

Gloucestershire Archives

Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester GL1 3DW

web: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives

email: archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk

01452 425295

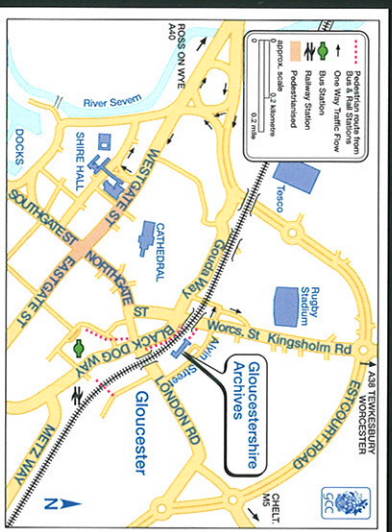
OPENING HOURS

Monday: 10 am - 5 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

Thursday: 9 am - 8 pm

Second Saturday each month: 9 am - 4 pm



Inhuman Traffic

A virtual exhibition and resources based on the papers of abolitionist Granville Sharp, co-founder of the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade



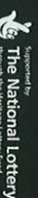
Illustration Copyright National Maritime Museum

Available online at

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives



GLoucestershire
Archives



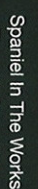
The National Lottery
Supporting the good causes of the UK



Heritage Lottery Fund



set all free
ACT TO END SLAVERY



Spaniel In The Works
Theatre Company



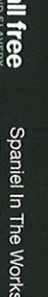
STROUD
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Race Equality Council
For Gloucestershire



MLA
MUSEUM LEARNING & ARCHIVES
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Project Details

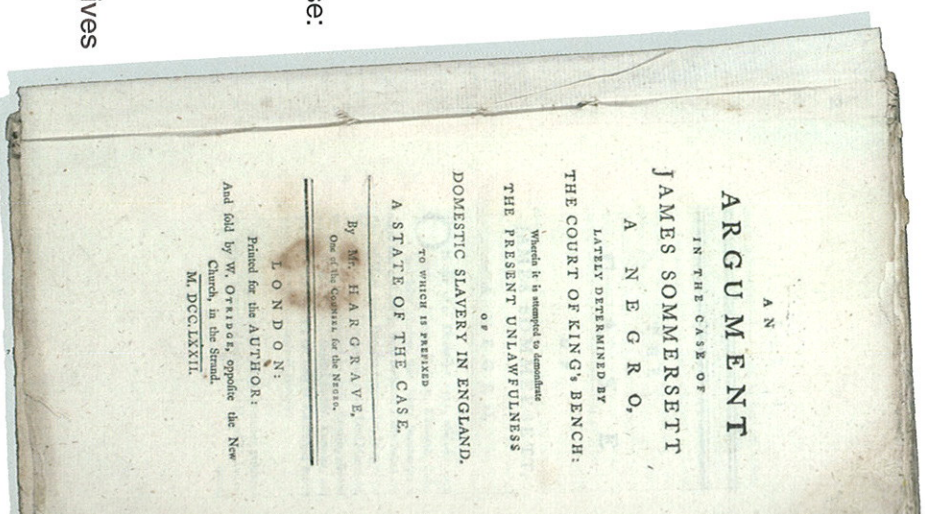
Inhuman Traffic is a project by Gloucestershire Archives in partnership with Stroud District Museum Service, Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company Ltd and Parliament Primary School to mark the 200th anniversary of the abolition of British involvement in the transatlantic slave trade.

Based on some of the papers of abolitionist Granville Sharp and documents from the Codrington collection, project outcomes comprise:

- a PowerPoint exhibition, available FREE from Gloucestershire Archives
- web-based resources at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives
- historic and contemporary first person interpretation
- linked curriculum resources, including activities based on documents from the Archives' and Museum's collections

Inhuman Traffic has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Museums Libraries and Archives Council South West. It is part of the Set All Free initiative in Gloucestershire. For more information about Set All Free visit www.setallfree.net

Front page of pamphlet detailing the James Somerset case (D3549 13/5/11 Gloucestershire Archives)



Exhibition Content

Granville Sharp

Granville Sharp (1735-1813) was one of the first people in England to question the morality of slavery.

A chance meeting in 1765 with a young run-away slave called Jonathan Strong affected him so deeply that he fought to change public opinion on slavery and the slave trade for the next 40 years.

