Sugar and Slavery The Penrhyn Connection

Penrhyn Castle was built on a massive fortune made from sugar plantations in Jamaica.

This booklet explores that story.







This guide has been produced to support the Sugar and Slavery – The Penrhyn Connection exhibition at Penrhyn Castle. For a free copy (while stocks last) of the accompanying CD please email penrhyncastle@nationaltrust.org.uk or telephone 01248 353084.

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Richard Pennant

In 1765 the 28 year old Richard Pennant, a wealthy merchant, Member of Parliament for Liverpool, and, later, first Lord Penrhyn, married Anne Susanna Warburton, the heiress of the old Penrhyn estate in the Ogwen valley, where the castle now stands.



Richard Pennant

Richard Pennant was a forward-looking man, a moderniser and an improver. He transformed his new estate, creating farms, developing a slate quarry, building roads, a harbour and a railway. North Wales was never to be the same again. He provided employment for thousands of people, and riches for some.

The Penrhyn estate was not the only land Richard Pennant owned. The money that enabled him to stand for Parliament and to marry Anne Susannah Warburton came from his sugar plantations in the island of Jamaica in the Caribbean. Here he was the owner not only of land, but also of men, women and children. He owned nearly five hundred slaves

'Richard Pennant was quintessentially a Liverpool merchant, one of that particular breed of merchant princes grown wealthy on the slave trade and on that most primitive of systems of capital accumulation, the West Indian plantation system'

– Merfyn Jones

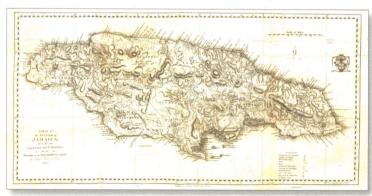
The Pennants and Jamaica

The Pennant family came from Flintshire but Gifford Pennant had emigrated to Jamaica in the mid-17th century. He was awarded a grant of land in 1665, and came to own one of the greatest estates in the island - 20 times larger than the average. His son Edward became Chief Justice of Jamaica: of Edward's sons. Samuel became Lord Mayor of London, and John added even more to the Jamaican estate by a judicious marriage. By 1750 the main branch of the Pennant family had returned to Britain and were controlling their Jamaican properties by letter.

corresponding with their agents. Richard Pennant was born in London, in 1737 and educated at Eton and Cambridge.

The Pennants were typical entrepreneurs of their time, ready to invest, and prepared to take a close interest in their properties. Richard Pennant took the same 'hands-on' approach to his new estate in Wales.

'They were white, they were wealthy, and they were the better educated in the formal sense since they could afford a schooling in England.' – Douglas Hall



The world the slaves made



Denbigh Plantation 1870

Most slaves in Jamaica worked in the sugar plantations. A revolution in European and particularly British eating-habits meant that what had been a luxury item was needed to make beer, jams and processed foods, and to sweeten tea and coffee. The value of British imports from Jamaica was five times greater than from the colonies which became the United States. Raw brown sugar was shipped to refineries in Britain, many of them situated around Liverpool.

Harvesting the crop meant cutting the cane stalks with a machete known as a 'cutlass' before removing them to a

crushing mill and then boiling the juice. On Richard Pennant's Denbigh plantation in Jamaica, 60 slaves worked in the 'great gang' at the harvest, 36 (mainly children) in the 'small gang' and 19 in the 'grass gang'. This was the busiest time of the year, but plantation owners believed that slaves had to be kept hard at work at all times, otherwise they would become idle or plan revolts.

Richard Pennant's guidelines for managing his slaves: '... they should not be overworked and that they should be treated with tenderness when they are ill and with humanity and attention, at all times.'

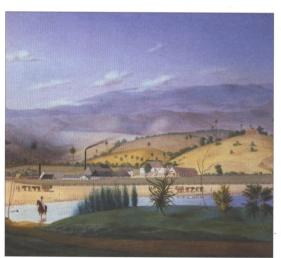
The world the slaves made II

Not all Jamaican slaves worked in the fields. Every sugar plantation needed specialists to make equipment and to repair machinery – coopers, carpenters, masons, blacksmiths and millwrights.

