

Carshalton Park Estate plan, 19 June 1893. Sutton Archives, acc. 466



Carshalton Park, Surrey, the seat of Taylor, Esq. by John Hassell, 1817. London Borough of Sutton Heritage Service

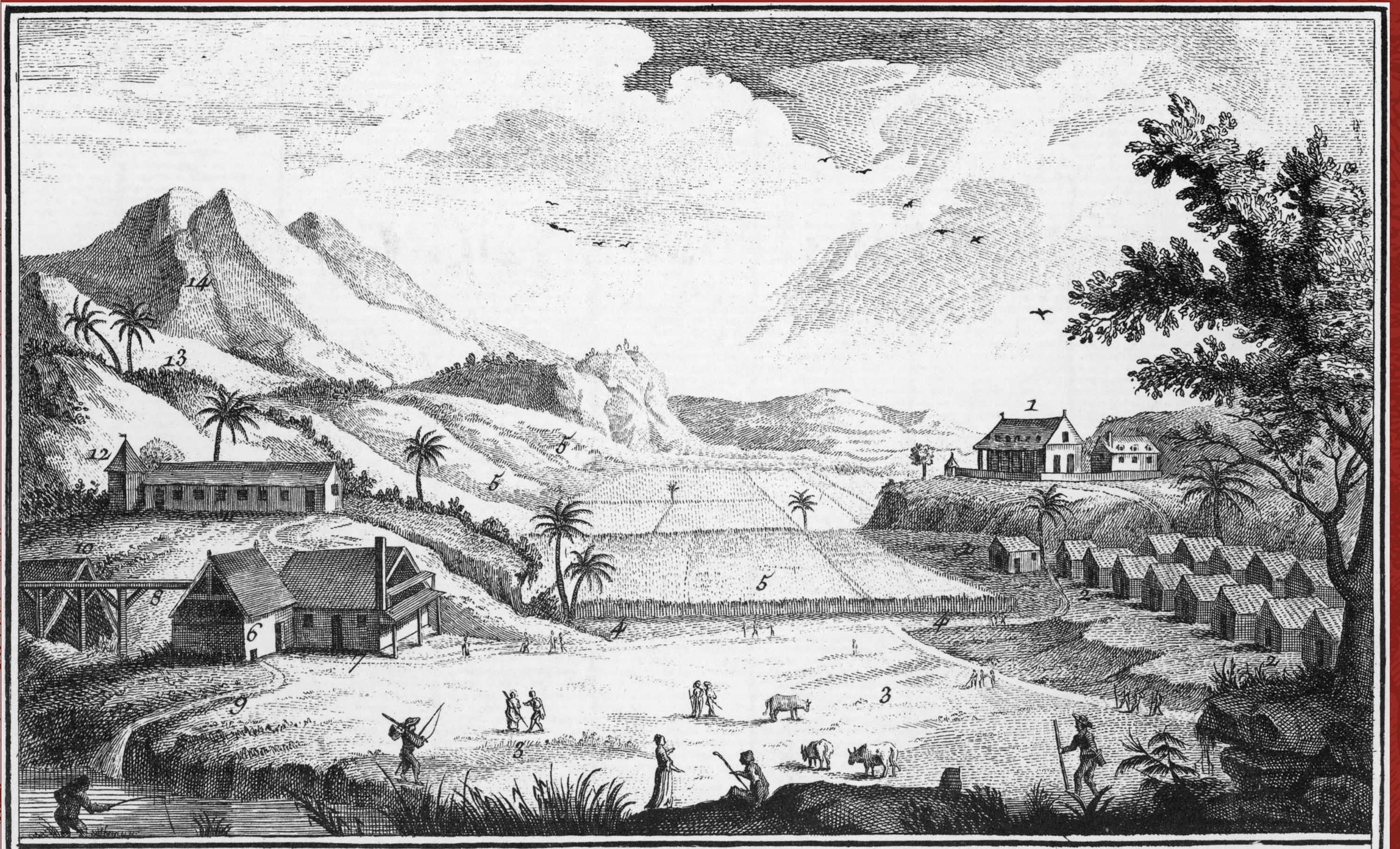
## George Taylor in Carshalton

George Taylor was born on the island of St Christopher into a family whose wealth was built on sugar plantations and the slave trade. The precise date of his move to Carshalton is not known. In 1782 he was paying tax on Carshalton Park with a rental value of £50 and may have been living elsewhere in the area. Before moving to Carshalton he divided his time between England and the West Indies, a practice not unusual in planter society. As a young man he had studied at Oxford, attending Brasenose College from 1754. After inheriting the family plantations in St Christopher he is known to have spent time in London. He may also have owned or rented a property in Cheshire. When his youngest brother, John Taylor, visited from Nevis in 1778 he is said to have stayed with a brother [George] at "Gayton Hall, near Parkgate, Chester".

