

~ Timeline of Britain's slave trade history ~

featuring key dates for Southwark

This timeline includes key dates and events that led to the transatlantic slave trade. Southwark's significant connection to the trade and its eventual abolition in 1807 are included.

1492: Christopher Columbus, navigator, colonizer and one of the first Europeans to explore the Americas after the Vikings, sets sail on his first voyage.

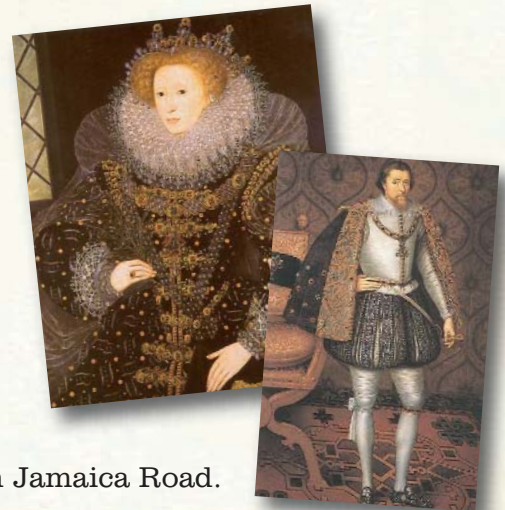
1562: John Hawkins is the first Englishman to voyage to Africa to participate in the transatlantic slave trade. His ship the *Jesus* sails from Deptford in October 1562.

1596: Queen Elizabeth I makes a law stating that there are too many Blackamoors (Africans) in England and that they are to be driven from the land.

1618: King James I starts the Company of Adventurers of London, which was granted a charter to trade in parts of Africa.



***1655:** England seizes Jamaica. Jamaica Road was probably named soon after Jamaica came under British rule. Jamaica House was a famous tavern and gardens in Jamaica Road.



1672: King Charles II, his brother James, The Duke of York and various London merchants form the Royal African Company to regulate the trade of enslaved Africans.

1688: The Glorious Revolution. This revolution is often viewed as the beginning of modern English parliamentary democracy and the end of royal absolutism. The Bill of Rights denied rights to Catholics and gave only limited toleration to nonconformist Protestants.

1713: Britain is granted the *asiento*, or the sole right to import an unlimited number of enslaved people to the Spanish Caribbean for 30 years.

***1724:** Thomas Guy, an investor in the South Sea that controlled Britain's monopoly to transport enslaved Africans to the Spanish Caribbean, leaves £200,000 to complete the hospital that bears his name.

***1727:** Edmund Halsey, the director of the South Sea Company, becomes MP for Southwark.

1730: The first Maroon War in Jamaica. Groups of enslaved Africans rebel and defeat British forces in the fight for their freedom.



*Denotes dates significant to the London borough of Southwark.



***1734:** William Hogarth paints Southwark Fair featuring an African trumpeter in the foreground.

***1740:** Baker and McKindsey Brook set up a sugar house in Tooley Street. Sugar grown by enslaved Africans in the Caribbean was one of the main products of the transatlantic slave trade.

***1752:** Sampson, an enslaved African from St Kitts, is recorded as a patient at Guy's Hospital.

***1758:** Lawrence Kent, approximately 16 years of age, is baptised at St George the Martyr.

1760: Tackey, an enslaved African, leads a slave rebellion in Jamaica.

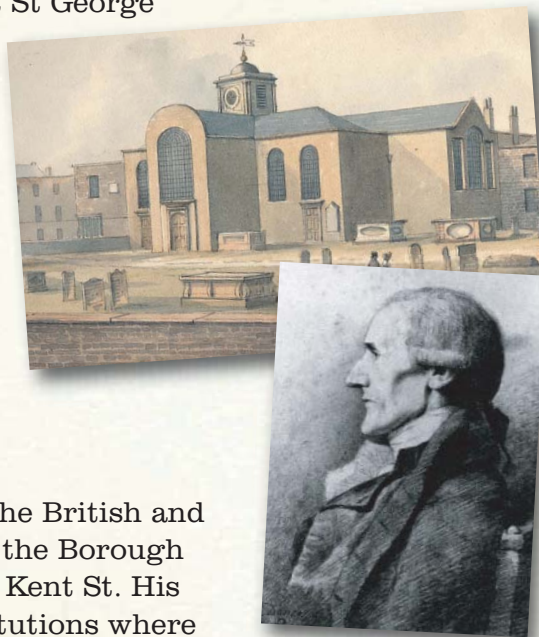
***1764:** Mary Gift, 22 years of age, is baptised at St Mary Magdalen in Bermondsey.

