

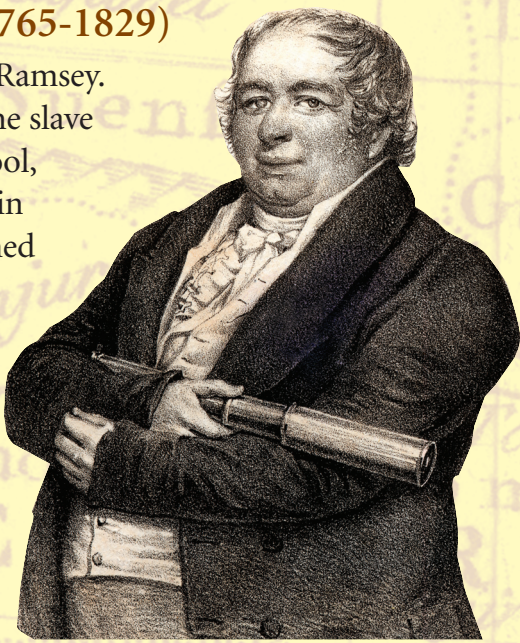
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Manx Mariners: The Captains

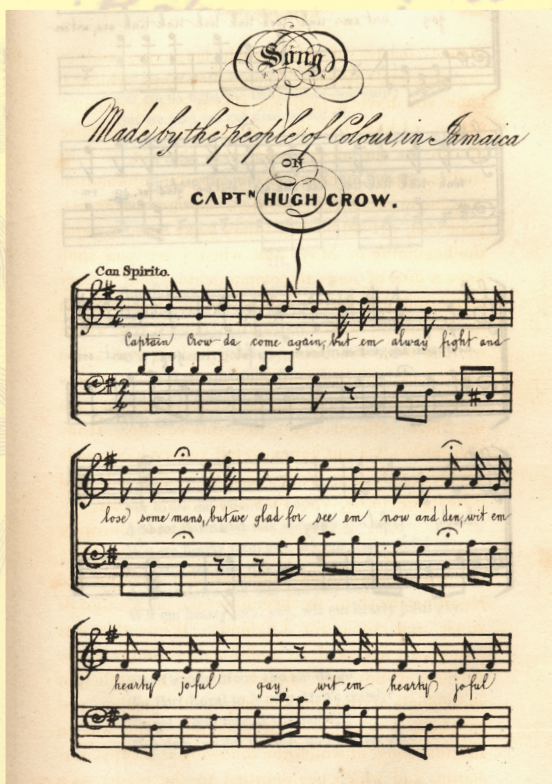
At least 80 Manxmen sailed as slave trade captains from Liverpool on more than 280 Guinea voyages.

Hugh Crow (1765-1829)

Crow was born at Ramsey. After working in the slave trade from Liverpool, he built Crowville in Maughold. Published posthumously, Crow's *Memoirs* describe his career as a Guinea captain – he was in command on seven separate voyages.



Crow emphasized his good relationship with the slaves delivered by his vessels. The published song supports this impression.

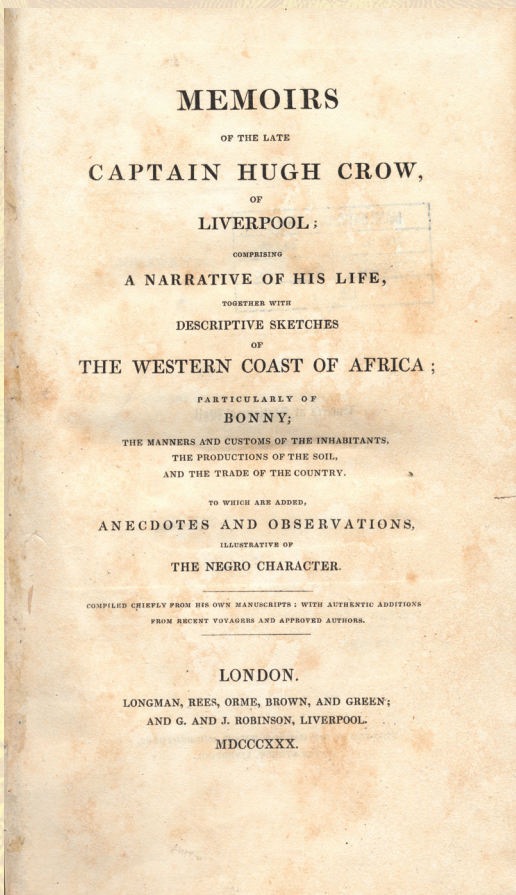


Slave song score.

Although Crow called slavery 'a necessary evil', he wrote:

As I have in the course of my narrative made frequent allusions to the unfortunate slaves; lest my remarks be misconstrued, I owe it to myself, here to disclaim being a friend of slavery. God forbid that I should favour a system through which my fellow creatures should suffer any species of oppression, hardship or injustice!

Title-page of Hugh Crow's *Memoirs*.



George Cannon (1766-1811)

Cannon attended his local Mathematical School (for navigational instruction) at Peel between 1781 and 1783. As first mate, he took command of the *Iris* when Captain John Spencer died at Angola in 1798. Cannon delivered her slaves at Jamaica, before returning to Liverpool in April 1799.

Less than three months after returning to Liverpool, the *Iris* sailed for Africa with Cannon as captain. The *Minerva* was his last Guinea command, this voyage ending in August 1803. Cannon died at sea in July 1811.

H.	K.	F.	Course.	Winds.	Remarks.
1	1		N.W. 1/2 S.W.	East	Light sails and chain weather
2	1				Expended 169 Gams and
3	1				62 5/9 remains 8 Coues Mac
4	1				and 3 1/4 remains 2 1/2 rice
5	1				Buried one Male Slave:
6	1				Middle Part 2 ^d weat
7	1				Latit: a Gentle Breeze fr
8	1				the Northward:
9	1		N.W. 1/2 S.W.	North.	People Employed Sp
10	1				ing Spun yarn Getting th
11	2				Pinice repaired and
12	2				Painting 2 ^d
1	3				Observed 2 of the Slaves h
2	3				ing Close Eyes:
3	3				Latit: Obs ^d 10. 34 North
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Cannon's logbook entry for Thursday 11 October 1798.

George Cannon's journal of two of his slave trading voyages has survived. As well as nautical matters, Cannon records how the crew were employed and how many provisions were left. He also makes frequent entries about the general health, sickness and, at times, death of the slaves under his care.

The *Will* of Liverpool beating off a French Privateer in 1800 as depicted in Crow's *Memoirs*. The inscription on Crow's Maughold tomb reads: 'Captain Crow commanded the ships *Will*, *Ceres*, *Mary* and *Kitty's Amelia* with much credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his owners. He also fought several actions with the enemy for which he received repeated marks of approbation of the merchants and underwriters of London and Liverpool 'an honest man' the noblest work of God'.



C. of Good Hope