George Taylor purchased Carshalton Park for £14,000 from the trustees of James Scawen (William's great nephew). He built Carshalton Park House and in 1785 was paying rates on the property. The house was sufficiently grand for George Taylor to enjoy the lifestyle of a wealthy retired gentleman. He became Lord of the Manor, entertained his friends and enjoyed the study of the classics. It was fashionable for wealthy families to have black servants in their households as status symbols and he was no exception. His butler, Samuel Mudian, had been a slave in the West Indies. George Taylor extended his hospitality to villagers, allowing them to walk in the park for example. A myth has been passed down that local people believed the family's wealth would only last three generations because of its involvement in the slave trade.



# Gentleman Slavers



Sugar Plantation in the French West Indies, c1760 Mary Evans Picture Library

## English settlement on St Christopher

The first English settlement was established on St Christopher in 1623-24. French settlers followed shortly after in 1625. The island is situated towards the north of the Leeward chain along with Nevis, Montserrat and Antigua. They offered a safer location than islands further south which were more susceptible to Spanish attacks. In order to protect against these or from attacks by indigenous Caribs, English and French settlers collaborated. They divided the island between them: the ends of the island became French quarters and the central area English.

In the early years of settlement tobacco was the staple crop. Many of the inhabitants of the Leeward Islands had limited financial resources and continued to rely on white indentured servants for labour. Some former servants on St Christopher established themselves as small subsistence farmers, often with no more than ten acres to cultivate. Leeward farmers turned seriously to sugar in the 1660s. By the census of 1678 there were 550 enslaved African men on St Christopher, compared with 370 English and 187 Irish men.



# Gentleman Slavers

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May it Please yo<sup>r</sup> Majesty



The Council and assembly of yo<sup>r</sup> Leeward Islands, doe Humblye  
Present these their Humble Addresses to yo<sup>r</sup> Majesty, Which doe speake of Sadness of  
their Condition, in the Heavie & Insupportable Pressures they groane under; by the  
Restraint layd upon them in their Trade; Whereby they are differenced from the  
rest of yo<sup>r</sup> Majesties Subjects in other partes, By the two Acts of Parliament, the  
one entitled, An Act for the Increase of Shipping & Navigation: The other for ye  
Increase of Trade. Whereby they are brought into that great want & Necessity, as  
is Relieved by yo<sup>r</sup> Majesty; they must bee Inforced, either to seek out for some other  
Place or Towne (as many have of late Yeeres done) or els to seek out for some other  
being for, or use English Shipping that come at them: It is true, there is a  
distinction to bee made amonge yo<sup>r</sup> Islands, some of them being better furnished and  
settled, and soe more able to beare it, as the two Islands of Barbados and Martin:  
Majesty; ought without to bee Informed, That if it were not for those Acts, they would  
live as happily, and Increase in Wealth and Riches, whereas now they doe but  
holde out, by Repence of what they had layd upp, in the former times of freedom.  
before these Acts were made, for I have soone in this little time, I have had the  
Hon<sup>or</sup> to bee Employed by yo<sup>r</sup> Majesty into these partes, fortye sayles of Shippes, that  
have bene forced to lye still these many Monthes for want of Loading, because they  
were layd upp by these Acts, not having whither, to goe and Trade as formerly, untill  
the happy time for their Loading should come in,  
word Islands, and Madras to fetch Wind and Salt, which will not afford them a  
Livelihood, to find victuals, and pay wages for their Men, whereas had Trade  
beene open & free as formerly, their Owners might have Employed them  
to great proffitt & Advantage, by sending them abroad into other partes.  
There being many Merchants and Planters living in those Islands, who  
would have tyed Shipping and given them Employ<sup>ment</sup> into the Straights  
and other partes, where they might have vented the Commodities of their  
Growth of those Countries at good Rates, as Tobacco, and Sugar, which have  
bene for these last Yeeres past a very Drug in England; and I amdy  
their Planters, whereby many a Plant<sup>er</sup> hath bene undone; And yo<sup>r</sup> Majesty

Petition to the governor of St Kitts asking him to petition the king about the favourable trading situation afforded to the French, 1664. Signed by Nicholas and George Taylor and John Estridge. The National Archives, CO1/18

