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Manx Mariners: The Crews

Manxmen served on the Guinea ships in various roles from surgeon to tailor. These ships needed large crews to prepare for and take care of the slaves.

Before boarding a ship, the crew signed an agreement with the captain, who in turn guaranteed to pay them.

This 1768 agreement for the Liverpool slaving ship the *True Blue* was signed by William Kelley, carpenter and Frederick Kneal, seaman – both made their marks.

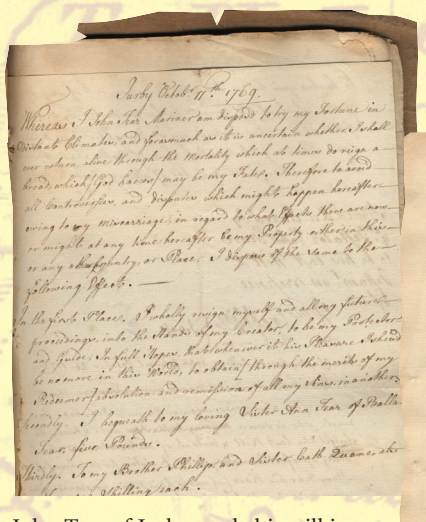
Port Liverpool, 2d Day of Aug.t 1768

THEN contracted and agreed, between the several Persons whose Names are hereunto subscribed, being the Officers, Mariners, Sailors and others now agreeing to enter on board the good Ship or Vessel called the True Blue whereof Joshua Hatton is Master or Commander, lying in the Port of Liverpool, and the said Joshua Hatton the Master of the said Ship, for and in behalf of the Owners, of the other Part, That the said Officers, Mariners, Sailors and others, whose Names are here subscribed, IN CONSIDERATION of the Sums advanced respectively to them, and set opposite their several Names, and of the Monthly Wages also set down to their respective Names do severally and immediately agree to repair on board, and to proceed in the said Ship, and duly serve in their several Capacities and Stations as placed herein to their respective Names, in her now intended Voyage from *Liverpool*, to the Coast of *Africa*, and at and from thence to such Place or Places in *America* as the aforesaid Master, or other Master and Commander of the Ship for the Time being shall direct, and from thence back to the said Port of *Liverpool*, or some other her discharging Port in *Great Britain*. That the Wages or monthly Pay to grow due to the said Officers, Sailors and others belonging to the said Vessel, for their Service on board thereof this present Voyage, shall be paid to and accepted by them in the Manner following, *viz.* One half Part thereof at the Port or Places of Delivery of the Negroes in *America*, to the Time she begins her loading at her said delivering Port, in the Currency there; that is, every twenty Shillings of such Currency to be accounted equal and upon a Par with twenty Shillings of lawful Money of *Great Britain*: And in Case such Port of Discharge of the said Ship's Negroes shall be at *South Carolina*, or any other Part of the Continent of *America*, when the common Course of Exchange shall or may happen to be above One hundred per Cent, then such half Wages aforesaid are to be paid according to the Currency of the Island of *Barbadoes*, computing each and every twenty Shillings of such Currency at, and after the Rate of twenty Shillings of lawful Money of *Great Britain*; and the remaining Part thereof, and also the Wages which shall afterwards become payable, shall be paid within thirty Days next after the Ship's Arrival at her Port of Discharge in *Great Britain*: And the said Master of the said Ship doth agree to pay the said Wages accordingly. Provided, nevertheless, that in Case the Master, or any of the Officers, Sailors or others belonging to the said

COWBURNE PRINT

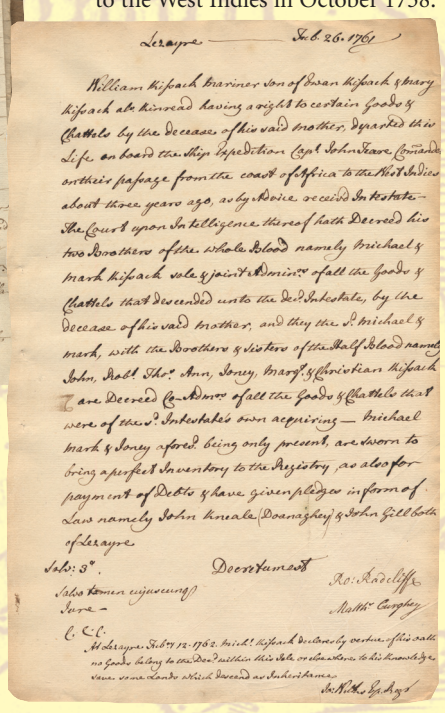
Crew agreement for the *True Blue*.

