

archives

Abolition of the Slave Trade

In March 1807 a law banning slave trading by British vessels came into effect. Progress of the Bill through the Houses of Parliament during June 1806 was reported on the Island.

By 1807 many of the merchants in the Isle of Man who had made their fortunes in the slave trade had died. The greatest impact of abolition was on the mariners because a significant source of employment disappeared. Some returned to the Island whilst others stayed in Liverpool: Hugh Crow wrote his *Memoirs* and Douglas-born John Tobin used his connections with the West African coast to develop a lucrative palm oil trade to Liverpool.

Slavery within the British Empire was finally abolished when the Slavery Abolition Bill of 1833 came into force on 1 August 1834.

John Tobin (1763-1851)



John Tobin.



10 On the Motion of Mr. Fox, a resolution to the following effect was adopted by the House of Commons, viz "That this House, conceiving the African Slave Trade to be contrary to the prin-

ciples of justice, humanity, and sound policy, will, with all expedition, take effectual measures for abolishing the said trade, in such manner, and at such period, as may be deemed most practicable"

24 On the motion of Lord Grenville, the House of Peers concurred in the resolution of the Commons, moved by Mr. Fox, for the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

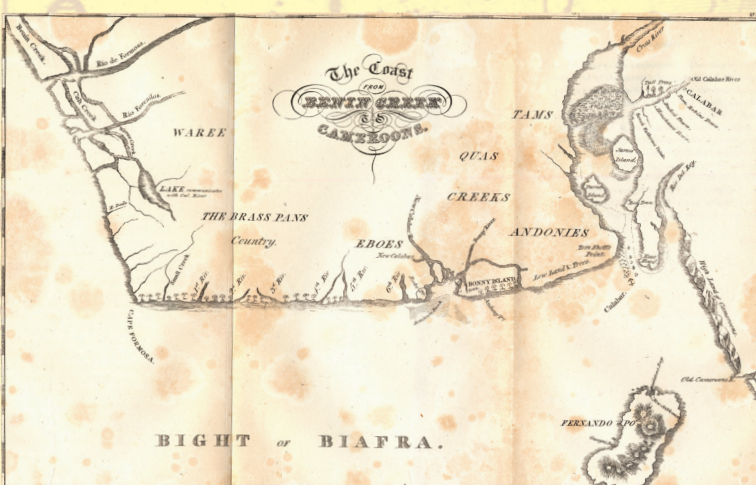
— Intelligence received at the India-House, that peace had been concluded with Holkar, on the 24th of Dec. last.

29 The French Squadron, commanded by Admiral Guilleaumez, including Bonaparte's ship the Veteran, arrived in divisions at Martinique on four different days preceding this date.

The *Manks Advertiser* carried abolition news during 1806 and summarized events in a chronological review of the 'most remarkable occurrences for the year 1806' published in January 1807. These extracts are for events in June 1806.

Tobin was captain for six slaving voyages between 1793 and 1802. In 1803 he became a merchant in Liverpool; abolition was a 'substantial blow to his ambitions'. Using his knowledge of the slave trade and his African contacts he diversified successfully however, sending Cheshire salt and other Liverpool goods to Duke Ephraim of Old Calabar in exchange for palm oil.

Tobin became Lord Mayor of Liverpool in 1819 and was knighted by George IV the following year.



This map of part of the west coast of Africa from Hugh Crow's *Memoirs* shows Old Calabar as well as Brass Pans country. Brass pans or 'neptunes' were used to crush the palm oil.

Acknowledgments

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Emotive illustrations from a pro-abolition commemorative book published in 1809.