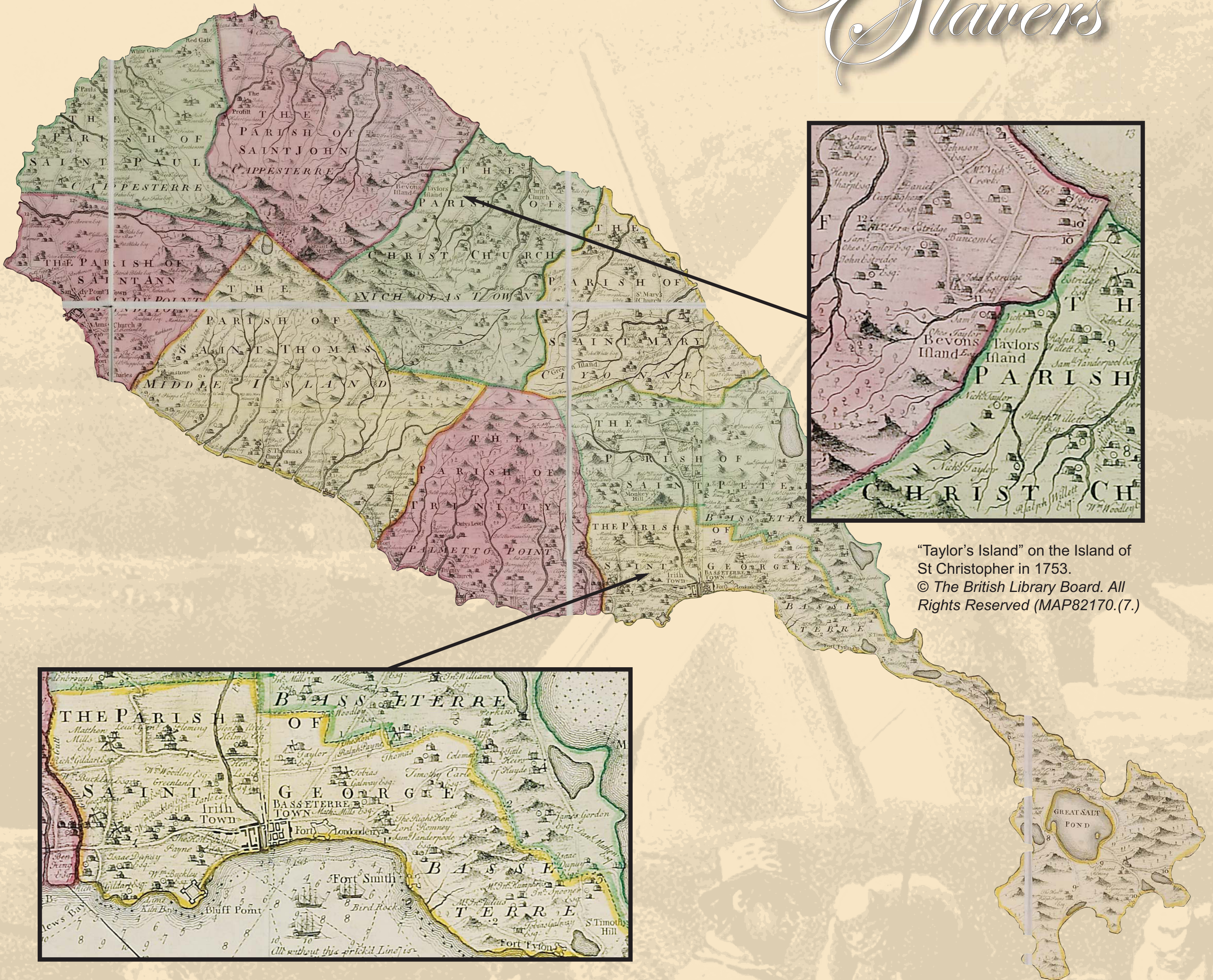
## The Taylor family arrives on St Christopher

The origins of the Taylor family in St Christopher can be traced back to Oliver Cromwell. Captain Nicholas Taylor was appointed as one of Cromwell's Commissioners who arrived on the island in 1654 to collect debts from foreigners whose land had been confiscated. He acquired land himself, almost certainly Taylor's Island. This was situated in one of the

English parishes, Christ Church Nicola Town. In 1654 Captain Nicholas Taylor signed a petition with other landholders, appealing to the governor for similar free trade arrangements to those enjoyed by the French. In the same year a George Taylor and a Thomas Taylor are present on St Christopher, but by the census of 1678 only Nicholas remains.



