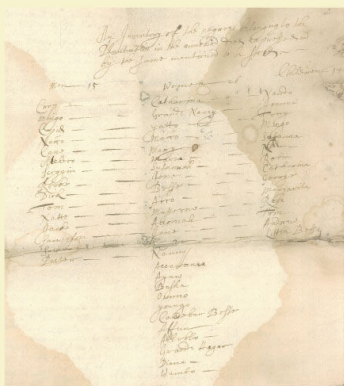


SLAVERY & THE EAST RIDING

Hull, unlike the ports of Bristol and Liverpool, was not directly involved with the Atlantic slave trade, and imports of tobacco, sugar, rum and tar, the main products of slavery, were limited.



31. LIST OF SLAVES ON THE PLANTATION IN BARBADOS ACQUIRED BY SIR ROBERT LEGARD OF ANLABY, EAST RIDING

The young William

Wilberforce would, however, have been aware of the slave trade and of the wealth accrued by many English families from slave plantations.

Abel Smith, William's uncle and the senior partner in the Hull firm of Wilberforce and Smith, following Robert Wilberforce's death, owned sugar plantations in Jamaica. The Wilberforces' neighbour on the High Street during William's childhood was James Hamilton, merchant, who imported tar produced on slave plantations in North Carolina and Virginia. Other residents of the East Riding owned slaves either on plantations in America and the West Indies or as personal servants in their households.

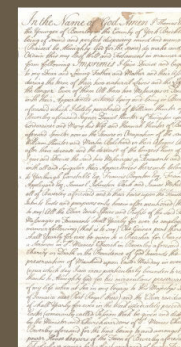
It became fashionable in the early 18th century to have a Black servant, enslaved or free. They were a symbol of status and wealth; trained in domestic skills and social graces the Black servant was often elaborately dressed to impress visitors.

Richard, 3rd Earl of Burlington, who spent part of every year on his estate at Londesborough near Market Weighton in the first half of the 18th century, had Black servants. They were paid wages and were presumably freed slaves. One named Joseph Caesar, baptised at Chiswick church in 1725, became Lady Burlington's footman, and when out of favour was threatened with being sent permanently to Londesborough.

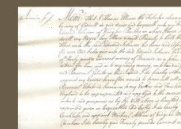
In the 1720s Sir William St Quintin had a Black servant named John Scampston at Scampston Hall and in the early 1740s the vicar of Kilwick on the Wolds prepared for baptism 'one call'd Beswick, a Black, who is about twenty years of age; he was born in the East Indies, sold to Mr William Draper' of Beswick Hall.



32. RICHARD, 3RD EARL OF BURLINGTON WITH HIS WIFE AND FAMILY



33. WILL OF THOMAS ELLINOR



34. ADDITION TO THOMAS ELLINOR'S WILL

30. GRAVESTONE TO FISHER MURRAY, BLACK SERVANT, IN ELVINGTON CHURCHYARD, NEAR YORK. (David Neave) Fisher, from Madeira, was a faithful servant in the family of Thomas Cheap for 60 years until his death in 1821.



31. LIST OF SLAVES ON THE PLANTATION IN BARBADOS ACQUIRED BY SIR ROBERT LEGARD OF ANLABY, EAST RIDING, ON HIS MARRIAGE IN 1663. (East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service) Twenty-six female slaves, 15 males and 14 children were to be sold. Many of the names of the slaves are English, such as Tom, Dick, Susannah and Andrew, but others are evidently African, such as Mingo, Basha, Wambo and Nando.

32. RICHARD, 3RD EARL OF BURLINGTON WITH HIS WIFE AND FAMILY by JEAN BAPTISTE VAN LOO 1739 (@Devonshire Collection, Chatsworth. Reproduced by permission of Chatsworth Settlement Trustees.) James Cambridge, their young Black servant, stands behind Lady Burlington's chair holding brushes in his right hand. That year Cambridge was bought a coat of 'shalloon' with 'dimity lining, velvet to the neck and fustian pockets'. The painting, which used to hang on the main staircase at Londesborough Hall, is now at Chatsworth House.