Metallurgists were respected in African society for harnessing the power of nature; they brought these skills with them to Jamaica when they were enslaved and passed them on to their descendants. They became the skilled workers in foundries and workshops.

As the sugar trade became increasingly competitive, Jamaican estate owners introduced more modern machinery, such as the alliron horizontal three roller mill to crush the cane. Richard Pennant was one of the first to power these sugar-mills by steam engines. These were built in Birkenhead and Birmingham but were maintained and repaired by skilled slave-artisans.

On Richard Pennant's Denbigh plantation in 1808 the slaves included:



9 carriers
2 boilers
9 coopers
21 carpenters
3 doctors and
mid-wives
10 stock-keepers
14 distillers

'Indeed the efficient and proper running of sugar factories heavily depended on these African enslaved artisans.'

Pennants plantation 1870

Richard Pennant and Liverpool

Richard Pennant, first Lord Penrhyn, was Member of Parliament for Liverpool for 19 years, at a time when the town grew rich on the profits of its slave traders – on average between 10 and 15% a year – and from the wealth generated by imports from Jamaica and the other Caribbean islands. The slave trade turned over large sums of money, which became available for re-investment.

Liverpool merchants realised that public opinion was turning against the slave trade by the end of the 18th century and that abolition was inevitable. They diversified their investments and looked for new ventures to support. Many of them turned their attention to North Wales and invested in mining and quarrying. Richard Pennant's investments had already created the largest slate quarry in the world just five miles from this castle.

'Liverpool is an outstanding example of a world mercantile port city, which represents the early development of global trading and cultural connections throughout the British Empire.' – citation of Liverpool's World Heritage Status inscription, 2004



Penrhyn Slate Quarry by Henry Hawkins 1832

The end of the British slave trade

Richard Pennant wanted the slave trade to continue. So did many others - not only the rich but also ordinary people such as seamen who benefited from it. But times were changing. Slave-owners had gradually realised that it was in their own interest not to work slaves so hard that they died but to encourage them to start families to replace the work-force. There was less need to import new slaves. In Jamaica, the slaves themselves were mounting successful resistance campaigns. In Wales, in England, Ireland and Scotland, campaigners were calling for an end to the trade and for slaves to be freed

On 25 March 1807 Parliament outlawed the slave trade within the whole British Empire; between 1833 and 1838 it outlawed slavery itself in British colonies. Richard Pennant's successor received £14,683 17s 2d compensation for the loss of his slaves. In the United States of America, slavery was abolished only after four years of civil war, in 1865.

Slavery means individual human beings are the property of another. The slave trade means the capture, purchase and sale of human beings, often transporting them across the ocean in the process.

Were the House of Commons to vote for abolition, they actually would strike at seventy millions of property, they ruined the colonies and, by destroying an essential nursery of seamen, gave up the domination of the sea at a single stroke' – Richard Pennant in a Parliamentary debate, 1788



Josiah Wedgwood medallion made in 1787. Emblem of the Society for the Abolition of Slavery.

Wales and the Struggle against Slavery

Welshmen and women took part in the struggle to end slavery in the Caribbean and later in the United States. The Rev. John Elias of Anglesey preached against the slave trade in Liverpool itself, and Welshlanguage chapels and newspapers kept the cause alight, but it was the American Civil War (1861-5) that brought the issue home. Many thousands of Welshmen living in the USA volunteered to serve President Lincoln.

For Welsh soldiers, more than for any other white ethnic group in the Northern army, the American Civil War was not to preserve the Union but to bring slavery to an end. Friends and family back home learnt how they gave their lives to this cause in the terrible battles of Antietam, Shiloh and Gettysberg. The last American slaves were freed eight months after the end of the war. To this day, the songs of the Northern army remain popular with bands and choirs in Wales.

