

# ‘A Man and a Brother?’

## The abolition of the slave trade: the Hampshire perspective

This exhibition has been arranged to mark the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807, which sought to bring to an end British involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. It includes a selection of the sources relating to slavery and the slave trade held by Hampshire Record Office in Winchester, and by Hampshire County Museums Service. It does not seek to draw definitive conclusions about this immense topic, but the following suggestions may help anyone who would like to investigate further.



Watercolour believed to show H M Brig 'Ringdove' enforcing the slave trade ban (HRO 175M86/P1/26)

### Printed sources:

There are many books about slavery, the slave trade and the abolition campaigns, of which the following is a small selection.

Ackerson, Wayne: *The African Institution (1807-1827) and the Antislavery Movement in Great Britain* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2005): a study of the organisation which was set up after the passing of the 1807 Slave Trade Act to ensure it was enforced and to promote similar legislation elsewhere

Anstey, Roger: *The Atlantic Slave Trade and British Abolition 1760-1810* (Macmillan, 1975)

Clarkson, (Revd) Thomas: *History of the Rise, Progress and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave Trade by the British Parliament* (1808, reprinted in 1968 by Frank Cass & Co Ltd): detailed memoir by a pre-eminent abolition campaigner who tirelessly toured the country encouraging local committees

Craton, Michael, and Walvin, James: *A Jamaica Plantation: The History of Worthy Park 1670-1970* (W H Allen, 1970): case study of a single plantation

Equiano, Olaudah: *The Interesting Narrative and other writings* (reprinted by Penguin Classics): one of the best-known memoirs by an ex-slave

Jennings, Judith: *The Business of Abolishing the British Slave Trade 1783-1807* (Frank Cass, 1997): case studies of four Quaker abolitionists

Oldfield, John: *Popular Politics and British Anti-Slavery: The Mobilisation of Public Opinion against the Slave Trade, 1787-1807* (Manchester University Press, 1995, reprinted by Frank Cass, 1998): gives particular detail about the process of petitioning Parliament against the slave trade

Oldfield, John: 'Southampton and Anti-Slavery 1823-1870' in *Southern History* vol 9 (1987), pp90-102: case study of Southampton's anti-slavery petitioning and links with national anti-slavery societies.

Reddie, Richard S: *Abolition!: The Struggle to Abolish Slavery in the British Empire* (Lion Publishing, 2007)

Tattersfield, Nigel: *The Forgotten Trade: comprising the log of the Daniel and Henry of 1700 and accounts of the slave trade from the minor ports of England, 1698-1725* (Jonathan Cape, 1991): includes details of ships sailing from Portsmouth for Africa

Temperley, Howard: *British Anti-Slavery 1833-1870* (Longman, 1972)

Tompkins, Stephen: *William Wilberforce: A Biography* (Lion Publishing, 2007)

Walvin, James: *The Black Presence: A documentary history of the Negro in England 1555-1860* (Orbach & Chambers, 1971)

Walvin, James: *Black Ivory; Slavery in the British Empire* (revised edition: Blackwell, 2001)

Wilson, Ellen Gibson: *Thomas Clarkson: A Biography* (Macmillan, 1989; reprinted by William Sessions Ltd, 1996)

## **Websites:**

The BBC's portal to the bicentenary: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/abolition/>

Includes links to:

a history of the abolition campaign by Dr John Oldfield of Southampton University:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire\\_seapower/antislavery\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/antislavery_01.shtml)

an article by Dr Oldfield about Hampshire's links with slavery and abolition:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/hampshire/content/articles/2007/02/19/abolition\\_john\\_oldfield\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/hampshire/content/articles/2007/02/19/abolition_john_oldfield_feature.shtml)

BBC News Online's focus on the slave trade:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/1523100.stm>

an article about British slaves on the Barbary coast:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire\\_seapower/white\\_slaves\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/white_slaves_01.shtml)

*CASBAH*, a pilot web site for research resources relating to Caribbean Studies and the history of Black and Asian peoples in the UK, maintained by the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and The National Archives:

<http://www.casbah.ac.uk/index.html>

Includes information about the library of Anti-Slavery International, the successor to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society:

<http://www.casbah.ac.uk/cats/print/231/ASIP00001.htm>

Website of Anti-Slavery International, which continues to campaign against unfree labour: <http://www.antislavery.org/>

Includes a detailed history of the organisation and the predecessor anti-slavery societies in Britain: <http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/antislavery/history.pdf>

Website produced by Churches Together in England to present the bicentenary through a collaborative Christian ethos: <http://www.setallfree.net/>