The Manxmen tended to keep together, moving from one ship to another in a 'gang'. They witnessed one another's wills and when one died another Manx mariner would frequently report the circumstances to the Manx authorities.

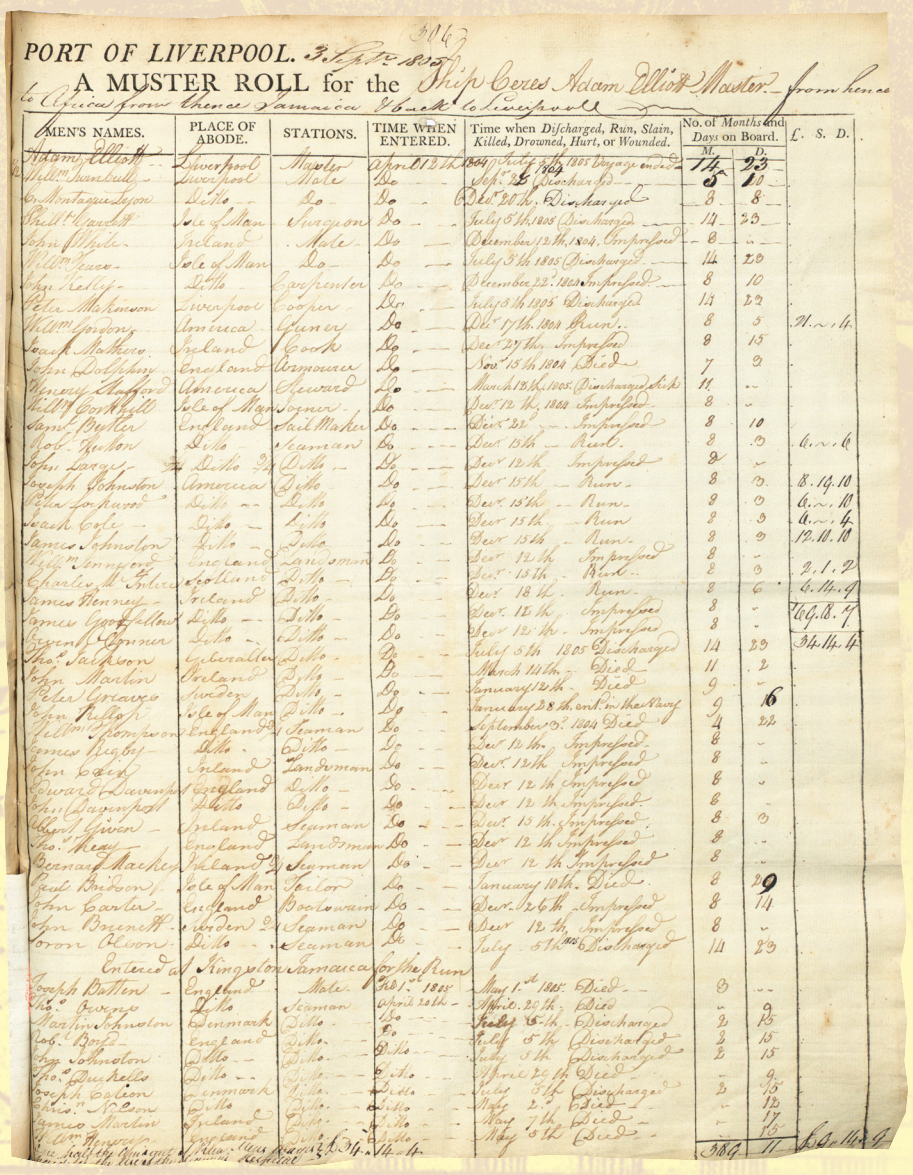


John Tear of Jurby made his will in October 1769, being disposed to 'try my Fortune in Distant Climates'. He was mate of the *Rose*, a Guineaman which sailed from Liverpool in July 1771. Tear 'perished' on the coast of Guinea three months later, as recorded at the beginning of an inventory of his estate.

William Kissack died intestate (without having made a will), when the *Expedition*, Captain John Teare, was lost on her voyage from the coast of Africa to the West Indies in October 1758.