'I saw the ship Cora ... We could hardly believe that 705 children, men and women had been confined between its decks, taken from their land and were on their way to endless slavery. But it was true.' – Rev. Dr Ben Chidlaw, Bala and Ohio



Fighting slavery: Huw Roberts, of Garth Dorwen, Pen y Groes and of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment

Slavery Today

Brazil was the last country in the western hemisphere to make slavery illegal, in 1888. By the end of the 19th century, slavery seemed almost to have vanished. Since then, more people have been enslaved than at any time in history. Millions died as slaves in the Soviet gulag from 1930 until the 1960s, and in Hitler's Reich from 1933 to 1945. Today, in many countries of the world, including the United Kingdom, people work in what are literally slave conditions, in catering, hospitality, farming and the sex industry.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948 by the United Nations, bans slavery. In December 1966, the UN General Assembly adopted the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; article 8 bans slavery. The treaty came into force in March 1976. By November 2003, 104 countries had ratified this treaty. Yet slavery endures.

'Slavery in the UK exists in various forms ... All share elements of the exploitative relationship which have historically constituted slavery: severe economic exploitation; the lack of a human rights framework; and one person's control over another through the prospect or reality of violence. Slavery is defined and prohibited under international law. Coercion distinguishes slavery from poor working conditions.' – Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 26 February 2007



Caethwasiaeth Heddiw

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diwydiant rhyw. arlwyo, lletygarwch, ffermio ac yn y smgylchiadau caethwasiaeth, mewn pobl yn gweithio'n llythrennol mewn yn cynnwys y Deyrnas Unedig, mae Heddiw, yn amryw o wledydd y byd, yn Reich Hitler o 1933 hyd 1945. Sofietaidd o 1930 hyd y 1960au, ac miliynau fel caethweision yn y gulag unrhyw amser mewn hanes. Bu tarw hynny, caethiwyd mwy o bobl nac ar diflannu bron yn gyfan gwbl. Ers tybid bod caethwasiaeth wedi 1888. Erbyn diwedd y 19eg ganrif, caethwasiaeth yn anghyfreithlon, ym hemisffer gorllewinol i wneud Brasil oedd y wlad olaf yn yr

Gwaherddir caethwasiaeth yn Matganiad Cyffredinol lawnderau Dynol a fabwysiadwyd ym 1948. Yn Rhagfyr 1966, mabwysiadodd Cynulliad Cyffredinol y Cenhedloedd Unedig y Cyfamod Rhyngwladol ar Hawliau Siffl a Pholiticaidd, gwahardd erthygl 8 gaethwasiaeth. Daeth y cyfundeb i rym ym Mawrth 1976. Erbyn Tachwedd 2003, roedd 104 o wledydd wedi cadarnhau'r cyfundeb. Eto pery caethwasiaeth.

Cymru a'r Frwydr yn erbyn Caethwasiaeth

'Gwelais y llong Cora ... Braidd y gallwn gredu fod 705 o blant, gwyr a gwragedd, wedi cael eu gwthio ac ar ei ffordd i gaethwasanaeth bythol. Ond gwir oedd.' – Parch Ddr Ben Chidlaw, Bala ac Ohio



Brwydro yn erbyn caethwasiaeth: Huw Roberts, o Garth Dorwen, Pen y Groes ac o 8fed Gatrawd Troedfilwyr Wisconsin

Cymerodd y Cymny, yn wŷr a gwragedd ran yn y frwydr i ddilleu caethwasiaeth yn y Carlbî ac yn hwyrach yn yr Unol Daleithiau. Pregethodd y Parch John Elias o Fôn yn erbyn caethfasnach yn Cymraeg a newyddiaduron yr achos yn fyw, ond y Bhyfel Cartref yn America (1861-5) ddaeth a'r mater i wir sylw. Gwirefodd yn yr UDA i wir sylw. Gwirefodd yn yr UDA i Gymry gartrefodd yn yr UDA i Gymry gartrefodd yn yr UDA i

