: Ireland</td>
<td>County: Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-Admitted:</td>
<td>Birth Place of Mother: Ireland</td>
<td>County: Westmeath</td>
<td>City: Unknown</td>
<td>Education: Read and write</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habits: Temp</td>
<td>Habits of Father: Intemp</td>
<td>Habits of mother: Temp</td>
<td>Occupation: Pencil Factory</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation of Father:</td>
<td>Father: Foundry</td>
<td>Mother: Self-supporting</td>
<td>Brothers: None</td>
<td>Sisters: None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houses, Asylums, Hospitals, other institutions or self-supporting: (with mother)</td>
<td>Existing cause of Dependences: Bastardy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has the Person been an inmate of any other charitable institution? Kings Co. Hospital 4 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the probably destiny of the person as respects recovery from the cause of dependence? May recover</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Remarks: This young woman has stated the full particulars to the commrs.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think an Alms House is?

2. What year is this record from?

3. What country are Mary’s parents from?

4. According to DOCUMENT 5, Mary worked at a pencil factory. Do you think this was located in Greenpoint? How do you know?
### NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PERSON</th>
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<tr>
<td>Place of Birth</td>
<td>Mother Tongue</td>
<td>Place of Birth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. From what countries did Greenpoint residents come?

2. What does “mother tongue” mean?

3. What challenges do you think some of these residents encountered due to speaking another language?

4. Why do you think “mother tongue” was left blank for residents born in New York? What language did they likely speak?
MOTHER TO BE DEPORTED.

Mrs. Dobres Must Leave Her Family on Account of Eye Disease.

Mrs. Celine Dobres, 42, an Austrian, who arrived on the Atlantic Transport liner Mesaba from London last Thursday, has been ordered to be deported for the second time. She will return on the same steamer, which sails at 4 o’clock this afternoon. Her husband and children are living at 220 Franklin Street, Greenpoint, but the mother is separated from them by the rules of the Immigration Commissioners regarding trachoma.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What country did Mrs. Dobres try to immigrate to America from?

2. Look up the word trachoma on the vocabulary page at the end of this project packet. What does it mean?

3. Why did the Immigration Commissioners seek to deport Mrs. Dobres?

4. Do you think deporting Mrs. Dobres was fair? Why or why not?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Describe what you see in <strong>DOCUMENT 8</strong>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What do you think the things you described are doing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. According to the citation, where was the image taken?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. What does the image tell you about Newtown Creek in 1904 when it was taken?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Air Much Fresher Now Near Greenpoint Plant
By JOHN KELLY

The clean air campaign in Greenpoint, with the installation of a now 300-ton per hour Air Pollution Control System by the Interboro Asphalt Paving Co.

At the dedication held at the plant at 99 Paidge Ave., Josephy Haggerty, president of the company said, “Stone dust, fly ash, soot and unburned fuel oil, the bane of people working in and living near asphalt plants is now no longer a problem here in Greenpoint, thanks to this half-million-dollar investment in cleaning up our environment.”

“New York City and New York State now have one of the most demanding anti-pollution codes in the country,” Haggerty said, “and their inspection found that our design far exceeded their stringent requirements.”

Interboro also drew high marks from J. A. Commins & Associates, the Pennsylvania pollution abatement consultants, who rated the company’s clean-air equipment as the cleanest dust emission asphalt plant they tested.

Interboro was formed in 1889 and moved to Greenpoint in 1917. They are one of the largest paving companies in New York City, having about 50 crews on the streets each day restoring pavement for the city’s utilities.

The company services Consolidated Edison, and the Brooklyn Union Gas Co.; the Triboro Bridge and Tunnel Authority, the Port Authority and several smaller customers.

At the ceremony, Rep. Fred Richmond presented an American flag that flew over the nation’s Capitol to Haggerty in recognition of the company’s installation of the clean-air system.
## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What problem was solved according to DOCUMENT 9?

2. What is the name of the company that took credit for solving this problem?

3. Was this article written before or after the Newtown Creek oil spill that was discovered in 1978?

4. Think back to DOCUMENT 4 where you identified some of the many companies on the Greenpoint atlas. How much of an impact do you think this one company made on Greenpoint’s environment?
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When was this map made?

2. Look closely at DOCUMENT 10’s key at the bottom of the map and list some of the items the colors represent?

3. The “free product” listed on this key is where the oil spill contaminations occurred. What is it surrounded by?

4. What do you think the contamination means for the people living in the residential areas next to the spill?
GLOSSARY:

Abatement: the lessening of something

Deport: to force a foreign person to leave a country

Emission: produce or discharge something

Forebear: to hesitate

Huguenot: member of the protestant reformed church

Hull: frame or body of a ship

Ironclad: covered by iron armor

Launch: to put into operation

Propel: to push or drive forward

Rebel: the name of the southern soldiers during the Civil War

Rezone: to alter the boundaries

Stringent: strict

Trachoma: a contagious bacterial eye disease in which scar tissue forms inside the eyelid