# Gentlemen Slavers



"Taylor's Island" on the Island of St Christopher in 1753.  
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## Development of the Taylor family estates in St Christopher

The Taylor family built up its landholdings during the eighteenth century. Most of this land would pass to George Taylor of Carshalton or his immediate family at some point. New land was acquired on the leeward (west) side of the island when the final Anglo-French war of 1702–13 returned all French territory to the English. Bids for this land were invited from English settlers. An earlier George Taylor was granted 106 acres and a Jonathan Taylor acquired 17 acres in the parish of St George Basseterre.

At that time a Joseph and John Taylor are recorded as tenants-in-possession of Taylor's Island. This is the land situated on the windward (east) side of the island acquired by Captain Nicholas Taylor in the early days of the English settlement. John and Joseph were the sons of Elizabeth Estridge, who married into the Taylor family towards the end of the seventeenth century. The two families possessed land close to each other in the parishes of Christ Church Nicola Town and St John Capesterre.



# Gentlemen Slavers



Planting the Sugar-Cane © National Maritime Museum, London

## George Taylor and St Christopher

George Taylor of Carshalton was the eldest of the five children of Nicholas and Elizabeth Taylor. He had three brothers. The eldest, William, became Rector of the parish church of St Anthony on the island of Montserrat. Little is known of Samuel James. John, the youngest, followed George into the plantation business. Their sister, Elizabeth, married Alexander Douglas, also a planter in St Christopher. By the time of Nicholas Taylor's death in 1751 the Taylor family owned five plantations in St Christopher. Not long after his death his widow, Elizabeth, married William Wells, another plantation owner in St Christopher who was

thirteen years her junior. Taylor was initially thought to have died intestate, but the discovery of two wills led to a court case between family members. After a series of court actions in both St Christopher and England the Privy Council decided six years after his death in 1757 that Nicholas Taylor had indeed died intestate. As eldest son, George Taylor of Carshalton was heir to Nicholas's real estate. This was valued at between £18,000 and £20,000 which in today's currency would be the equivalent spending value of over £1,500,000.





# Gentlemen Slavers



Windies Sugar Mill, 1816 Mary Evans Picture Library

## George Taylor and the slave trade

George Taylor was 23 at the time of the appeal and was beginning to participate in plantation life. In 1759 he appointed attorneys in St Christopher to handle some of his affairs, visiting to deal with important aspects of his business. In 1764 there are two bills of sale for enslaved Africans in his name and he was probably in St Christopher overseeing these transactions. Both were purchases from William Wells, his mother's second husband. The largest, detailing the sale of 53 "negroe slaves, men, women, boys and girls" for the sum £2,500, would equal more than

£186,975 in today's currency. One name, Nevis-Jemmy, suggests that these people may have spent time on the island of Nevis. George Taylor mixed with people who publicly supported the transatlantic trade such as his brother-in-law, Alexander Douglas. Giving evidence to the parliamentary enquiry into the slave trade in 1790, Alexander Douglas stated that he believed it would be impossible to maintain the numbers necessary to cultivate the estates without continuing the trade with Africa.





# Gentlemen Slavers

in lieu thereof she will accept of the sum of £ 20 which sum of £ 20 I do hereby leave her as a mere remembrance of my most sincere affection and regard for her and whereas I have lately rented an Estate called the Roberts Slaves Bay Estate situate at a convenient distance from my own Estate and as the said Slaves Bay Estate is very deficient in Slaves my object in renting it was to work it principally with my own Slaves and thereby applying their labor to more profit than I could obtain by working them on my own lands I should this expectation be answered and I empower my Executors hereinafter named who they think proper and with the consent of my daughters Ann Ltridge and Mary Plummer to continue the working of Slaves Bay Estate in which case my will is that the produce thereof shall in the first place be applied in payment of the Intt. to become due upon the mortgages affecting my Estates in Nevis. In the second place in payment of the annual sum of £ 200 to be accepted by my said wife in stead of the said annual sum of £ 450 or so much thereof as the surplus profits of my said Estates at Nevis shall be insufficient to pay And in the last place to divide the residue if any equally between my said daughters and whereas in St Kitts I have rented an Estate called Doraths situate contiguous to the Estate of my late Brother and whereas the Estate of Doraths Estate is particularly valuable to the proprietor of my said Brother's Estate now I do hereby empower my Executors hereinafter named to offer the sd. lease of Doraths Estate to my daughter Mr. John Taylor at the price of £ 200 which I consider to be the fair value thereof regard being had to the money which I have expended upon it now for the purpose of giving effect to the several arrangements and dispositions made by this my will I do hereby give and bequeath all my property real and personal unto my said son in law John Plummer and my friend Robt. Cross Esquire of Antigua in trust their heirs Executors administrators and assigns in trust to pay my just debts funeral & testamentary expences and the legacy hereinafter given to my sd. daughter-in-law and in the next place for the several purposes hereinafter mentioned and declared and subject thereto to hold the same in trust for my sd. daughters in equal moieties as tenant in common and their respective heirs Executors and assigns [And I appoint the said John Plummer and Robt. a