Manx Crew on the *Ceres*



PORT OF LIVERPOOL. 3 Sept. 1805

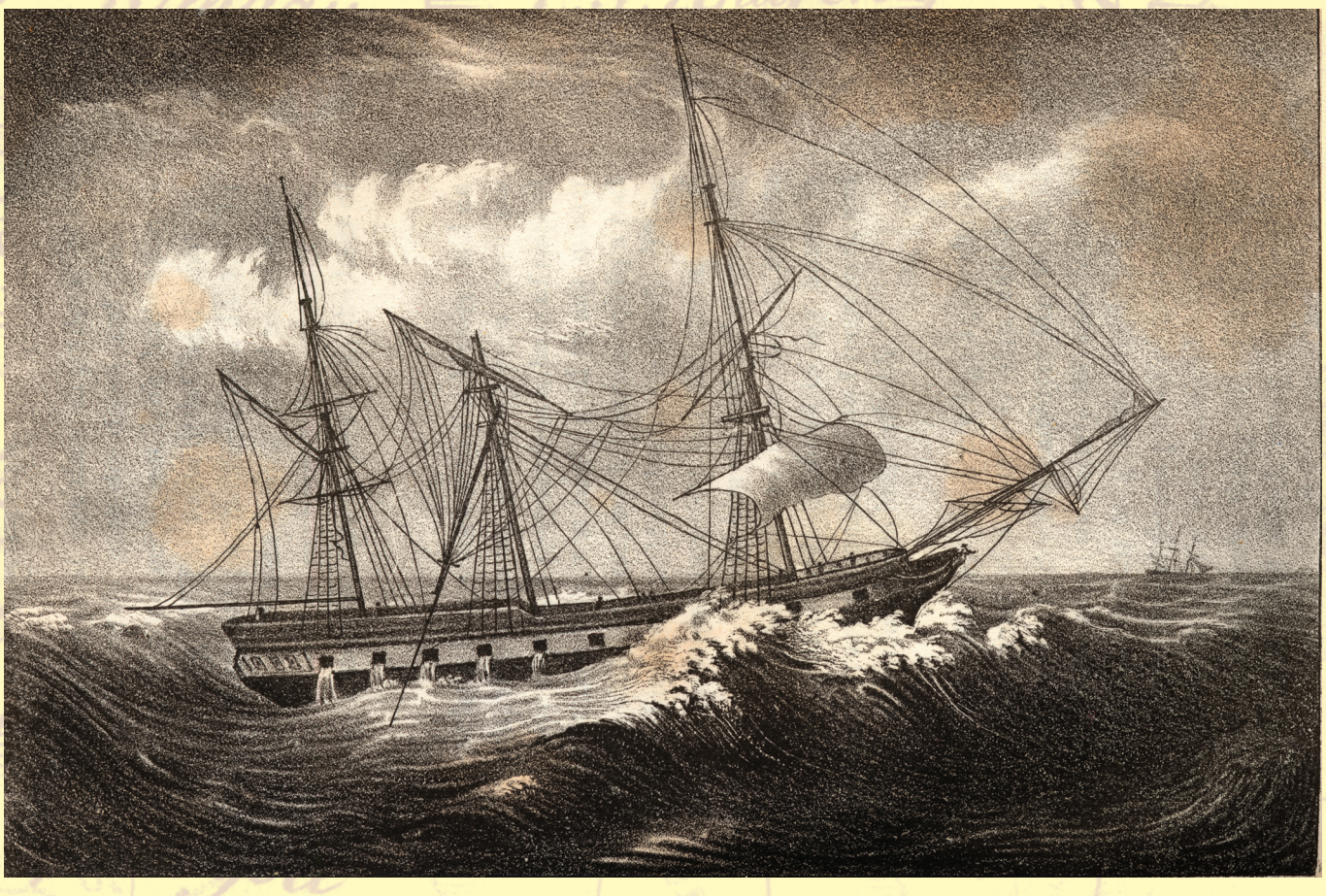
A MUSTER ROLL for the Ship Ceres Adam Elliott Master from hence to Africa from thence Jamaica & back to Liverpool