Nghymru. dyda bandiau a chorau yng Odjeggoj yn parhau'n boblogaidd dydd heddiw, mae caneuon y fyddin wyth mis ar ôl terfyn y rhyfel. Hyd y caethweision Americanaidd olaf Geffysberg. Rhyddhawyd y erchyll Antietam, Shiloh a bywydau i'r achos ym mrwydrau adref sut y bu iddynt golli eu Clywodd teuluoedd a chyteillion yn ôl ond ar gyfer dileu caethwasiaeth. yn America ar gyfer diogelu'r Undeb Ogleddol, nid oedd y Rhyfel Cartref auwp ethnig gwyn arall yn y fyddin I filwyr Cymreig, yn fwy nac i unrhyw

Diwedd caethfasnach ym Mhrydain

Golyga **caethwasiaeth** bod unigolion yn eiddo i rywun arall. Golyga **caethfasnach** ddal, prynu a gwerthu tros y môr yn y broses.

Were the House of Commons to vote for abolition, they actually would strike at seventy millions of property, they ruined the colonies and, by destroying an essential nursery of seamen, gave up the domination of the sea at a single stroke' – Richard Pennant in a Parliamentary



Medaliwn Josiah Wedgwood wnaed ym 1787. Awyddlun y Gymdeithas dros Ddileu Caethwasiaeth.

gaethweision gael eu rhyddhau. am ddiwedd i'r fasnach ac i Alban, roedd ymgyrchwyr yn galw Yng Nghymru, Lloegr, Iwerddon a'r cynnal ymgyrchoedd llwyddiannus. roedd y caethweision eu hunain yn caethweision newydd. Yn Jamaica Roedd llai o angen mewnforio gymryd trosodd yn y gweithle. cymell i ddechrau magu teulu i galed nes eu bod yn marw ond eu beidio â gweithio'r caethweision mor i finybbi bbut o bod ie ilobbewlyz perchnogion caethweision yn araf roedd yr amserau yn newid. Roedd morwyr oedd yn elwa ohono. Ond ond hefyd pobl gyffredin megis amryw eraill - nid y cefnog yn unig gaethfasnach barhau. Felly hefyd Roedd Richard Pennant eisiau i

Ar 25 Mawrth 1807 gwaharddodd y Genedd caethfasnach oddi fewn i'r Ymerodraeth Brydeinig, a rhwng 1833 ac 1838 gwaharddwyd caethwasiaeth ei hun o'r trefedigaethau Prydeinig. Derbyniodd olynydd Richard Pennant £14,683 17s 2d o iawndal am golli ei gaethweision. Yn Unol Daleithiau'r America ni ddilëwyd caethwasiaeth tan ar ôl pedair

blynedd o ryfel cartref ym 1865.

Richard Pennant a Lerpwl

buddsoddiadau ac edrych am fentrau newydd i'w cefnogi. Trodd nifer ohonynt eu golygon tua Gogledd Cymru a buddsoddi mewn cloddfeydd a chwareli. Roedd buddsoddiadau Richard Pennant eisoes wedi creu'r chwarel lechi fwyaf yn y byd ond pum milltir o'r castell hwn.

'Liverpool is an outstanding example of a world mercantile port city, which represents the early development of global trading and cultural connections throughout the British Empire.' – citation of Liverpool's World Heritage Status inscription, 2004 – cyfeiriad allan o gyflwyniad Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Lerpwl 2004.

Roedd Richard Pennant, y prif Arglwydd Penrinyn, yn Aelod Seneddol tros Lerpwl am 19 o flynyddoedd, yn y cyfnod pan elwodd y dref yn ariannol ar gyfoeth y caeth fasnachwyr – rhwng 10 a 15% ar gyfarfaledd y flwyddyn – ac o'r elw a wnaed allan o fewnforion o Jamaica ac ynysoedd eraill yn y Caribi. Roedd y farchnad caethwasiaeth yn creu symiau enfawr o arian, oedd ar gael symiau enfawr o arian, oedd ar gael i'w hail fuddsoddi.