Last page of John Taylor's will, 10 May 1833.  
The National Archives, PROB 11/1816 f279v

## John Taylor and Nevis

John Taylor (George's brother) also studied at Oxford, attending Brasenose College in 1767. He married Eleanor Warren, with whom he had two daughters Ann and Mary. He lived for a number of years on the island of Nevis, just two miles south of St Christopher, where he owned a plantation called the Tower Hill Estate. John Taylor played an active part in planter society from his early days on the island. He was elected to the Council of Nevis in 1775. At times he also managed other plantations, including the estates of the

Stapleton and the Nisbet families. He had connections with the Pinney family, which held large plantations in Nevis. John Taylor and John Pinney acted as attorneys for each other. In 1782–83 John Pinney paid the tax on John Taylor's 188 enslaved people, acting as his attorney. John Taylor established himself on the island, forming strong friendships as well as business relationships. When he returned to England in 1799 he was described as "a Gentleman of great respectability" and his departure was "a great loss to the Island".



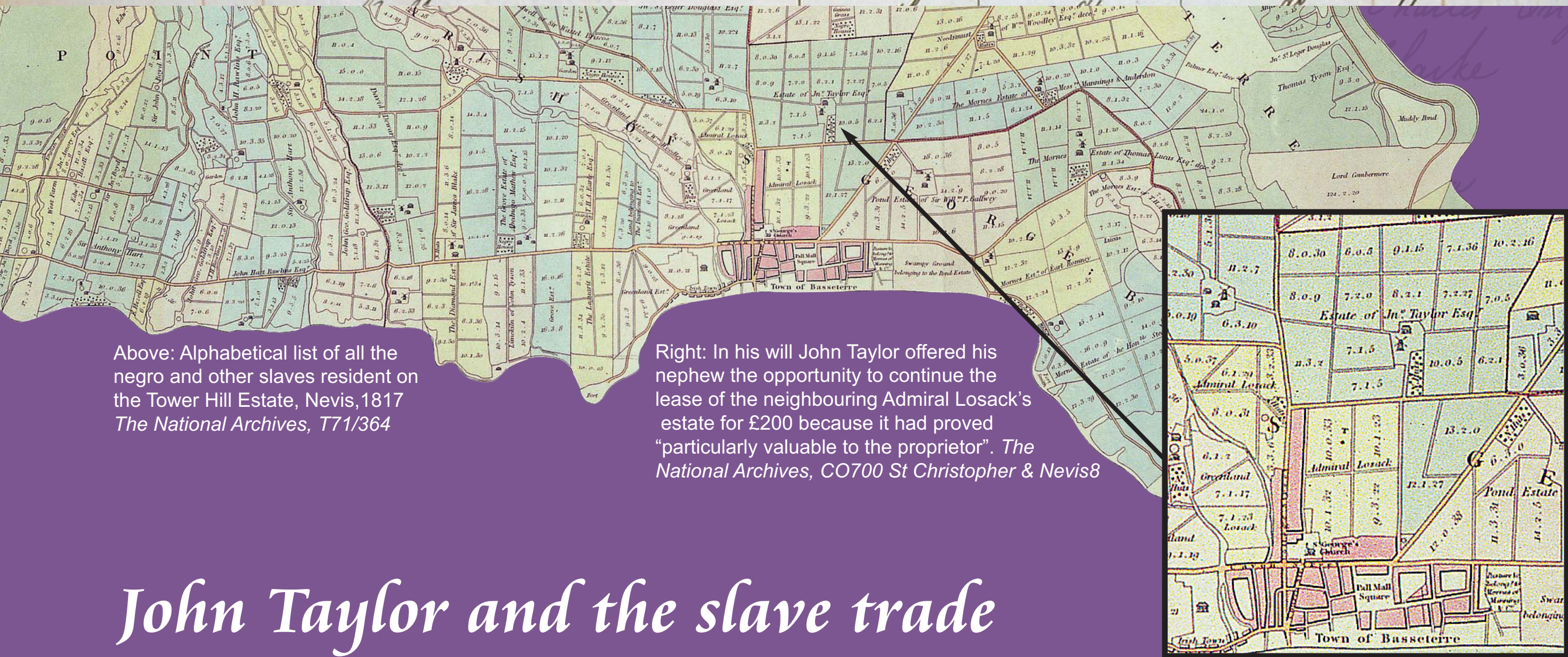
# Gentlemen Slavers

Nevis

An alphabetical list and Return of all the negro and other slaves now resident on the Estate called **Tower Hill** and belonging to or in the lawful possession of John Taylor Given in by me this tenth day of July one thousand eight hundred and seventeen -

