

THE ANTI-SLAVERY CAMPAIGN AND THE EAST RIDING

54. JOHN PENNINGTON, 1ST LORD MUNCASTER who owned the Warter estate, near Pocklington, and occasionally resided there, was a close friend of William Wilberforce and a passionate campaigner for the abolition of the slave trade. In 1792 he published *Historical Sketches of the Slave Trade and of its Effects in Africa addressed to the People of Great Britain*.

55. TITLE PAGE OF LORD MUNCASTER'S *Historical Sketches of the Slave Trade, 1792*.

56. ANTI-SLAVERY MUG. (Wilberforce House)

57. SIR CHRISTOPHER AND LADY SYKES BY GEORGE ROMNEY (Sir Tatton Sykes, Bt.)

Sir Christopher Sykes of Sledmere, as MP for Beverley, promised in 1788 to support any bill brought before Parliament against the slave trade. Sykes corresponded with Wilberforce on a number of local topics and visited him in London.

58. EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM WILLIAM WILBERFORCE TO THOMAS PERRONET THOMPSON 1808. (Hull University Archives) This letter was written in response to one from Thompson written at Fort Thornton, Sierra Leone, that spoke of the 'sins of malicious wickedness' committed by the agents of the Sierra Leone Company, who 'have made their name to stink in the nostrils of all Africa'.

59. TITLE PAGE OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE'S *A letter on the Abolition of the Slave Trade addressed to the Freeholders and Other Inhabitants of Yorkshire, 1807* (Wilberforce House) This 396 page book contained Wilberforce's most detailed account of the evils of the slave trade. It was published at the end of January 1807 in time to influence the debate in the House of Lords on the Abolition Act.

60. HENRY THORNTON (1760-1815), MP, banker and political economist, a cousin and close friend of William Wilberforce and husband of Marianne Sykes from West Ella, played a leading role in the fight against slavery. In 1791 he became chairman of the Sierra Leone Company which took over the failed colony for ex-slaves established by Granville Sharp in West Africa. The company was beset by problems and in 1808 Sierra Leone was transferred to the Crown.

61. THOMAS PERRONET THOMPSON (1783-1869), the son of Thomas Thompson of Cottingham Castle. At the age of 25, on the recommendation of William Wilberforce, Thompson was appointed as the first governor of the crown colony of Sierra Leone in 1808. On arrival at the colony he found that the system of apprenticeship in place there was little short of slavery. His serious allegations against the colony's former administrators were not welcomed by Wilberforce and Thornton, and Thompson was recalled and relieved of his post in 1810.

62. FOLLY AT CASTLE HILL HOSPITAL, COTTINGHAM. (David Neave) The octagonal brick tower is the only remnant of Cottingham Castle built by Thomas Thompson in 1808-16. Thompson, the son of a farmer at Swine, was clerk and later manager of the firm of Wilberforce and Smith at Wilberforce House, High Street, Hull. A Methodist and a strong supporter of Wilberforce, Thompson became an MP in 1807.

The British campaign against slavery is said to have begun in 1772 when Lord Mansfield, Lord Chief Justice, declared in the case of James Somerset that a slave could not be removed from England against his wishes. This marked the end of slavery in England.



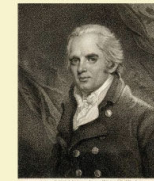
56. ANTI-SLAVERY MUG



57. SIR CHRISTOPHER AND LADY SYKES

Handwritten extracts from a letter from William Wilberforce to Thomas Perronet Thompson, dated 1808. The text discusses the moral and political implications of the slave trade and the need for abolition.

58. EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM WILLIAM WILBERFORCE TO THOMAS PERRONET THOMPSON 1808



60. HENRY THORNTON



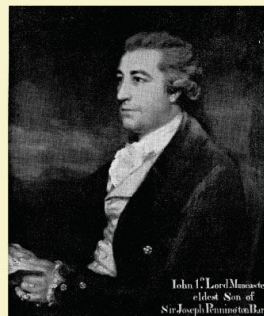
61. THOMAS PERRONET THOMPSON



62. FOLLY AT CASTLE HILL HOSPITAL, COTTINGHAM.

In February 1788 Beverley Corporation wrote to the two MPs for the town seeking assurance that they would vote for 'any Bill that may be brought into Parliament for the suppression of the Slave Trade'. The campaign picked up in the early 1790s with Wilberforce gaining increasing support in the House of Commons. A number of meetings in favour of abolition were held at the Tiger Inn, North Bar Within, Beverley in January 1792. Early the following month sermons were preached against the slave trade at the Minster and St Mary's Church and a petition for its abolition was sent to Parliament from the town.

The wars with France, the decline in public support and Parliamentary opposition frustrated Wilberforce and the abolitionists for many years. Finally on the 25 March 1807 the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, which outlawed the taking, purchase and carriage of African slaves by British ships and crews, was passed by Parliament.



54. JOHN PENNINGTON, 1ST LORD MUNCASTER

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF THE SLAVE TRADE, AND OF ITS EFFECTS IN AFRICA. ADDRESSED TO THE PEOPLE OF GREAT-BRITAIN. BY THE RIGHT HON. LORD MUNCASTER. LONDON: Printed by G. GORDON, at the Apollo-Booth, Strand, 1792.

55. LORD MUNCASTER *Historical Sketches of the Slave Trade, 1792*.

The campaign against the slave trade was launched in 1787 when a number of Quakers formed the Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade. They were quickly joined by Granville Sharp, who helped Africans challenge slavery in the courts, Thomas Clarkson, who collected evidence on the barbaric trade, and William Wilberforce, who fought the anti-slavery cause in Parliament. The political campaign made steady progress backed by support throughout the country.

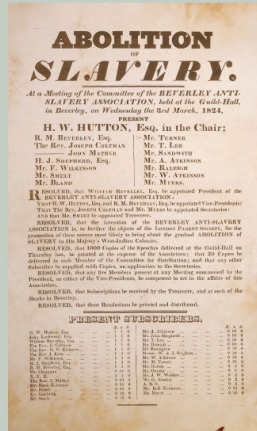
A LETTER ON THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE; ADDRESSED TO THE FREEHOLDERS AND OTHER INHABITANTS OF YORKSHIRE. BY W. WILBERFORCE, Esq. LONDON: Printed by G. GORDON, at the Apollo-Booth, Strand, 1807.

59. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, *A letter on the Abolition of the Slave Trade*

The Abolition Act of 1807 was only the beginning of a process of freedom for the hundreds of thousands of slaves in the British Colonies. A national campaign aimed at securing the eradication of slavery got underway in 1823 when the Anti-Slavery Society was formed with the support of Wilberforce and Clarkson. The same year the Hull and East Riding Association for the Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery was founded and in 1824 the Beverley Anti-Slavery Society.

Government support was assured when the first reformed Parliament was elected in 1832. The emphasis, however, was on 'gradual' abolition.

This angered Robert Sharp, schoolmaster at South Cave, who wrote in his diary on 6 October 1832 'It appears that the plans of some of the so called friends of the freedom of the Slaves, is to put off their Liberty as long as possible. I am for immediate emancipation. It would have been fortunate had the West India Islands never been discovered: of what use are they? That so many poor creatures from day to day and year to year live to be used worse than the very beasts. Let them have their liberty; and let us want Sugar, if it cannot be produced without paying for it the price of Blood...'



63. POSTER FOR THE BEVERLEY ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY 1824



64. SARAH STICKNEY OF BURSTWICK

The Bill for the Abolition of Slavery passed its second reading in the House of Commons on 26 July 1833. Three days afterwards William Wilberforce died. The Act which became law a month later provided that slavery, as a legal status, would cease throughout the British colonial empire on 1 August 1834 and that slave children under the age of six would be freed immediately. The other ex-slaves were to be registered as apprenticed labourers working for their former owners for up to six years.