Online exhibition by The National Archives: Black Presence: Asian and Black History in Britain 1500-1850: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/blackhistory/>

Website of the Archives and Museum of Black Heritage (produced by The Black Cultural Archives and Middlesex University): <http://www.aambh.org.uk/flash/home.htm>

Spartacus Internet Encyclopaedia: texts of memoirs by ex-slaves:

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/slavery.htm>

Biographies of British abolitionists on the personal website of Brycchan Carey, author of *British Abolitionism and the Rhetoric of Sensibility*: <http://www.brycchancarey.com/abolition/>

Information about the Royal Navy's role in enforcing the 1807 Act, including details of 'Chasing Freedom: the Royal Navy and the Suppression of the Transatlantic Slave Trade', an exhibition at the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth (Feb-Dec 2007):

[http://www.royalnavalmuseum.org/visit\\_temp\\_exhibitions.htm](http://www.royalnavalmuseum.org/visit_temp_exhibitions.htm)

Online exhibition about Caribbean History, including slavery and abolition, by The National Archives: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/caribbeanhistory/>

Article published by Isle of Wight History Centre about links between Cowes and the rice trade with the southern colonies/states of North America:

<http://freespace.virgin.net/robmar.tin/rice/rice.htm>

Selections from documents relating to life on plantations, on the website of Adam Matthew Publications:

[http://www.ampltd.co.uk/digital%5Fguides/plantation\\_life\\_in\\_the\\_carribbean\\_part\\_1/Publishers-Note.aspx](http://www.ampltd.co.uk/digital%5Fguides/plantation_life_in_the_carribbean_part_1/Publishers-Note.aspx)

Information about the bicentenary commemorations, produced by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/CBB/69/intdevslavery\\_200906.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/CBB/69/intdevslavery_200906.pdf)

Information about bicentenary exhibition mounted by The Parliamentary Archives in Westminster Hall: [http://www.parliament.uk/what\\_s\\_on/exhibitions.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/what_s_on/exhibitions.cfm)

Online education resources include:

A learning resource produced by the DfES: <http://www.understandingslavery.com/>

A learning resource from Anti-Slavery International:

<http://www.antislavery.org/breakingthesilence/about.shtml>

National Geographic interactive feature about the 'underground railroad' used as an escape route from slavery:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad/index.html>

## Original sources in Hampshire:

The archive collections held in Hampshire Record Office include, within the papers of Hampshire families and organisations, a great variety of relevant documents. These include papers relating to the abolition campaign such as letters of Lord Calthorpe, a philanthropist and friend of notable abolitionists such as William Wilberforce, and the papers of William of Curtis of Alton who, like many fellow-Quakers in Hampshire, was involved in local petitioning campaigns. There are also title deeds and estate papers relating to plantations owned by Hampshire families such as the Dewars of Hurstbourne Tarrant. The catalogue can be searched online at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/record-office/catalog/index.html> - please note that documents are not necessarily indexed under broad themes such as slavery: you will also be able to find relevant material by entering names of individual colonies, abolitionists, and so on. The extensive holdings of parish registers and wills include entries relating to black servants including ex-slaves, owners of slave ships, and those involved in related activities; a few such entries have been included in the exhibition, but it is likely that others remain to be discovered.

Local newspapers, such as the *Hampshire Chronicle*, *Hampshire Telegraph* and *Hampshire Advertiser* (based in Winchester, Portsmouth and Southampton respectively) are a very useful source of information about the local debate concerning the slave trade and slavery. The *Chronicle* (from 1772 onwards) and the *Advertiser* (1823-1900) can be seen on microfilm in the Local Studies Collection in the Reference Library in Winchester; the *Telegraph* can be seen at Waterlooville Library (1779-1868), Portsmouth Library (1799 onwards) and Gosport Library (1803-1873)

## Original sources elsewhere:

Minute books, covering 1787-1819, of the Committee for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade, the London-based committee which led the campaign leading up to the 1807 abolition of British involvement in the transatlantic slave trade under the slogan 'Am I not also a man and a brother?' are held at The British Library - [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk) - ref Add MSS 21254-21256

Records, covering 1835 onwards, of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, a focus for attempts to combat slavery worldwide after the abolition of slavery in British colonies, are held at Oxford University: Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House, Oxford - <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/rhl/> - ref MSS Brit Emp s 16-24

For information about archives in other repositories, relating to subject areas or individuals, search the National Register of Archives online at

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/>

Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TH 01962 846154  
DR/3/2007

Please take one of the **free leaflets** *below*

There are more stories from the archives in the  
**spiral-bound books** *above*:  
do feel free to take them over to the seating area to  
read them