No	Names	Sex	Country	Colour	Age	Years
1	Amba	Female	African	Black	55	
2	Anneere	do	Creole	do	40	do
3	Abba Margaret	do	do	do	3	
4	Ann	do	do	Mulatto	1	
5	Adgareen	do	do	Black	1	
6	Aberdeen	Male	do	do	25	
7	Augusta	do	do	do	21	
8	Andrew	do	do	do	15	
9	Aron	do	do	do	14	
10	Abraham	do	do	do	14	
11	Betsy Taylor	Female	do	do	54	
12	Betty Minca	do	American	do	52	
13	Barbara	do	Creole	do	31	
14	Betsy hope	do	do	do	10	

Samuel Sturge  
reputed age



Above: Alphabetical list of all the negro and other slaves resident on the Tower Hill Estate, Nevis, 1817  
The National Archives, T71/364

Right: In his will John Taylor offered his nephew the opportunity to continue the lease of the neighbouring Admiral Losack's estate for £200 because it had proved "particularly valuable to the proprietor". The National Archives, CO700 St Christopher & Nevis8

## John Taylor and the slave trade

Although the buying and selling of enslaved people from Africa was prohibited under the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act from 1807, slavery still continued in the British West Indies. In order to assist in the control of the trade, the public registration of enslaved people was introduced. In the first registration in Nevis in 1817 the entry for Tower Hill Estate lists one hundred and seventy one names listed as being "in the lawful possession of John Taylor". In final the register of 1834 there were still 156 enslaved people recorded there. In his will, dated 1826, Taylor acknowledges the

economic importance of slavery. Commenting on his recent decision to work the Nisbet's Kades Bay Estate with his own slaves he gives his executors the option to continue doing so, should they consider it profitable. After the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 plantation owners were compensated for the enslaved people freed. The trustees of the Taylor Estate applied for compensation for the family's plantations on both islands. £2,756 was awarded for the estate on St Christopher, which has an equivalent value of £136,394 today.

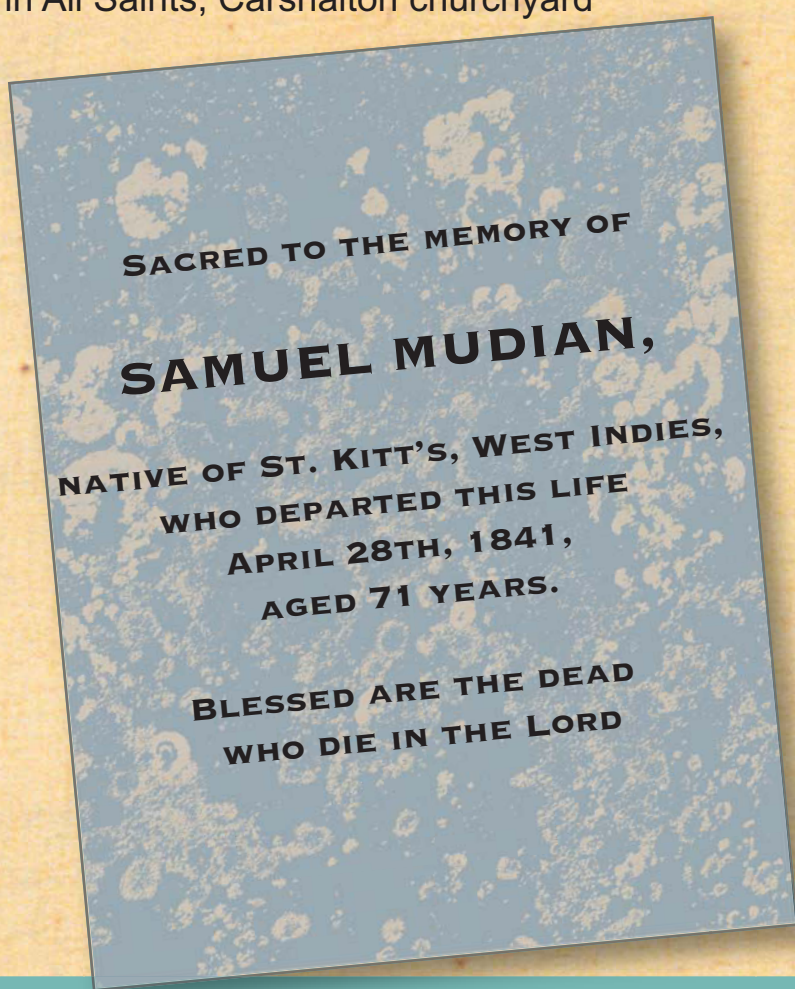
Bole  
Charlotte Taylor  
Diana  
Donninga