In 1769 he wrote the first major anti-slavery work by a British author. He corresponded tirelessly with members of the clergy, politicians and other people of influence, both in Britain and abroad. He also gathered evidence of inhumane treatment and cruelties inflicted on slaves in British colonies.



When the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was formed in 1787, Granville was seen as “father” of the movement and was elected chairman of the London committee. He lived to see the abolition of the slave trade on 25 March 1807, but died 20 years before slavery itself was abolished in British colonies.

Granville never married and after his death his papers passed to his niece's family who lived in Gloucestershire. They are now preserved for posterity in Gloucestershire Archives.

Local Dimension

At first, opposition to the slave trade was centred in London and came from a few individuals such as Granville Sharp. But public opinion gradually turned against the trade and by the 1790s it had become a matter of nationwide concern.



Anti Slavery Arch at Paganhill, Stroud

Many people in Gloucestershire became involved with the struggle, on both sides of the argument. Several prominent county families had connections with the slave trade. The Codringtons, who lived at Dodington Manor, owned sugar plantations in Barbados and Antigua. The largest of their plantations was Betty's Hope in Antigua where 300 slaves lived and worked. C B Codrington was MP for Tewkesbury when the campaign against the slave trade was at its height. In 1806, he was lobbied by his constituents who wanted him to support the abolition bill in Parliament.

After the slave trade was abolished in 1807, campaigners focused on bringing an end to slavery itself. The Anti-Slavery Society was active within the county, holding meetings and lectures. In 1834, when slavery in British colonies was finally abolished, Henry Wyatt of Paganhill, Stroud built a stone arch at the entrance of his estate to mark the occasion. It is the only surviving monument of its size and type in the county.

Modern Day Slavery

- 1807:** British transatlantic slave trade abolished
- 1834:** slavery in British colonies abolished
- 1948:** slavery outlawed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 1956:** slavery prohibited by the United Nations Convention
- 2007:** 12.3 million people identified as living in slavery (United Nations International Labour Organisation statistic)



Image of boy supplied by Anti Slavery International

The term slavery conjures up images of the past. Yet slavery still exists today, despite being banned in most countries. Modern day slavery takes various forms and affects men, women and children of all races. Although the term slavery is not always used, the conditions are the same.

A slave is someone who:

- is forced to work through physical or mental threat
- is owned or controlled by an "employer"
- is dehumanised and treated as property
- has restrictions placed on their freedom of movement.

Examples of modern day slavery include child labour; trafficking in people; the sex trade and exploitation of illegal migrant workers.

Abolitionists like Granville Sharp and thousands of ordinary people in Gloucestershire and elsewhere campaigned to end slavery and the slave trade. Visit the Inhuman Traffic pages on our website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives to find out what you can do to fight slavery in 2007.

Events

Inhuman Traffic Storytelling Performances offer an opportunity to meet up to four individual characters with very different perspectives of slavery:

Granville Sharp

Anti slavery campaigner

Mistress of the House

Wife of a plantation owner

Angela

A victim of domestic abuse

Dmitri

A human trafficker

FREE performances by Spaniel in the Works Theatre Company Ltd are scheduled as follows:

Actor John Bassett as Granville Sharp



Forest of Dean - Dean Heritage Centre 30th May & 22nd July
Gloucester - Gloucester City Museum 17th May
Tewkesbury - Tewkesbury Library 15th September
Cheltenham - Cheltenham Library 23rd May
Cirencester - Corinium Museum 26th October
Stroud - The Museum in the Park 6th October
Yate - Yate Heritage Centre 30th June

For further details and performance times visit our website or telephone: 01452 425295

Curriculum Resources

A FREE Education Pack is available from Gloucestershire Archives:

This contains Key Stage 2 activities linked to the SEAL Primary National Strategy "Say No to Bullying" theme and is suitable for pupils in Years 5 and 6. The pack also includes a range of suggested cross-curricular activities, a copy of the Inhuman Traffic PowerPoint exhibition, video clips and photocopies of original documents relating to slavery.

Full details are available from Gloucestershire Archives.

The resource pack is supported by an optional 30-minute fast moving, dramatic two-person performance, which looks at:

- what slavery is
- slavery as an abuse of power
- how slavery relates to bullying and racism
- the history of slavery
- the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Abolition
- modern day slavery



Gloucestershire Archives Ref RR210.9

Performances cost £250 (half day) or £350 (full day) and include a follow-up workshop to discuss the issues raised.

For further information or to book a performance please telephone: 01453 751925

or email: info@spanielworks.co.uk

Additional performances can be arranged by appointment.