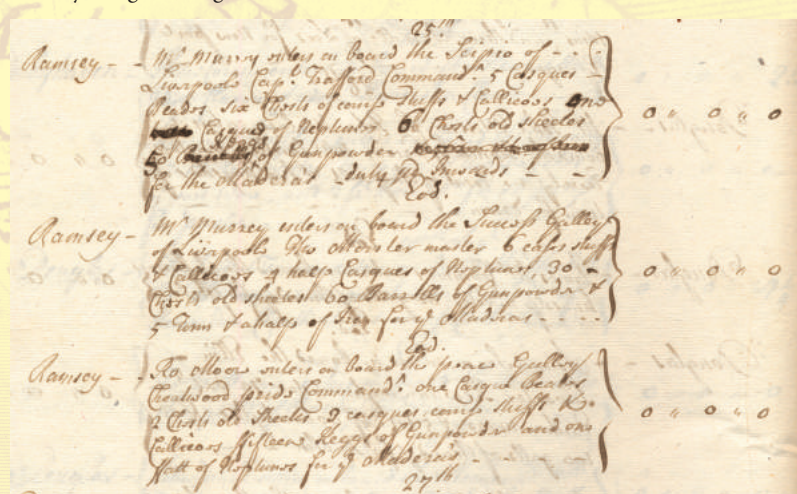


Manx Connection

The Manx Merchant Connection

Between 1718 and 1765
the Isle of Man acted as a storehouse
for the less expensive Guinea goods from Holland.
When Manx customs duties increased, this storehouse
was no longer available to the Guinea traders.

Ramsey Outgates, August 1718.



On 25 August 1718 two cargoes of beads, coarse stuffs, calicoes, neptunes (brass pans), old sheets and gunpowder arrived from Rotterdam at Ramsey.

These were imported by two Douglas merchants, John Murray and Robert Moore and were documented in the customs records. The goods were collected by three Liverpool slaving vessels *Scipio*, *Success* and *Peace* on their way to the African coast via Madeira.

The Isle of Man's connection with the Transatlantic Slave Trade had begun. By the 1740s the Island was well-established as a supply base for this slave trade.

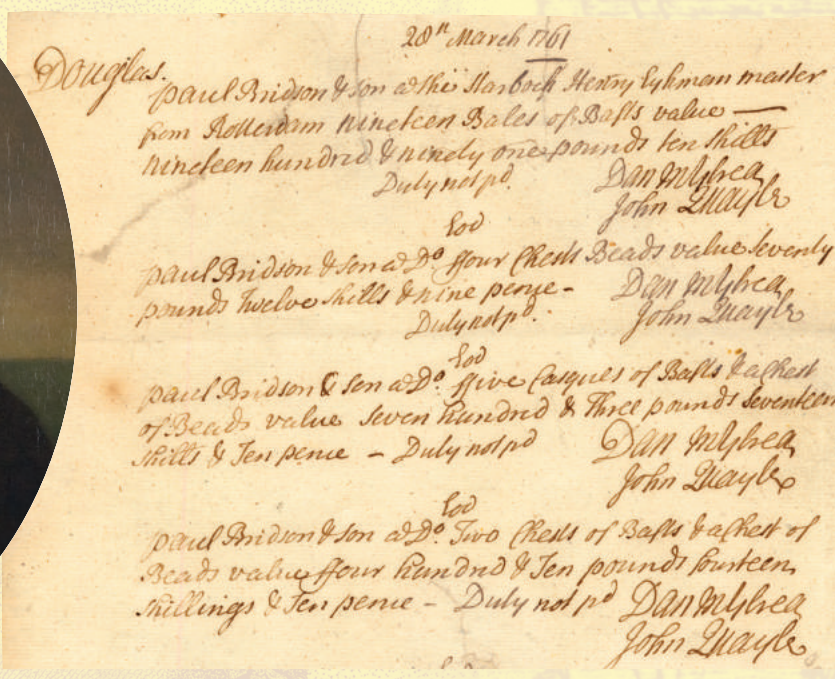
Paul Bridson.

Paul Bridson

Bridson was the principal slave trading merchant on the Island, landing over £80,000 worth of Guinea goods at Douglas (£4,800,000 in 21st century currency). His daughter married William Boats who was at that time the principal slave trading merchant in Liverpool.



These goods landed from Rotterdam by Paul Bridson & Son in March 1761 included bafts (East Indian cloth) and beads valued at over £3,175 (£190,000).



George Moore

Based in Peel, Moore was not a major importer of Guinea goods. His role was ensuring that the Guinea ships were attracted to the Island.

In 1757 Moore was concerned that a new bridge planned at Douglas would prevent the slaving ships from entering the harbour safely. He wrote to forewarn the Mayor of Liverpool of a potential problem.

George Moore also produced a scheme for enlarging Peel harbour so that the Guinea ships could call at a port on the west coast of the Island, if necessary. He forwarded a plan (reproduced below) to the Duke of Atholl, Lord of Mann. The project foundered because of opposition from Governor Basil Cochrane.

George Moore's plan for Peel harbour.



George Moore.

