

Black people in Redbridge

Church records from Wanstead and Woodford show there were a small number of Black people living there during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Baptismal and burial records from St. Mary's Church, Woodford and St. Mary's Church, Wanstead provide a small glimpse into their world.

We do not know where these individuals were born, although Africa or the Caribbean seems the most likely.

Most appear to be servants and probably received similar treatment to their English counterparts as it was a sign of status to have a Black servant. Onosimus, for example, was a young Black servant of Sir Caesar Child of Claybury Hall and was buried in Wanstead on 15 April 1698. Caesar had been born in India where his father was Governor of Bombay in the East India Company.

There were as many as 10,000 Black people living in London by the mid-18th century, made up of free and enslaved people.

The legal status of enslaved Africans in Britain was unclear at this time and a court ruling of 1772 decided that enslaved people could not be sent back to the colonies against their will.

It is highly likely that those Black people living in Wanstead and Woodford arrived there through their employer's links to slavery or empire.

the born
 on the
 r 30 pan
 d 28
 d 29 1507

October 21st Elizabeth Harvey was Buried
 December 31st Humphrey the son of Humphrey & Anne Rudd was Buried
 January 4th Robert the son of William & Elizabeth Martin was Buried
 January 11th William the son of John Godwin of y^e Parish of
 12th St George Buttolph London was Buried
 January 18th Henry Bampton Bailiff to S^r Josiah Child
 was Buried
 March 23rd Ambrose Everett servant to S^r Caesar Child was Buried

1698

April 11th Sarah Paine of S^t Michaels Cornhill London was Buried
 April 15th Onosimus S^r Caesar Child's Black Boy was Buried
 June 6th M^r Barnard Child the second son of S^r Josiah
 Child Baronett was Buried - he died of the
 Small Pox on his Birth day, being y^e 5th of June
 in the Twenty first year of his age

November 19th Sarah y^e Daughter of William & Eliz. Chapman Bur
 Ditto - 24th William y^e Son of Anthony & Mary Stockden Buried
 March 12th William Mayhugh - - - - - was Buried
 April 7th William Martin 1699 - - - - - was Buried
 April 13th David the son of Joseph & Martha } was Buried
 Jones of y^e Parish of S^t Helens London }
 April 30th John Williams an Infant - - - - - was Buried
 May 23rd Nicholas y^e son of David & Rebekah Sewks } was Buried
 of White Chappell Parish in London }
 June 19th Martha Prettyman of the Parish of } was Buried
 S^t Christopher London - - - - - }

Buried
 Buried

Wanstead

April 15th 1698 Onosimus - Sir Caesar Child's Black Boy was Buried

82 Samuel Beresford:
Some of Roland Beresford Gentleman was buried in the new isle of
the Church. hued by the power of Sir Thomas St George Knight. Aug: 12.
was buried in wollen as appereth by an
affidavit before Sir Richard Pigot certified within
the time limited by the Act.

Anne Harris:
Widow was buried in woollen according to the Act of Parliament as
appereeth by a Certificate made before Sir Rich: Pigot Justice of Peace:
Octob: 16: 78.

Also a poore & travelling man unknowne by name dyed in the barne of
Mr Christopher ... it was buried in like manner about said. Octob:
11. (78.) Also an other poore man unknowne by name dyed at the
house of Thomas Rampling was buried in like manner about said. Octo:
19 (78.)

Elizabeth Harris:
Widow was buried in like manner about written: Novemb: 4. (78)
George Bartholomew
... buried in the house of Thomas Bent, and there dyed was buried Dec:
14: in manner about: said.

Mistress Elizabeth White: (the new wife
deceased wife of Kerelme White Gentleman was buried in
in woollen according to the Act of Parliament, as appereth by a
Certificate of Susana Aldro made before Sir Richard Pigot
Knt. Justice of Peace. Febr: 5. 78.

James Powell:
1679
was buried in woollen according to the Act of Parliament, as appereth
by a Certificate of Jane Mead of the Parish of Woodford
Essex before Sir Richard Pigot Knt Justice of Peace 24. Marc: 31.

1679 Thomas Brant Apr 18. 1679
was buried in woollen according to the Act of Part:
as appereth by a Certificate. dar 4^e day above written
Mary Newman
Abigail Newman a child was buried in like manner
as appereth by a certificate of the same date.

