

There were few cases of assault and robbery in the register; John Freeman, a private in the 9th Regiment of Dragoons was charged with wounding William Wormsley having broken down his door and threatening to burn the premises. Mary Isherwood, the wife of a private in the Lancashire Militia was charged with stealing a piece of 'Calamanco' from Susanna Ellis, woolcomber of Woodbridge. She was sent to Ipswich Gaol for nine months solitary confinement.

The first arrest of young women at or near the Barracks was in August 1804. Sarah Scarlin, aged 16, and Susan Bevin, aged 20, were charged with being rogues and vagabonds. The following words were used invariably in such cases, 'they were found wandering abroad with the soldiers and lying about in the open air, not giving a good account of themselves'. After the following Quarter Sessions, they were discharged to their place of Settlement. The Settlement Acts of 1662 sought to restrict paupers to their place of birth. However after 1795 paupers were returned only after they became a charge on the rates of where they were dwelling. Later, perhaps because of the proliferation of such cases, women charged with being around the Barracks without good cause were held for only seven days. Such women invariably claimed sickness and so avoided work in the House of Correction. Of course, if they were lying around outdoors when the weather was inclement, then the sickness might have been genuine.

The question arises, whether the women arrested were prostitutes or looking for marriage to a soldier. This might seem naive, but a week in the House of Correction and return to their home parish seems to have prevented re-offending in most cases. It is only later in the registers that places of settlement are given, and they are mostly in Suffolk, for example Tuddenham, Framsdon, Tunstall, Little Glemham, Dallinghoo, Marlesford, Blaxhall, Framlingham, Boyton and Sutton, all quite close to Woodbridge; Lowestoft, Stowmarket, Kelsale, Peasenhall, Sibton, Badingham and Earl Soham further afield. Others were from Carbrook and Kelling in Norfolk, Stilton, Huntingdonshire and even Devon. Occasionally women were sent to the House of Industry at Melton. Only in the case of Anne Archer, from Boyton, did marriage to a soldier take place. She was sent back to her home village for a second time in October 1813, as an 'idle and disorderly person', but the following May she married a soldier from the Royal Horse Artillery.

Mary Gross was arrested between October and December three years in succession from 1810, each time being returned to Dallinghoo. Sarah Hammond's offences were more spread out, that is in 1804, 1805 and 1809. Mary Cada ran away from the Poorhouse in Framlingham twice in 1811, the second time arriving in Woodbridge with an infant. The child was probably conceived around the time of her first committal in October 1810 when she was found at the Barracks with two other women. Most of the women were aged between 16 and 25, but a case of mother, daughter and possibly her son occurs. Elizabeth Banthorp was aged 50, and Sarah 26. They were apprehended at the Barracks on 29 October 1811 and sent to Melton House of Industry. The previous day, William James Banthorp, aged 11, was charged on the oath of Sergeant Dissington of the Royal Horse Artillery with stealing one cartridge of powder weighing 1½ pounds. Did the boy intend to make fireworks to explode the following week? A hairdresser named Stephen Taylor was fined 20 shillings for burning a hole in the dress of Elizabeth Kidd, when he threw a squib into her shop in November 1812. Poor little William Banthorp was sent to Yarmouth aboard the Investigator Inspecting vessel.

Three women who gave aliases were probably prostitutes, but there were some 35 others who appear only once in the registers and appear to have learned their lessons. However, there can be little doubt that the sexual desires of the soldiers were satisfied in a more orderly fashion than merely lying in the open air or wandering about in or near the Barracks. Joseph Mayett was in the Royal Bucks Militia, and served in places all over southern England, until after the war his regiment was sent north to where there was industrial unrest. In December 1811 they marched from Dover to Woodbridge and he went on furlough to see