Erbyn diwedd yr 18fed ganrif sylweddolodd masnachwyr yn Lerpwl bod barn y bobl yn troi yn erbyn caethfasnach a bod dileu yn anochel. Rhaid oedd iddynt amrywio eu



Chwarel y Penrhyn gan Henry Hawkins 1832

Y byd wnaeth y caethweision II

crefffus. hatgyweirio gan y caethweision roeddent yn cael eu cynnal a'u yn Birkenhead a Birmingham ond falu'r coesau siwgr. Adeiladwyd nhw melin haearn orweddol tri rholer i beiriannau mwy modern, megis perchnogion yr ystadau yn Jamaica cystadleuol, cyflwynodd Fel y tytodd y farchnad siwgr yn fwy

:ppaoJ Denbigh Richard Pennant ym 1808 Ymhlith y caethweision ar blanhigfa

gweithdai. medrus yn y ffowndriau a'r disgynyddion. Daethant yn grefftwyr en caethiwyd a'u pasio ymlaen i'w sgiliau hyn gyda nhw i Jamaica pan grymoedd natur, a daethant a'r nghylchoedd Affricanaidd am reoli melinau. Perchid metelegwyr yng seiri coed a meini, gofaint a seiri atgyweirio peiriannau - cowperiaid, arbenigwyr i wneud offer ac i pob planhigfa siwgr angen I dyd yn gweithio yn y caeau. Roedd Mid oedd y caethweision yn Jamaica

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on these African heavily depended sugar factories proper running of etticient and eyi peepul 14 o ddistyllwyr 10 ceidwad stoc bydwraig з теддуд а MIDS O LZ 9 cowper S DEIML

artisans." PANEISNA



Planhigta Pennants 1870

Y byd wnaeth y caethweision



diogi neu drefnu i wrthryfela. flwyddyn, neu byddent yn dechrau i weithio'n galed trwy gydol y akedu bod rhaid cadw'r caethweision suterai perchnogion y planhigteydd amser prysuraf y flwyddyn, ond 19 yn y 'gang las'. Dyma oedd (blant yn bennaf) yn y gang fach ac 'gang fawr' amser cynhaeaf, 36 gweithiai 60 o gaethweision yn y Richard Pennant yn Jamaica,

attention, at all times.' are ill and with humanity and treated with tenderness when they overworked and that they should be gaethweision: "... they should not be Rheolau Richard Pennant ar gyfer ei

wedi eu lleoli o amgylch Lerpwl. burfeydd ym Mhrydain, nifer ohonynt brown heb ei buro ar longau i tel yr Unol Daleithiau. Antonid siwgr trefedigaethau a ddaeth i'w hadnabod Jamaica yn bum gwaith mwy nac o'r gwerth mewnforion Prydeinig o brosesu, ac i felysu te a choffi. Roedd wneud cwrw, jam a bwydydd wedi eu beth arferai fod yn eitem foethus i arbennig, yn golygu bod galw am Ewropeaidd, a Phrydeinig yn Roedd chwyldro mewn arferion bwyta

berwi'r sudd. Ar blanhigta Denbigh chu en cindo i'r felin i'w malu ac yna coesau gyda thwca, elwid yn 'cytlas' Golygai cynaeafu'r cnwd dorri'r

Y Pennants a Jamaica

gyda'u hasiantiaid. Ganwyd Richard Pennant yn Llundain ym 1737 ac addysgwyd yn Eton a Chaergrawnt.

Hoedd teulu'r Pennant yn entrepreneuriaid nodweddiadol eu cyfnod, yn barod i fuddsoddi, ac yn cymryd diddordeb mawr yn eu heiddo. Cymrodd Richard Pennant yr un diddordeb ymarferol yn ei ystâd newydd yng Nghymru.