John Filstead
son of Henry Filstead late of this parish was buried
in wollen as appereth by a Certificate. Apr 2. 79

A child of Wm miller was buried in woollen but
no certificate brought wth the ministers box within the
time limited

Merlin Brington
was buried in wollen. 19 Ap: as appereth by a
Certificate.

Mingo a blackamore belonging to widow Johnson
was buried in woollen according to the Act of Part:
as appereth by certificate 4 of Feb: 1679
Ano. 1679

Marie thorough good
Esq: was buried in
ment as appereth by
the day afore writ

Elizabeth Ensal
buried June 1
a Certificate.

Edward Coyt was buried
Certificate.

Barbara Ashby was buried
Certificate. John Cal
ken as appereth by a Certificate

Margaret, of Aire Hall
Ford, wife buried in woollen
and pigot one of the Kings M
Aug: 20. (79) Marie W

Widow was buried Augu
from Sir Richard Pigot
for the Countie of Essex

Anne K
Widow was buried Sept
before Sir Richard Pigot

Gustanna
was buried Sept: 20. 79.
Sir Richard Pigot one
John Fite
was buried.

Woodford
Mingo a blackamore belonging to Widow Johnson was buried in woollen
according to the Act of Parliament as approved by certificate
Ano. [in the year]1679

1706. Gother Edward a Tayl. B. W. Octob. 28th
 East Mary D. of Jan. & W. m. B. W. 8th 22nd
 Watts William of y^e Parish B. W. Nov. 2nd
 Newman Witt. Glazien B. W. 9th 21st
 Godfrey M. Calkers. D. of M^r & P^r J^r Interd in a Vault of 2nd fth
 in to the Rec^d for Erecting & Vault 15th
 Radley Jos. S. of Joane & John B. W. 9th 21st
 Morris Mary D. of Judith & Joh. B. W. Nov. 29th
 Harling Martha D. of Mart. & Humph. 1st August 10. 15th
 Bird Mary D. of Ann & William B. W. 10th 20th
 Graves Tho. S. of Edm. & Tho. B. W. 10th 21st
 Bromfild Eliz. D. of Mary & J. J^r B. W. 10th 29th
 Jackson Ralph Nur. Child at Tho. Galscock's B. W. Jan. 14th
 Thoroughgood David S. of Christian & David B. W. Jan. 24th
 Smyth Jo. Nur. Child of Mary & J^r B. W. Feb. 3rd
 Harvey Eliz Certificate B. W. March 5th
 King Bridges Nur. Child B. W. March 9th
 Hinton Alice Vidua Antiqua B. W. Marcy 16th
 1705. Robjohn John Labo. B. W. April 9th
 Banister Tho. S. of Mary & Joseph Nur. Child B. W. April 9th
 Popler Brnt. Nigro to Cap^t. Brown B. W. April 9th

Woodford
Benjamin Poplar – Nigro [negro] to Captain Brown, B.W
[buried in woollens – a legal requirement] April 9 1707

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A register of Baptismes according to a late Act of
Parliam^t.

1695. Bevis Charles son of Mary & Edmund Bevis Yeoman was
baptized May. 26.

Swithin Anne daughter of Sarah & Richard Swithin peni-
oner was bapt: May. 26.

Walker M^{rs} Richard daughter of Mad^m Dorothy & M^r James
Walker Gentlemⁿ. was bapt: May. 30.

Wobbey Mary daughter of Frances & George Wobbey La-
bourer was bapt: June. 9.

Lee Jane daughter of ~~John~~ Mary & John Lee cooper was baptized
July. 21.

Rose Thomas son of Sarah & W^m Rose Labourer was baptized
Sept: 4.

Hawkins Elizabeth daughter of Clare & Alexander Hawkins but-
cher was bapt: Sept: 8.

Finchly Elizabeth daughter of Elizabeth, & Thomas Finchly
Penitoner was bapt: Sept: 11.

George Richard son of Elizabeth & William George Labourer,
was bapt: Sept. 22.

Hastling Thomas son of Jane & John Hastling jun^r. baker. was baptized
~~Sept:~~ Oct:
Sept: 25.

