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The Voyage of the Cerberus

The 1765 voyage of the *Cerberus* is recorded in the papers of John Taubman who lived at the Bowling Green, Castletown. Jonathan Blundell of Liverpool offered Taubman a sixteenth share in this voyage.

The *Cerberus* was a 250 ton ship. She had 4 guns and a crew of 30 men, including the captain, John Kendall. On 6 April 1765 she sailed from Liverpool to the Gold Coast for 400 slaves.

News of the journey

Captain Kendall wrote from the Gold Coast that he had purchased 140 slaves but forewarned his owners *am sorry to tell you that prices are daily advancing and when or where they will stop God knows* and later *I have Buried one man slave of a violent vomiting other wise am Healthy.*

The Reckoning

The *Cerberus* returned to Liverpool on 1 December 1766, after a voyage of 436 days.

John Taubman had paid £539 15s 3½d towards the ship's outfit. He would have expected a minimum return of £580.

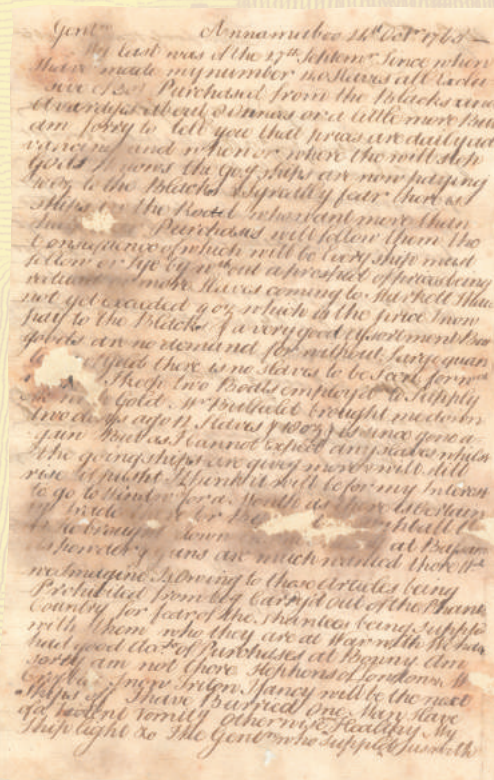
By September 1768 Taubman had received only £359 12s 6d; a further £1 7s 11d was paid in cash on 31 January 1777. He had made a significant loss on this investment.



This entry in John Taubman's daybook records that the slaves were sold at Jamaica for £8,953 17s ½d (Jamaican currency). This was paid in sugar and logwood sent home by the ship, two £1,000 bills (postdated) and over £4,300 in sugar to be sent 20 months after the ship had sailed from Jamaica.

Crew list

Name	Wages of Month
John Kendall	5
Thomas Rudgate	4
Thomas Robertson	4
John Lyon	3
Richd Simmons	2
Richd Hornby	2 17 6
George Williams	2 10
John Love	2 15
Wm Blackburne	1 10
James Bantler	1 8
James Seal	1 5
Anthony Rayston	1 5
Thomas Blkington	1 5
John N. Keale	1 5
Wm Kirkham	1 5
Archibald M. Clean	1 5
John O. Keale	1 5
Thomas Benson	1 5
Rugh Donaly	1 5
George Moor	1 5
John Dean	1 4
James Copland	1 2 6
Edw Custis	1
David Jones	1
Simon Wood Corn	1
Thomas Jones	1 12 6
Wm Bonifret	1
James Horn	1
30 Boys	



When Jonathan Blundell forwarded a copy of Kendall's letter to John Taubman in March 1766, the news was already six months old.



In this letter dated August 1766 Blundell forewarned Taubman 'I am sorry to advise you that the account we have of the *Cerberus* is not so good as what you have in the newspaper'.

Kendall succeeded in purchasing 350 slaves.

On 17 June 1766 the *Cerberus* arrived at Jamaica with only 270 slaves, nearly a quarter having died on the Middle Passage.

Slave vessel.