# Gentlemen Slavers



Samuel Mudian's monumental inscription in All Saints, Carshalton churchyard



18th century view of a black servant in a garden from the Painted Room in Carshalton House. London Borough of Sutton Heritage Service

## Samuel Mudian

Samuel Mudian worked as the butler for George Taylor at Carshalton Park House. Little is known about his origins. His tombstone in the churchyard at All Saints in Carshalton describes “a native of St Kitts”. In the West Indies enslaved people were often given names by the people who had owned them. Samuel Mudian may have previously been called Samuel the Bermudian, indicating the island he was born on, or the name may have derived from the French patois Mudiene, a connection with St Christopher’s other colonial settlers. When George Taylor took up residence in Carshalton in the 1780s Samuel Mudian would have been a young man, still only in his teens. Could he have been

George Taylor’s son? Unfortunately we know of no evidence presently to answer this question.

Like some other Black servants, Samuel Mudian would have enjoyed a relatively comfortable lifestyle. The practice of bringing enslaved people to England to work in this way was criticised in some circles as creating a challenge to social hierarchies. In Gentleman’s Magazine in 1764 a writer suggested that once away from the colonies Black servants would assume that they were free people, sometimes becoming unwilling to serve others.



Names of Proprietors.		Names of Occupiers.					
	John Ludwiske	Rob <sup>l</sup> Roberts	House				
	D.	late Tall	D.				
	D.	Mary Field	D.				
	D.	W <sup>m</sup> Evans	D.				
	D.	Agnes Dove	D.				
	D.	Ann Monies	D.				
	James Yarroway	Cha <sup>o</sup> Lovell	D.				
	D.	Phebe Tarrant	D.				
	D.	Phil <sup>l</sup> Bethell	D.				
	D.	Sam <sup>l</sup> Mudian	D.				
	D.	Edw <sup>l</sup> Coatsworth	D.				
	D.	J <sup>n</sup> Knowlton	D.				
	D.	Self	D.				
6	Judith Bluton	Rob <sup>l</sup> Blake	D.				
8	J <sup>n</sup> Allen	Ja <sup>o</sup> Everet	D.				
	D.	Matth <sup>l</sup> Thearing	D.				
6	D.	Isaiah Lovell	D.				
4	John Caden	J <sup>n</sup> Kern	D.				
4	D.	R <sup>d</sup> Langridge	D.				
4	D.	Th <sup>o</sup> Leaf	D.				
4	Charles Stone	Mary Ward	D.				
8	D.	Ja <sup>o</sup> Fidler	D.				
8	D.	Ja <sup>o</sup> Simons	D.				
8	D.		D.				
8	D.		D.				
8	D.		D.				
25	W <sup>m</sup> Simy		D.				
6	Henry Strickland		D.				
6	D.		D.				
6	D.		D.				
6	D.		D.				
30	Elizabeth		D.				
10	Geo. Lambest		D.				

# Gentlemen Slavers

Wallington Land Tax, 1826, showing Samuel Mudian renting from James Yarroway. Reproduced by permission of Surrey History Centre. Copyright of Surrey History Centre

N<sup>o</sup>. 8 } Samuel Mudian of this Parish Bachelor &  
 Judith Bluton of this parish Spinster were  
 Married in this Church by Banns after being duly published  
 this second Day of September in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred  
 and seven By me J. Sampson, Curate.  
 This Marriage was solemnized between Us { Samuel Mudian  
 Judith Bluton  
 in the Presence of { Sarah Bluton  
 R<sup>d</sup> Clarke parish clerk

Samuel Mudian and Judith Bluton's marriage entry, St Michael Cornhill Guildhall Library Ms 4066/