MEN'S NAMES.	PLACE OF ABODE.	STATIONS.	TIME WHEN ENTERED.	Time when Discharged, Run, Slain, Killed, Drowned, Hurt, or Wounded.	No. of Months and Days on Board. M.	D.	£. S. D.
Adam Elliott	Liverpool	Master	April 12th 1804	July 4th 1805 Voyage ended	14	23	
William Turnbull	Liverpool	Mate	Do	Sept. 25 Discharged	5	10	
Montague Lyon	Ditto	Do	Do	Dec. 20th Discharged	8	8	
Phillip Garrett	Isle of Man	Surgeon	Do	July 5th 1805 Discharged	14	23	
John White	Ireland	Mate	Do	December 12th 1804 Impressed	8		
William Teare	Isle of Man	Do	Do	July 5th 1805 Discharged	14	20	
John Kelly	Ditto	Carpenter	Do	December 22d 1804 Impressed	8	10	
Peter Mackenson	Liverpool	Cooper	Do	July 5th 1805 Discharged	13	23	
William Gordon	America	Gunner	Do	Dec. 17th 1804 Run	8	5	21.0.4
Joseph Mathew	Ireland	Cook	Do	Dec. 27th Impressed	8	15	
John Dobbins	England	Armourer	Do	Nov. 15th 1804 Died	7	2	
Henry Stafford	America	Steward	Do	March 13th 1805 Discharged sick	11		
William Corkhill	Isle of Man	Joiner	Do	Dec. 12th 1804 Impressed	8		
Samuel Butler	England	Sail Maker	Do	Dec. 22 Impressed	8	10	
Robt. Burton	Ditto	Seaman	Do	Dec. 15th Run	8	0	6.0.6
John Savage	Ditto	Ditto	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
Joseph Johnston	America	Ditto	Do	Dec. 15th Run	8	0	8.14.10
Peter Jackwood	Ditto	Ditto	Do	Dec. 15th Run	8	0	6.0.10
Jacob Cole	Ditto	Ditto	Do	Dec. 15th Run	8	0	6.0.4
James Johnston	Ditto	Ditto	Do	Dec. 15th Run	8	0	19.10.10
William Simpson	England	Landsman	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
Charles M. Intire	Scotland	Ditto	Do	Dec. 15th Run	8	0	2.1.2
James Kennedy	Ireland	Ditto	Do	Dec. 18th Run	8	6	6.14.4
James Goodfellow	Ditto	Ditto	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		16.8.7
Joseph Conner	Ditto	Ditto	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
Thos. Jackson	Gibraltar	Ditto	Do	July 5th 1805 Discharged	14	23	34.14.4
John Martin	Ireland	Ditto	Do	March 14th Died	11	2	
Peter Gravers	Sweden	Ditto	Do	January 12th Died	9		
John Killop	Isle of Man	Ditto	Do	January 28th out in the Navy	9	16	
William Thompson	England	Seaman	Do	September 3d 1804 Died	4	22	
James Regby	Ditto	Ditto	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
John Lord	Ireland	Landsman	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
Edward Davenport	England	Ditto	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
Jno. Davenport	Ditto	Ditto	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
Robert Given	Ireland	Seaman	Do	Dec. 15th Impressed	8	0	
Jno. Heap	England	Landsman	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
Bernard Mackey	Ireland	Seaman	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
Paul Bridson	Isle of Man	Tailor	Do	January 10th Died	8	29	
John Carter	England	Boatswain	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8	14	
John Brunett	Sweden	Seaman	Do	Dec. 12th Impressed	8		
Jerom Olson	Ditto	Seaman	Do	July 5th 1805 Discharged	14	23	
Entered at Kingston Jamaica for the Run							
Joseph Batten	England	Mate	Feb. 1st 1805	May 1st 1805 Died	3		
Thos. George	Ditto	Seaman	April 20th	April 20th Died		9	
Martin Johnston	Denmark	Ditto	Do	July 5th Discharged	2	15	
Jno. Boyd	England	Ditto	Ditto	July 5th Discharged	2	15	
Jno. Johnston	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	July 5th Discharged	2	15	
Thos. Blackells	Ditto	Ditto	Do	April 20th Died		9	
Joseph Salcon	Denmark	Ditto	Ditto	July 5th Discharged	2	15	
Thos. Nelson	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	May 2d Died		12	
Ignico Martin	Ireland	Ditto	Do	May 7th Died		17	
William Hanson	England	Ditto	Ditto	May 8th Died		15	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	384	11	60.18.4

Muster roll of the *Ceres*.

The *Ceres*, Captain Adam Elliott, sailed from Liverpool in April 1804 and returned in July 1805. Of the 42 men recorded on the Muster Roll, six were Manx:

Phillip Garrett	(surgeon)
William Teare	(mate)
John Kelly	(carpenter)
William Corkhill	(joiner)
John Killip	(landsman: not 'bred to the sea')
Paul Bridson	(tailor)

Only Garrett and Teare completed the full voyage.

The *Ceres*, a 340 ton slaving ship illustrated in Hugh Crow's *Memoirs*. Elliott's ship was 330 tons.