'They were white, they were wealthy, and they were the better educated in the formal sense since they could afford a schooling in England.' – Dr Douglas Hall

rheoli eu heiddo yn Jamaica drwy meqi qicumeliya i Briydain ac yn roedd prif gangen teulu'r Pennant drwy briodi'n ddoeth. Erbyn 1750 hyd yn oed fwy i'r ystâd yn Jamaica ac ychwanegodd mab arall John, Edward yn Arglwydd Faer Llundain, a daeth Samuel, un o feibion ei tab Edward yn Brit Ustus Jamaica, 20 gwaith mwy na'r cyffredin. Daeth ar un o'r ystadau mwyaf ar yr ynys dir ym 1665, a daeth yn berchennog 17eg ganrif. Dyfarnwyd iddo rodd o Pennant i Jamaica yng nghanol y y Fflint and ymfudodd Gifford Roedd teulu'r Pennant yn hanu o Sir

ayfrwng llythyrau gan lythyru'n gyson



Richard Pennant

ble saif y castell heddiw.

yståd y Penrhyn yn nyffryn Ogwen,

oed, Aelod Seneddol Lerpwl, ac wedyn y cyntaf Arglwydd Penrhyn,

Pennant, marchnatwr cetnog 28

Ym 1765, priododd Richard

Anne Susanna Warburton, aeres hen

Roedd Richard Pennant yn ŵr blaengar, yn fodernydd ac yn wellhäwr Trawanewidiodd ei yatâd newydd, gan greu ffermydd, datblygu chwarel lechi, adeiladu ffyrdd, porthladd a rheilffordd. Doedd ffyrdd, porthladd a rheilffordd. Doedd waith ar gyfer wedyn. Darparodd waith ar gyfer miloedd o bobl, a chyfoeth i rai.

Nid tir ystâd y Penrhyn yn unig oedd Richard Pennant ei berchen. Daeth yr arian a'i galluogodd i sefyll fel Aelod Seneddol ac i briodi Anne Susannah Warburton o'i blanhigfeydd siwgr ar ynys Jamaica yn y Caribî. Yma roedd yn berchen nid yn unig ar diroedd, ond hefyd ar wŷr, gwragedd a phlant. Roedd yn berchen ar ymron i bum cant o gaethweision.

Hichard Pennant was quintessentially a Liverpool merchant, one of that particular breed of merchant princes grown wealthy on the slave trade and on that most primitive of systems of capital accumulation, the West Indian plantation system, –



Richard Pennant, Arglwydd Penrhyn

Roedd Richard Pennant (1737-1807), yr Arglwydd Penrhyn 1af, yn berchen ar chwech o blanhigfeydd siwgr yn Jamaica a channoedd o gaethweision. Roedd yn direddiannwr absennol ac ysgriffennodd gannoedd o lythyrau i'r rheolwyr oedd yn flythyrau i'r rheolwyr oedd yn flythyrau i'r rheolwyr oedd yn flythyrau i'r parhigfeydd. Mae'r goruchwylio'r planhigfeydd. Mae'r gwerthfawr i gaethwasiaeth yn y trefedigaethau Prydeinig yn ystod y 18fed ganrif, ac fe'i cedwir bellach yn yn archifdy Prifysgol Bangor.

Cynhyrchwyd yr arweiniad hwn i gefnogl'r arddangosfa *Singr* a *Chaethwasiaeth* – Cysylltiad y *Penthyn* yng *Nghastell Penthyn*. Am gopl rhad ac am ddim o'r gryno ddiag i gyd redeg â'r arddangosfa (tra bod cyflenwad) e-bostiwch penrhyncastle@nationaltruat.org.uk neu ffoniwch 01248 353084.

Lluniau: Llyfrgell Luniau'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol tudalennau 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 ac 8. Dogfennau ystâd Jamaica'r Penrhyn gyda chaniatâd caredig Prifysgol Bangor. Tudalen 2 gyda chaniatâd caredig Amgueddfa Bryste.

Mae Castell Penrhyn yn un o feddiannau'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol ble y gellwch gael diwrnod allan gogoneddus.

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Siwgr a Chaethwasiaeth Cysylltiad y Penrhyn

Adeiladwyd Castell Penrhyn ar y ffortiwn a wnaed o blanhigfeydd siwgr yn Jamaica.

Mae'r llyfryn hwn yn archwilio'r stori.