## Samuel Mudian's marriage

In 1807 Samuel Mudian married Judith Bluton, a young white woman from Carshalton at St Michael Cornhill in the City of London. Why they chose to marry in London is not known. Black and white partners did marry at the time but it is possible that attitudes may have been more liberal in London. Was George Taylor aware of the marriage? He left Samuel Mudian £50 in his will on the condition that the butler was living with him at the time of his death and had not given or received notice to leave. That Samuel and Judith Mudian moved to Wallington in 1815, one year

after George Taylor's death is interesting. At the time of his death in 1841 Samuel Mudian was still a butler. Whether he remained in the service of the Taylor family is not known. Shortly after his death in 1841 the first census listed Judith Mudian's address as Wrythe Lane, West Side, Carshalton. She was working as a laundress. Samuel Mudian wrote a will, leaving his estate to his wife. Ten years later she had moved to Hastings where she was running a lodging house. She did not remarry and lived there with her sister, Maria Morley, also a widow.



# Gentlemen Slavers

desire that you accept as a token of my regard for you to  
Mr. Samuel Cairns & Mrs. Elizabeth Roady Daughters of my  
late Aunt Mr. Samuel Seton the sum of fifty pounds each to  
Mr. Samuel Hammond & Mrs. Samuel Seton the sum of fifty pounds each  
of my said Aunt Mr. Samuel Seton the sum of fifty pounds each to  
Mrs. Eleanor Taylor wife of my Brother John Taylor the  
sum of one hundred pounds as a token of my regard for  
to Miss Wilhelmina Warren the sum of fifty pounds and I do  
hereby direct that the last mentioned twelve legacies shall be  
paid within one year after my decease to Ann Dike & Sarah  
Dudd if they should be living with me at the time of my  
decease & shall not have given or received notice to quit  
my services the sum of one hundred pounds each to Edward  
Mudian & Samuel Mudian on the like condition the sum of  
fifty pounds each And to all my domestic servants who  
shall be living with me at the time of my death & shall  
not have given or received such notice as aforesaid the sum of  
twenty pounds each the legacies to my said servants to be paid  
to them respective within three months after my decease  
And in case the said Samuel Mudian shall choose to  
go to the West Indies I give him his freedom in that Country  
And I give to the Minister of Carshalton aforesaid the sum  
of one thousand pounds to be by him distributed amongst the poor  
people of the said parish of Carshalton as he shall think it  
proper And after the payment of all my just debts funeral expenses

George Taylor's will, 1814 with his bequest to Samuel Mudian.  
The National Archives, PROB 11/1559 f150.

## The Taylor family and its inheritance

George Taylor died in 1814. The memorial at All Saints in Carshalton commemorates George Taylor as a hospitable, friendly and charitable man who enjoyed "the love and fidelity of his numerous old domestics and the grateful blessings of the poor". He left the poor of the parish £1,000 in his will and left legacies to other servants, as well as Samuel Mudian. More importantly, should Samuel Mudian choose to return to the West Indies, George Taylor grants him his freedom there. Samuel Mudian was the one person offered this so perhaps he was the only black servant. The individualism George Taylor afforded him contrasted with the attitudes he expressed towards the enslaved workers on his plantations. In his will he described "all his negroes" in the same sentence as his "live and dead stock". To hold such contradictory views was not unusual in contemporary planter society.

How much of the myth spread by local residents that the Taylor's wealth would only last three generations due to their involvement in the slave trade turned out to be true? As George Taylor had no direct heirs the estate passed to his younger brother, John Taylor, who

lived there until his death on 1832. John Taylor's will, written in 1826, hints at the gradual decline in the family's wealth. John Taylor appeals to his wife Eleanor in his will asking that she accept a yearly sum of £200, rather than the £400 assigned under a previous settlement. This is because the value of his West Indian estates no longer equalled the loans he had taken out on them.

He was succeeded by his nephew, another John, son of Reverend William Taylor. This John Taylor's term as Lord of the Manor was short lived. By 1838 he had let Carshalton Park House and moved out. He died intestate in 1864, leaving a personal estate of £2,000 to his only son, Captain William Taylor. He was living at Lake Villa in the County of Southampton at the time. Carshalton Park House remained in the Taylor family and in 1888 Captain William Taylor's son John William Frederick Blake Taylor moved back in. He was the final Taylor to occupy the house. In 1892 a large part of the Park went on sale and by 1920 the house itself had disappeared.

Special thanks to Sue Barnard our Gentlemen Slavers Project researcher, Kristine Pooley for her research into the Mudian, Bluton and Huther families, Christine Eickelmann and David Small for information on John Taylor and Ann Rainsbury for information on George Taylor.



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