33. WILL OF THOMAS ELLINOR, JUNIOR, BRICKLAYER (East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service) Thomas Ellinor made his will when at Beverley in 1726, leaving property to build an almshouse and fund a sermon in St Mary's church every Easter Monday, the day when his life was miraculously preserved when on a voyage to Jamaica.

34. ADDITION (CODICIL) TO THOMAS ELLINOR'S WILL (East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service) Thomas Ellinor added a codicil to his will in 1728 when he was living in the house of Edward Johnson, a barber, at Kingston, Jamaica, to whom he left his 'Negro boy Slave named Beverly'.



35. A FEMALE SLAVE BEING BRANDED ON A WEST INDIAN PLANTATION. (WILBERFORCE HOUSE)



36. NORWOOD HOUSE, BEVERLEY

37. BISHOP BURTON.

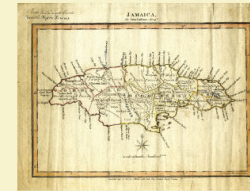
The family fortunes of two landowners prominent in the East Riding at the end of the 18th century, William Beverley of Norwood House, Beverley and Richard Watt of Bishop Burton Hall, were founded on the ownership of slave plantations.

RUN AWAY

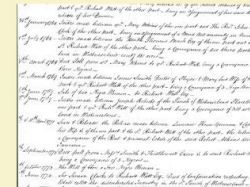
from Blandfield in the County of Essex, a Negro Man named JOHN TWOPENCE, square and well set, about 4 feet 5 or 6 inches high, 40 Years of Age, of a yellowish Complexion, a good Countenance, and very sensible and plausible in his Discourse. He has carried with him, it is presumed, a blue Fearnought Waistcoat with white Metal Buttons, and sundry other such things as Negroes are usually clothed in. Whoever delivers him to me at Blandfield shall receive a Reward of 40s. besides what the Law allows.

ROBERT BEVERLEY

40. ADVERT FROM THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE 11 APRIL 1777



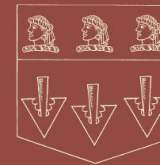
41. PLAN OF JAMAICA 1805



42. EXTRACT FROM A SCHEDULE OF MR WATT'S DEEDS RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF LAND AND SLAVES IN JAMAICA.

Richard Watt came from a humble background and was a carriage driver in Liverpool before becoming a seaman on a ship trading with the West Indies in the 1750s. He settled in Jamaica where he prospered and built up an estate of over 2,000 acres worked by a large number of slaves. Watt returned to Liverpool and traded as a West Indies merchant. With the wealth he obtained from his sugar plantations he bought the Bishop Burton estate in 1783 and the Speke Hall estate near Liverpool in 1795. Richard Watt died in 1796 and was succeeded by his nephew, Richard, who made his home at Bishop Burton.

SLAVE OWNERS



43. THE ARMS OF RICHARD WATT



44. A SLAVE CUTTING SUGAR CANE.

Robert Beverley I, great-great-grandfather of William Beverley, emigrated to Virginia from East Yorkshire in 1663. There he acquired extensive estates and he and his descendants became leading figures in the government and society of Virginia. William, grandson of Robert Beverley, settled at Blandfield, in Essex County, Virginia, and on his death in 1756 left his wife all his plantations 'together with all my slaves, cattle, horses, hogs, and sheep usually kept thereon'. By 1788 his son Robert Beverley III had 540 slaves on the tobacco plantation at Blandfield.

William Beverley of Norwood House was the eldest son of Robert Beverley III and like his father went to Trinity College, Cambridge before entering the law. He chose to settle in England and distanced himself from his slave-owning background. In 1791, when he was already living at Beverley, William appeared as a witness before a House of Commons Committee on the Slave Trade. He spoke of the severity of the treatment of slaves on Virginian plantations and the way they had 'no legal redress for ill usage by their masters'.



38. BLANDFIELD, ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA



39. MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTION IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEVERLEY

36. NORWOOD HOUSE, BEVERLEY was built around 1760 by the wealthy lawyer Jonathan Midgeley. (David Neave) In 1792 William Beverley eloped to Gretna Green with Mary Midgeley, and they inherited Norwood House three years later.