The apprenticeship system, operated with severity by some planters, was then the target of the abolitionists. In March 1838 Sir George Strickland Bt of Boynton Hall, near Bridlington, MP, presented a motion in the House of Commons for the immediate end of negro apprenticeship. It was defeated but two months later an identical motion was passed by three votes and effectively ended slavery in the British Colonies on 1 August 1838.

63. POSTER FOR THE BEVERLEY ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY 1824 (Hull University Archives) William Beverley of Norwood House, brother of a Virginia slave plantation owner, was chosen as President and his son Robert Mackenzie Beverley as one of the Vice-Presidents.

64. SARAH STICKNEY (LATER ELLIS) (1799-1872), daughter of William Stickney, a Quaker farmer of Ridgmont in Burstwick parish in Holderness. Women took a lead in the anti-slavery movement. In 1830 Sarah Stickney published *The Negro Slave: a Tale addressed to the Women of Great Britain* with help from Thomas Pringle, secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society. The story is about Manayma, an African girl taken into slavery and transported to Jamaica, who shows herself to be more civilised than either the men who capture her or the man who comes to own her and father her child.

65. SPEECHES AT BEVERLEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PETITIONING PARLIAMENT TO ABOLISH SLAVERY IN THE WEST INDIES, 26 February 1824 (East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Local Studies Service) The first speech was made by William Beverley. It to the meeting the audience was reminded that 'it is to this town we trace the origin of William Wilberforce, so renowned and excellent a man, so sincere a philanthropist, so great an orator, and so powerful a writer; for as I do not think that this neighbourhood will ever produce so great, so I am sure it will never shew to the admiration of posterity a better man'.

66. WEST INDIAN SLAVERY: A SPEECH AT A MEETING OF THE BEVERLEY ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY BY REV. THOMAS GALLAND, 7 December 1825 (East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Local Studies Service)

67. ILLUSTRATION CELEBRATING THE END OF SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES 1834 (Wilberforce House, Hull Museums and Art Gallery)

68. ANTI-SLAVERY PUBLICATIONS BY ROBERT M. BEVERLEY OF NORWOOD HOUSE (Hull Local Studies Library) R.M. Beverley, a controversial figure and prolific pamphleteer, was a vigorous abolitionist who condemned the apprenticeship system introduced for freed slaves.

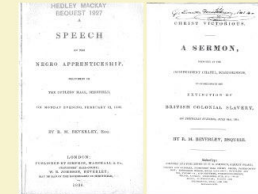
69. FIGURE OF FREED SLAVE (Wilberforce House)



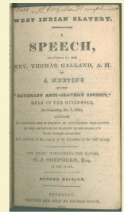
EXTINCTION OF COLONIAL SLAVERY throughout the BRITISH DOMINIONS. IN THE REIGN OF WILL. the IV. AUGUST 1834. Lord Queen Victoria, Aug. 1. 1838. Design by W. Birch. Engraved by N. Poncey.

67. ILLUSTRATION CELEBRATING THE END OF SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES 1834

Members of two East Riding landed families were prominent in direct action taken against the continuing slave trade. In 1846 Sir Charles Hotham, grandson of the 2nd Lord Hotham of South Dalton, near Beverley, was placed in command of a naval squadron stationed off the west coast of Africa to intercept slave ships. During his two years in command the squadron captured 173 slave ships and released over 15,000 slaves. Sir James Hudson (1810-85), eighth child of Harrington Hudson of Bessingby Hall, Bridlington, was successively secretary, *chargé d'affaires* and minister of the British legation at Rio de Janeiro in the years 1845-51. There he took a lead in the suppression of the Brazilian slave trade. Slavery was not abolished in Brazil until 1888.