1765: In the case of Jonathan Strong, Granville Sharp challenges the status of enslaved African in England. Badly beaten, abandoned by his owner, Strong was recaptured and sold to be enslaved in the Caribbean. Granville Sharpe took up the case and Strong was freed.

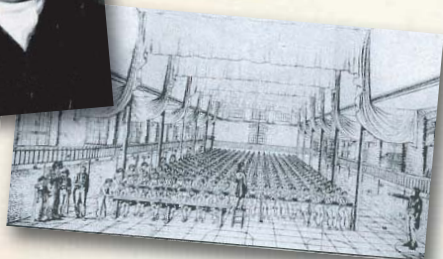
***1771:** William Peters 22 years old is baptised at St George the Martyr Church. Jane Young, a Black woman said to be about 21 years, is baptised at St George the Martyr Church.

1772: Resulting from the James Somerset Case, the Lord Chief Justice Mansfield rules that enslaved people in England cannot be forcibly removed to the Caribbean.

1775 to 1783: The American War of Independence or American Revolution. Thirteen Colonies, later the United States of America, gained independence from the British Empire. The Declaration of Independence was written in 1776.



***1778:** Joseph Lancaster, founder of the British and Foreign School Society (also known as the Borough Road School), is born in Southwark's Kent St. His school becomes one of the main institutions where Africans in England receive an education.



1783: 133 enslaved Africans are thrown overboard from the slave ship Zong. Slave owners claim and receive compensation from their insurance company.

1784: Charlotte, 24 years of age, is baptised at St Mary's in Rotherhithe.

1786: Thomas Clarkson publishes An Essay on Slavery and Commerce of the Human Species. Elizabeth Marshall, from Charles Town in South Carolina, is baptised at St Mary's Rotherhithe at 20 years of age.

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1787: Ottobah Cuguano publishes, "Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil and Wicked Traffic of the Slavery and Commerce of the Human Species". The Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave trade is founded.

***1788:** At Maze Pond in Southwark, Reverend James Dore gives a sermon on the evils of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

1789: The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa the African is published.

1789 to 1799: The French Revolution abolishes the absolute monarchy in favour of a government based on the principles of republic, citizenship and absolute rights (liberty, equality, fraternity). Slavery was temporarily abolished during the revolution, but not finally abolished until 1848.

1790: Parliament rejects William Wilburforce's first abolition bill.

1791: Thomas Paine publishes Rights of Man in England. Many slavery protesters considered Rights of Man as their bible. Paine's influence can also be seen in the American Declaration of Independence.

1795: The Second Maroon War. The Maroons were a large group of escaped Africans who fought a lengthy guerrilla war against the British forces in Jamaica. The Maroons were granted their freedom in 1839.

1804: Haiti is declared the first black republic outside of Africa. This follows 13 years of attempts by the English, French and Spanish to restore St Domingue as a slave colony.

1807: Parliament passes the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

***1810:** George Alexander Gratton, an African Caribbean child known as the Spotted Boy, is baptised at Newington Church.

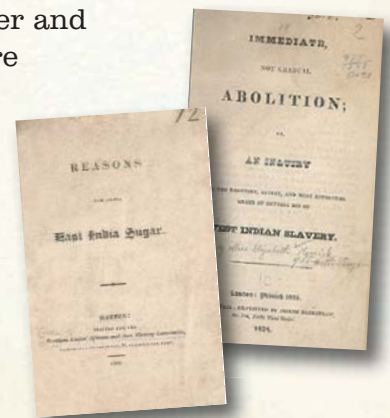
***1814:** Three African youths, who were placed in the Borough Road School by the African Institution, are sent to Sierra Leone to become missionaries.

1824: Elizabeth Heyrick publishes, The Immediate Not Gradual Abolition.

***1828:** The Peckham Ladies' African and Anti Slavery Association publish their pamphlet.

***1831:** Mary Dudley, a Peckham resident who was a Quaker minister and co-secretary of the London Female Anti Slavery Society, helps secure freedom and a place at the Borough Road School for an unnamed African woman.

1833: The Slavery Abolition Act passes in parliament, finally freeing enslaved Africans in the Caribbean and some other British Colonies. The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave Related by Herself is published.



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