37. BISHOP BURTON. The Watt family, with their fortune from the West Indies, transformed Bishop Burton into one of the East Riding's most picturesque villages.

38. BLANDFIELD, ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA. This fine Colonial mansion was built on the 3,500 acre Blandfield plantation on the Rappahannock River between 1769 and 1773 by Robert Beverley III and remained in that family until 1983. This was the childhood home of William Beverley of Norwood House, Beverley.

39. MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTION IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEVERLEY to Mary Beverley who died in 1805. (David Neave)

40. ADVERT CONCERNING A RUNAWAY SLAVE FROM ROBERT BEVERLEY'S BLANDFIELD PLANTATION IN 1777. In 1860 William B. Beverley still had 78 slaves at Blandfield. Slavery was abolished in the United States of America in 1865. There were 225 African Americans in the USA with the surname Beverley or Beverley in 1870, most of whom were probably descendants of slaves from Blandfield.

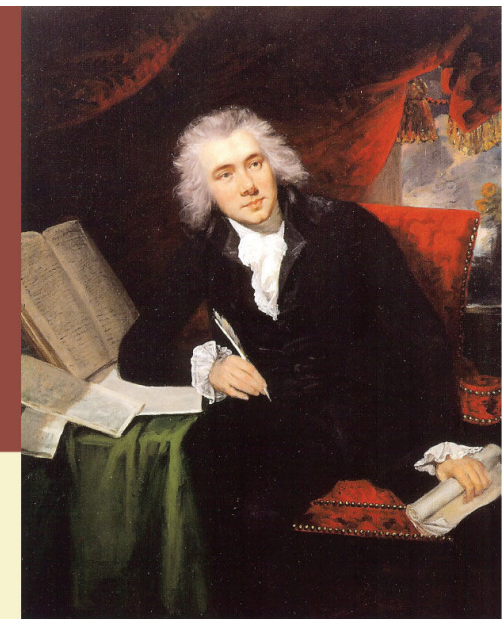
41. PLAN OF JAMAICA 1805 (Wilberforce House) The main plantations owned by Richard Watt of Bishop Burton were in Westmorland Parish in the south-west corner of the Island of Jamaica.

42. EXTRACT FROM A SCHEDULE OF MR WATT'S DEEDS RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF LAND AND SLAVES IN JAMAICA. (Hull University Archives) Richard Watt purchased his first slaves in 1751.

43. THE ARMS OF RICHARD WATT (d. 1796). Richard Watt proclaimed the source of his wealth by having three blackamores' heads on his shield of arms. His heirs at Bishop Burton chose to adopt other arms.

44. A SLAVE CUTTING SUGAR CANE. (Wilberforce House) Sugar and rum were the main products of the Watt family's Jamaican plantations. In 1796 Richard Watt sold 365 hogsheads of Jamaican sugar for £22, 937.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, MP FOR YORKSHIRE



48. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE MP BY JOHN RISING 1788.

45. POLL BOOK FOR THE YORKSHIRE ELECTION 1807 (East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service) Until 1870 the way individuals voted was not secret and was often published in printed poll books.

There were very few East Riding towns or villages where Wilberforce did not get support from at least half the voters. At Pocklington 89 per cent of the voters used one of their votes for Wilberforce. In contrast all eleven voters from Bishop Burton supported Milton and only three also voted for Wilberforce. It may be significant that the slave-owning squire Richard Watt plumped for Milton.

46. ELECTION POSTER (Wilberforce House)

47. LETTER FROM WILLIAM WILBERFORCE TO THOMAS GRIMSTON of Kilnwick on the Wolds, 1803 concerning local volunteer forces during the Napoleonic Wars. (East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service)

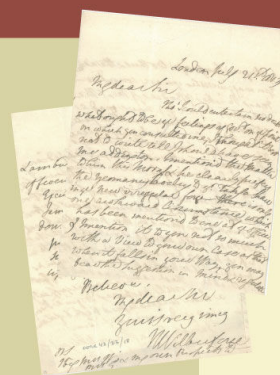
Wilberforce was an active constituency MP. There are numerous letters to and from him in the records of local landed families in the archives at Beverley and Hull and he occasionally returned to East Yorkshire. His diary in the 1790s notes visits to the Grimstons at Grimston Garth, the Hildyards at Winestead, the Barnards at South Cave, the Langdales at Houghton, the Sykes at West Ella, the Williamsons at Wilton, the Creykes at Marton and his old schoolmaster Kingsman Baskett at Pocklington.

48. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE MP BY JOHN RISING 1788. (Wilberforce House)

Not long after he became MP for Yorkshire, Wilberforce experienced his 'great change' bringing him a deeper experience of Christianity. In October 1787 he wrote in his journal: 'God Almighty has set before me two great objects, the Suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners'. This picture was commissioned by Lord Muncaster of Muncaster Castle and Warton.

COUNTY OF YORK.		HARTHILL.		1807.	
Mr. Wilberforce	100	Mr. Wilberforce	100	Mr. Wilberforce	100
Mr. Grimston	0	Mr. Grimston	0	Mr. Grimston	0
Mr. Hartley	0	Mr. Hartley	0	Mr. Hartley	0
Mr. ...	0	Mr. ...	0	Mr. ...	0

45. POLL BOOK FOR THE YORKSHIRE ELECTION 1807



47. LETTER FROM WILLIAM WILBERFORCE TO THOMAS GRIMSTON

On leaving Cambridge University Wilberforce decided to enter Parliament rather than the family business in Hull.

In 1780, only 18 days after his twenty-first birthday, William Wilberforce was returned as a Member of Parliament for Hull. The defeated candidate was David Hartley, the former MP, who in 1776 had been the first to introduce a debate on the evils of the slave trade in the House of Commons.

Wilberforce was again returned for Hull in 1784, but declined the seat on being

chosen as one of the MPs for Yorkshire, a constituency described as 'the first in the kingdom, in territory, population and opulence'. Wilberforce remained MP for Yorkshire until 1812 but only once, in 1807, did he have to fight an election.

As elsewhere the Yorkshire constituency was represented by two MPs, and the electorate, males owning freehold property valued at 40 shillings per year, had two votes each. The expense of a contest was a deterrent to candidates and there had been no Yorkshire election since 1742. There were, however, three candidates in 1807: Wilberforce standing as an Independent Tory, and two members of wealthy aristocratic Yorkshire families, Henry Lascelles, a Tory, and Lord Milton, a Whig.

Mr. Wilberforce's ELECTION.

THE FREEHOLDERS of the COUNTY of YORK, Resident in the Town and Neighbourhood of HULL, are earnestly requested to meet Mr. WILBERFORCE at the TOWN HALL, in SCULCOATES, THIS DAY, precisely at TWELVE o'Clock.

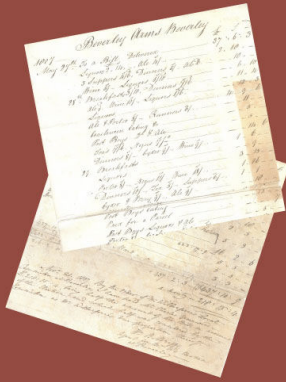
FRIDAY MORNING, 15th May, 1807.

ROBERT FECK, Printer of The HULL PACKET, Sculcoates, HULL.

46. ELECTION POSTER

'Nothing since the days of the revolution has ever presented to the world such a scene as has been for fifteen days and nights passing within this great county. Repose or rest have been unknown in it, except it was seen in a messenger, totally worn out, asleep upon his post-horse, or on his carriage. Every day the roads in every direction, to and from every remote corner of the county have been covered with vehicles loaded with voters; and barouches, curricles, gigs, flying wagons, military cars with eight horses to them, crowded sometimes with forty voters, have been scouring the country, leaving not the smallest chance for the quiet traveller to urge his humble journey, or find a chair at an inn to sit down upon.'

York Herald 6 June 1807



49. EXPENSES AT THE BEVERLEY ARMS DURING THE 1807 ELECTION



50. NETTING A YORKSHIRE SPORT

49. TORY EXPENSES AT THE BEVERLEY ARMS DURING THE 1807 ELECTION (East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service)

The bill for the costs during the election from 20 May to the 7 June totalled £437 10s 9d. This included £159 12s for 8 horses for 19 days work taking voters from Beverley to York.