68. ANTI-SLAVERY PUBLICATIONS BY ROBERT M. BEVERLEY OF NORWOOD HOUSE



66. BEVERLEY ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY SPEECH, 1825



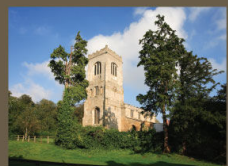
69. FIGURE OF FREED SLAVE

ROBERT ISAAC WILBERFORCE AT BURTON AGNES

In Burton Agnes church there is a carving of William Wilberforce. It was placed there by his second son Robert Isaac Wilberforce who was vicar of Burton Agnes, 1840-54, and Archdeacon of the East Riding.



1. CARVING OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE IN THE CHANCEL OF BURTON AGNES CHURCH



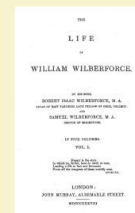
2. ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, BURTON AGNES

Robert Wilberforce and his younger brother Samuel, later Bishop of Oxford and then of Winchester, had written a five volume life of their father which was published in 1838. On hearing that the brothers were writing the biography Marianne Thornton declared that it would be 'rather dull and heavy, but the two most concerned in it are very good natured... and will I believe do it fairly enough'.

When he co-authored his father's life Robert was rector of East Farleigh in Kent. In 1832 he had married Agnes daughter of the Venerable Francis Wrangham, Rector of Hunmanby and Archdeacon of the East Riding. Agnes died in childbirth in 1834 and three years later Robert married Agnes's cousin, Jane Legard of Ganton. On taking a second bride from the East Riding he decided to move near his wife's family and he became vicar of Burton Agnes in 1840.

On arriving at Burton Agnes Robert wrote 'The place is certainly a very desirable one – a good house, and gentlemanlike, and a pleasant, tho' not pretty country. I have two very nice churches about a mile from one another.' In 1841 he succeeded his former father-in-law as Archdeacon of the East Riding, and found himself dealing with many clergy who neglected their churches and their parishioners. He told his brother Samuel that there were 'several mad clergymen on the Wolds'.

Robert's second wife died in 1853, and the following year he resigned as vicar of Burton Agnes and archdeacon and entered the Roman Catholic Church, as had his brother Henry and his close friends John H. Newman and Henry Manning, both future Cardinals. Robert Wilberforce died in 1857 whilst at Rome training for the priesthood. That year his eldest son William F. Wilberforce became curate of South Dalton, near Beverley.



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1. CARVING OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE IN THE CHANCEL OF BURTON AGNES CHURCH.

Robert Wilberforce rebuilt the chancel in 1842-4 in memory of his father.

2. ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, BURTON AGNES. When Robert Wilberforce arrived at Burton Agnes he found the church in need of 'improvement'. It was full of box pews (the grandest that of the squire), the walls were plastered and the roof was underdrawn with a flat ceiling. At once he determined to restore the building.

3. TITLE PAGE OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE BY ROBERT ISAAC WILBERFORCE AND SAMUEL WILBERFORCE, 1838.

Robert found writing the book very difficult because of his increasing dislike of almost every aspect of his father's evangelicalism.

4. A CHARGE TO THE CLERGY OF THE ARCHDEACONRY OF THE EAST RIDING BY ROBERT ISAAC WILBERFORCE, 1842 (East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service)

Each year at his annual visitation Robert Wilberforce published his address or 'charge', giving much needed directions and advice to the clergy of the archdeaconry. Beset by drunken and irreverent clergy Wilberforce was full of praise for the rector of Roos - 'His Church is the most beautifully fitted up of any country Church I ever saw: his schools the most perfect. It is an Oasis of excellence in the midst of this desert.'

5. ROBERT ISAAC WILBERFORCE (Burton Agnes Church).

Robert Wilberforce (1802-57) was a 'shy, self-effacing man', unambitious and studious. When at Burton Agnes he wrote a number of important theological works and a novel set in ancient Rome. He is said to have spent the first day of his honeymoon on beginning to write a book.

6. THE FORMER VICARAGE AT BURTON AGNES (NOW THE OLD RECTORY). Wilberforce commented to his brother that the 'great fault' of the vicarage was 'the want of dressing rooms. I fancy old Raikes who built it was wont to dress like the Yankees at the Pump.'



