

200 YEARS ON...

In Memory of the Enslaved

Saul

Forced Labour on the Plantation

Sarah

The régime of forced labour on plantations was extremely harsh and the life expectancy of enslaved people was poor.

Matty

On sugar plantations enslaved people were generally organized into 'gangs'. The 'first gang', of adult men and women, did the hardest work in the fields. The 'second gang' of adolescents carried out

Mimro

'lighter' field tasks, and a 'third gang' of children carried out other duties.

William

The report shown in this cabinet provides immense detail about the individuals enslaved at the Hanson plantation in Barbados, which was owned by Sir John Berney, of Kirby Bedon Hall in Norfolk (pictured).

Fawcett

Firstly, the document tells us their names. Note how one is named after Berney's home, 'Kirby'.

McPherson

It also shows whether they are from Africa, or were born in the Caribbean.

Mary

The document shows the occupations of the enslaved at Hanson and how each was given a 'value'. Valuations reflected the racism, ageism and sexism integral to slaving society. Skilled men between eighteen and forty years old were given the highest value; women were generally not allowed to learn a trade, and so were seen as having less worth.

Philip

John

Note that the enslaved children are called 'small negroes', a term used, presumably, to assist the enslavers in treating them as 'stock' rather than humans.

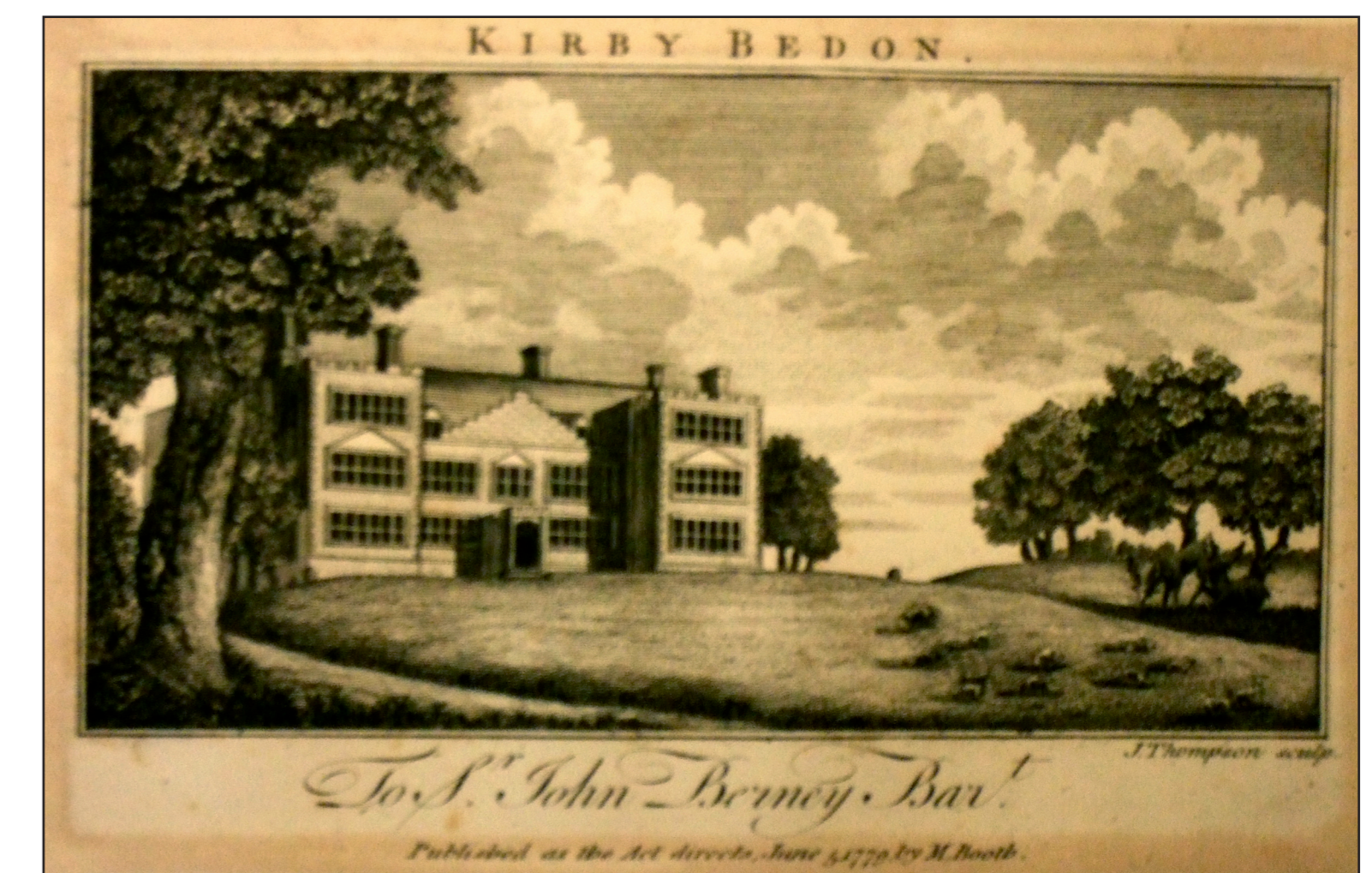
Rachael Wagg

William Wagg

James Lawford



'First Gang' cutting sugar cane on a plantation in Antigua



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