50. NETTING A YORKSHIRE SPORT, JUNE 5 1807 (East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service)

Three East Riding gentlemen, Captain Creyke and his father Colonel Creyke from Marton Hall and John Greame, from nearby Sewerby Hall, all Tories and strong supporters of Wilberforce, are being 'netted' by supporters of the Whig Lord Milton. In the distance can be seen a fishing boat on wheels carrying voters from Filey to York. Colonel Creyke was an old friend and frequent correspondent of Wilberforce.

51. FINAL STATE OF THE POLL (Wilberforce House)

The number of votes cast each day for the candidates. It was an exciting election with the fluctuating fortunes of the candidates revealed each evening when the state of the poll was published. Great efforts were made to bring every voter to York, no matter the distance or how aged or infirm. It was on the 4th day that Wilberforce obtained the first place that he retained until the end of the election, but Milton was in third position from the 4th to 13th day.

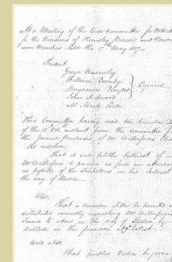
THE YORKSHIRE ELECTION OF 1807

ELECTION FOR YORKSHIRE.			
STATE OF THE POLL,			
(FROM THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE,			
From the Commencement, Wednesday, May 20, to the			
good CLOSE, Friday, June 5, 1807.			
WILBERFORCE,	MILTON,	LASCCELLES,	
1st Day 721	608	774	
5d. — 923	1293	915	
10d. — 1173	1800	1010	
15d. — 1422	1182	1355	
20d. — 1611	1057	1463	
25d. — 1533	948	1159	
30d. — 956	871	845	
35d. — 756	607	659	
40d. — 660	597	593	
45d. — 459	414	465	
50d. — 487	619	504	
55d. — 373	505	393	
60d. — 283	471	341	
65d. — 281	392	401	
70d. — 230	362	334	
Aggregate 11,908	11,177	10,980	
MAJORITY.			
Mr. Wilberforce over Lord Milton, 631.			
Lord Milton over Mr. Lascelles, 187.			
TO BE HAD OF R. TAYLOR, PRINTER, WHITEHART- GATE, BULL.			

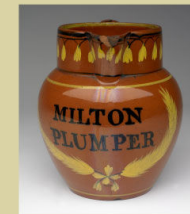
51. FINAL STATE OF THE POLL

Wilberforce had a great following through his attention to county business, his appealing personality, and his untiring, and recently successful, campaign against the slave trade. Lascelles from Harewood, on the other hand, came from a family whose fortune and position was largely founded on slave plantations in Barbados. Milton, only just 21, was the son of Lord Fitzwilliam, and he had strong support from West Riding clothiers.

Voting took place over 15 days in the Castle Yard in York and 22,263 voters from all over the vast county converged on the city. It was a close fought contest with Wilberforce and Milton returned as MPs. Lascelles lost by only 188 votes. In the East Riding Wilberforce received 77 per cent of the votes, Lascelles 50 per cent and Milton 37 per cent.



52. ACCOUNTS OF THE BEVERLEY COMMITTEE



53. MILTON PLUMPER JUG

52. ACCOUNTS OF THE BEVERLEY COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE AT THE 1807 ELECTION (Hull University Archives).

The active members of the committee were William Beverley of Norwood House, Benjamin Blaydes of Lairgate Hall and John Lockwood, attorney. They sought subscriptions, canvassed support and appointed agents at the Tiger Inn and Beverley Arms Inn from where they arranged carriages to take voters to York. Voters were given a guinea 'expenses'. The Beverley committee spent £1,035 on the election. The election cost Lascelles and Milton around £100,000 each, but Wilberforce's expenses were less than £30,000, all from voluntary subscriptions.

53. JUG WITH MOTTO 'MILTON PLUMPER' (Wilberforce House)

With every elector having two votes, it was of particular advantage to a candidate if the elector 'plumped' for him; that is only making use of one of his votes. Most of Wilberforce's and Lascelles's votes were shared but Milton had almost 9,000 plumpers out of a total of 11,177 votes.