EAST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

SLAVERY TODAY



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8.4 million
children work as
slaves today...

...to find out more visit the newly re-opened Slavery Museum

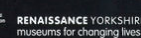
Take a journey through Britain's first Slavery Museum to find out about the fight to abolish slavery, how enslaved Africans fought for their freedom and what you can do to combat slavery today.

WILBERFORCE
FREEDOM
FOUNDATION

Wilberforce
House | Hull

SLAVERY
Past, Present & Future

Admission FREE



Wilberforce House Museum, High Street, Hull. For more information or group bookings call 01482 300300 www.hullcc.gov.uk

BICENTENARY OF
the Abolition
of the Slave Trade Act
1807 – 2007

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21st century slavery

Slavery: unfinished business

There are an estimated 12.3 million¹ enslaved people in the world today.

What form does slavery take in the modern world?

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 4, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

People continue, in the 21st century, to suffer from inequality and disadvantage. Despite international agreements and national laws banning slavery, it affects millions of men, women and children. Today it includes:

- Bonded labour** – poor people take out loans from their employers to meet their basic needs and get trapped in an endless cycle of impossible repayments.
- Human trafficking** – the movement of people using violence, coercion or deception and forcing them to work against their will.
- Descent-based slavery** – some people are born into slavery because they belong to a group society discriminated against.
- Forced domestic servitude** – often a hidden form of slavery, where people are forced to work in private homes.
- Worst forms of child labour** – this may include bonded labour, forced labour, sexual exploitation for commercial gain or children forced to become child soldiers.

For information on contemporary forms of slavery visit www.anti-slavery.org

Root causes of contemporary forms of slavery

Slavery has its roots in poverty and discrimination, which make people vulnerable to exploitation. CHD, the Department for International Development, supports long-term programmes to eliminate the underlying causes of poverty. CHD works in partnership with others in 150 countries, with a budget of approximately £5.9 billion in 2006.

Region	Number of enslaved people
Asia Pacific	nearly 9.5 million
Latin America and Caribbean	1.3 million
Sub-Saharan Africa	600,000
Industrial countries	360,000
Middle East and North Africa	260,000
Transition countries	210,000

(The ILO states, over an eastern Europe, that the Commission on International Labour Law)

Today's issues

Legacy of the bicentenary

There are clear links between the struggles for justice 200 years ago, and our ongoing concerns to tackle discrimination in Britain and forms of slavery in the world today.

The Government wants to ensure that as well as commemorating the past we gain the best possible legacy from the bicentenary by focusing on what still needs to happen in order to tackle:

- Inequality, discrimination and racism** today in particular for people of African and Caribbean heritage living in the UK.
- Poverty and inequality** on the African continent and in the Caribbean.
- Contemporary slavery** in all its forms (see pages 24-25).

Increasing race equality

Many Black and Minority Ethnic communities are already thriving in Britain today. But some communities still suffer poorer outcomes in education, health, housing and employment. There are also real issues in the Criminal Justice System.

The Government is seeking to address these inequalities by ensuring that every individual, whatever their racial or ethnic origin is able to fulfil their potential through the enjoyment of equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities. The UK was one of the first countries to introduce legislation against race discrimination and we now have some of the most progressive law on race equality and race relations in the world.

However legislation shouldn't be (and hasn't been), the only way to tackle injustice and discrimination.

Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society is the Government's strategy to increase race equality and community cohesion. It brings together practical measures across Government to improve opportunities for all in Britain – helping to ensure that a person's ethnicity or race is not a barrier to their success. It signals the Government's intention to give greater emphasis to the importance of helping people from different backgrounds come together, supporting people who contribute to society and taking a stand against racists and extremists.