Morris John son of Elizabeth, & ~~John~~ Morris Labourer was bapt:
~~Sept:~~ Oct:
Sept: 28. ^{Mary}

Seabrook Ephraim son of Christopher Seabrook Yeoman was bapt:
~~Sept:~~ Oct:
Sept: 31.

Carter Nathaneel son of Bridget & John Yeoman was bapt:
Nov: 2.

Novo Charles a black at Mr. Lackstons was bapt: Nov: 1.

Woodford

Novo, Charles – a black at Mr Lackstons was baptised November 1 [1695]

~~Burrell~~
Burrell Thomas son of Thomas a labourer & Elisabeth was
bapt: J^y 13.

Burrell John son of John a Butcher & Sarah was bapt:
Aug^t 18.

Cole W^m a bastard by Jane & W^m
was bapt: Aug^t 18.

Eusted W^m son of Benjamin a butcher & Elisabeth was bapt:
Aug^t 20.

Pricklove Mathew son of Rich^d. a carpenter & Mary was
bapt: Sept: 6.

East Elisabeth daught^r of Jane & William a Bricklayer
was bapt: October. 22.

x Pompey George a black at Mad^m Bettons was bap-
tised Oct: 27.

Rogers Thomas son of Marg^t & Thomas carpenter. was bap-
tised. Dec.

x Onslow Lucretia daughter of Mad^m Susannah & the
+ Honourable Foot Onslow Esq^r was baptised at London
January. 21.

Newman Charles son of Mary & Charles labourer was
bapt: Jan^y 28.

Martin Elisabeth daughter of Sarah & Thomas labourer was
bapt: Jan^y 31.

Shelley Anlaby^{8th} son of M^{rs} Susannah & M^r Peter Min^r.
bapt: 17. of March, born Feb: 1

1700. Plumb Rebecca daughter of Jane & John husbandman
was bapt: March. 31.

Harvey Mary daughter of Mary & Eliab^r labourer was baptised

Adley O
was

x Child M
J^r. G
baptiz

Harling
bapt

Wood O
bapt

Ingram
baptiz

Newell &
was ba

Child M
bapt: (

Carter
bapt:

Cowlan
Cather

Smith
was

Burrell
bap

Snow H
bap

Adams
wa

North
bap

Woodford

George Pompey – a black at Madam Bettons was baptised October 27 [1699]

1766 Baptisms

John Shepard M.A. was instituted to the Rectory of Woodford April 11, and inducted April 26. 1766.

- Jan: 19 Saltwell..... William, Son of John and Mary.
 March 2 Arnold..... James, illegitimate Son of Anne.
 3 Windsor..... William, a Negro Servant.
 9 Ward..... James, Son of James and Jane.
 16 Franklyn..... Daniel, Son of Daniel and Anne.
 16 Leverton..... Andrew, Sons of Andrew and Mary.
 16 Buttifoot..... Thomas, Son of William & Elizabeth.
 23 Warton..... Thomas, Son of a Traveller.
 April 1. Palmore..... Joshua, Son of Clement and Sarah.
 6 Totterdale..... Thomas, Son of John & Elizabeth.
 May 4 Cannell..... James, Son of Isaac and Sarah.
 11 Clarke..... Joseph, Son of Joseph & Jane.
 June 22 Ivory..... Elizabeth, Daughter of Thomas & Mary.
 29 Judd..... Sarah, Daughter of James & Elizabeth.
 July 6 Skeggs..... Charles, Son of Thomas & Anne.
 20 Griggs..... Thomas, Son of William & Mary.
 20 Wood..... James, Son of Henry & Anne.
 27 Bocoock..... Elizabeth, Daughter of James & Sarah.
 Aug: 3. Towndrow... George, Son of William & Mary.
 22. Freeman... Anne Stuart, Daughter of Thomas & Sarah.
 Sept: 3 Knight..... William, Son of William & Elizabeth.
 21. Day..... James, Son of John & Sarah.
 21 Totterdale... Hannah, Daughter of George & Martha.
 28. Aimars... Richard Higgins, Son of Robert & Mary.

Woodford

William Windor – a Negro servant March 3 1766 [was baptised]