Further information:

- Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society: www.communities.gov.uk
- Education for every child initiative: www.dfid.gov.uk/new/160x/school-partnerships.asp
- United Nations: www.un.org/millenniumgoals/
- Department for International Development: www.dfid.gov.uk

Freeing children from slavery

Children are especially vulnerable to slavery. Millions are made to work in forced or bonded labour, armed conflict, prostitution and pornography. 300,000 children are thought to be involved in armed conflict around the world. The UK is very active within United Nations bodies such as UNICEF to help end the practice of using children in conflict. The UK government provides direct support to UN agencies and to non-governmental organisations to disarm, demobilise and reintegrate children in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Liberia and Rwanda.

There has been conflict in northern Uganda for the past 20 years between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army. In that time, the LRA have abducted and held captive more than 20,000 boys, girls and women. Boys are forced to fight and girls made to be the wives of LRA commanders.

The UK is supporting a number of programmes where the LRA operates to help those who have suffered recover from the most traumatic experiences and reintegrate into their communities.

Department for International Development: www.dfid.gov.uk

International Labour Organisation: International Programme on the elimination of child labour: www.ilo.org/childlabour

Save the children: www.savethechildren.org.uk

Tackling human trafficking into the UK

On 12th September 2004 a 15-year-old Lithuanian girl walked into a police station in Sheffield barefoot and speaking barely a word of English. She had escaped from a ruthless gang who had trafficked her into the UK and forced her into prostitution.

Some of the officers who worked on that case are now at the UK Human Trafficking Centre, a police-led unit that acts as a central point of expertise to tackle trafficking for both sexual and labour exploitation into the UK. It is estimated that 4,000 women have been brought into the country and forced to work as prostitutes.

They are viewed as nothing more than a commodity. Each time they are sold on their price drops. Unless they are even be sold on to work in the domestic industry as au pair girls to bring the maximum profit out of the entire they consider their desperation.

Today Chief Constable Graham Pinner

Most of the women are aged between 16 and 25, and many are from the eastern European states, but women from Thailand, Malaysia, Africa and South America have also been found. Typically, they are duped into entering the country by being sold the story of work and a better life.

One in the UK they are sold for up to £8,000. Other victims are brought over for a form of bonded labour. Once here, they are forced to work in factories, building sites or in agriculture.

One of the early actions of the UK Human Trafficking Centre has been to put in place measures, including safe houses and counselling, to help officers care for the welfare of victims. It is also encouraging the public to come forward with information about a crime that often takes place in private homes, in ordinary suburban streets.

UK Human Trafficking Centre: www.ukhtc.org

Tackling poverty

Many problems, including slavery and forced labour are caused, or made worse by poverty. One in five people in the world today, over one billion people, live in poverty on less than one dollar a day.

The Government has doubled its aid budget since 1997, whilst 2005 saw a historic deal to cancel over \$50 billion of multilateral debt owed by poor countries. We used our presidency of the G8 and European Union in 2005 to push for renewed global commitment to the United Nations' eight Millennium Development Goals to:

- halve the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger
- ensure that all children receive primary education (see below)
- promote sexual equality and give women a stronger voice
- reduce child death rates
- improve the health of mothers
- combat HIV and Aids, malaria and other diseases
- ensure the environment is protected
- build a global partnership for those working in development

The UK is committed to increasing our development budget to 0.7% of gross national income by 2013, concentrating our resources on the poorest countries – particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia – and working more in countries with weak or failing governments. The Government provided over £1 billion to support poverty reduction in Africa last year.

Education

Education is key to giving children the chance to escape poverty and exploitation. The UK has committed £8.5 billion over ten years to support Education for All, an international campaign to make sure all children go to school. Education for all by 2015 is one of the UN's eight Millennium Development Goals agreed in 2000.

The Department for International Development's Global School Partnership also promotes links between schools in the UK and schools in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America with funding of £7.5 million over three years.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Britain vowing to end the slave trade. There could be no better commemoration than to abolish all child labour, and to ensure that all young children go to school.

Queen Elizabeth II, Governor of the Bank of England
The Queen, 4 June 2007