

# Abolition

On the 25th March 1807 Parliament passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, outlawing slave carrying by British ships throughout the British Empire. Although the slaves were not emancipated until 1838, the 1807 Act was the beginning of the end for the transatlantic slave trade. Two hundred years on, the bicentenary is an important opportunity to uncover Edinburgh's role in the trade and to pay tribute to those - Black and White - who campaigned for abolition.

## THE TRIANGULAR TRADE

The principle was that empty ships do not make a profit. There were **three** stages:

**Route A:** Goods such as firearms, textiles and copper bars were shipped from Europe to the west coast of Africa, where they were exchanged for Africans. The captives were marched to the coast in shackles and chains, sometimes for weeks.

**Route B:** The Middle Passage. Over 12 million people were then transported across the Atlantic to the Americas to be sold to plantation owners. It generally took six weeks. Conditions were appalling in the packed unhealthy holds, and up to one in five died.

**Route C:** In the Americas the captives were sold into chattel slavery to work on plantations, in mines and a variety of skilled and unskilled tasks. Owners treated them with brutality and disregard for their lives. Finally, the ships returned to Europe loaded up with sugar, rum and tobacco produced on the plantations.



## SLAVE TRADING AND EDINBURGH

One Edinburgh slaving venture was the Glasgow, which set out from Leith for Gambia, reaching Barbados in 1764.



**ARCHIBALD DALZEL**, born in Kirkliston, was a slave-trader on the **Gold Coast**. He was appointed Director of the Royal African Company's slave fort at Whydah in today's **Benin**. Then in 1791 he became Governor of Cape Coast Castle, the chief British settlement in what is now **Ghana**, staying there for more than ten years.

# Trading with the AMERICAS

## DIRECT TRADE

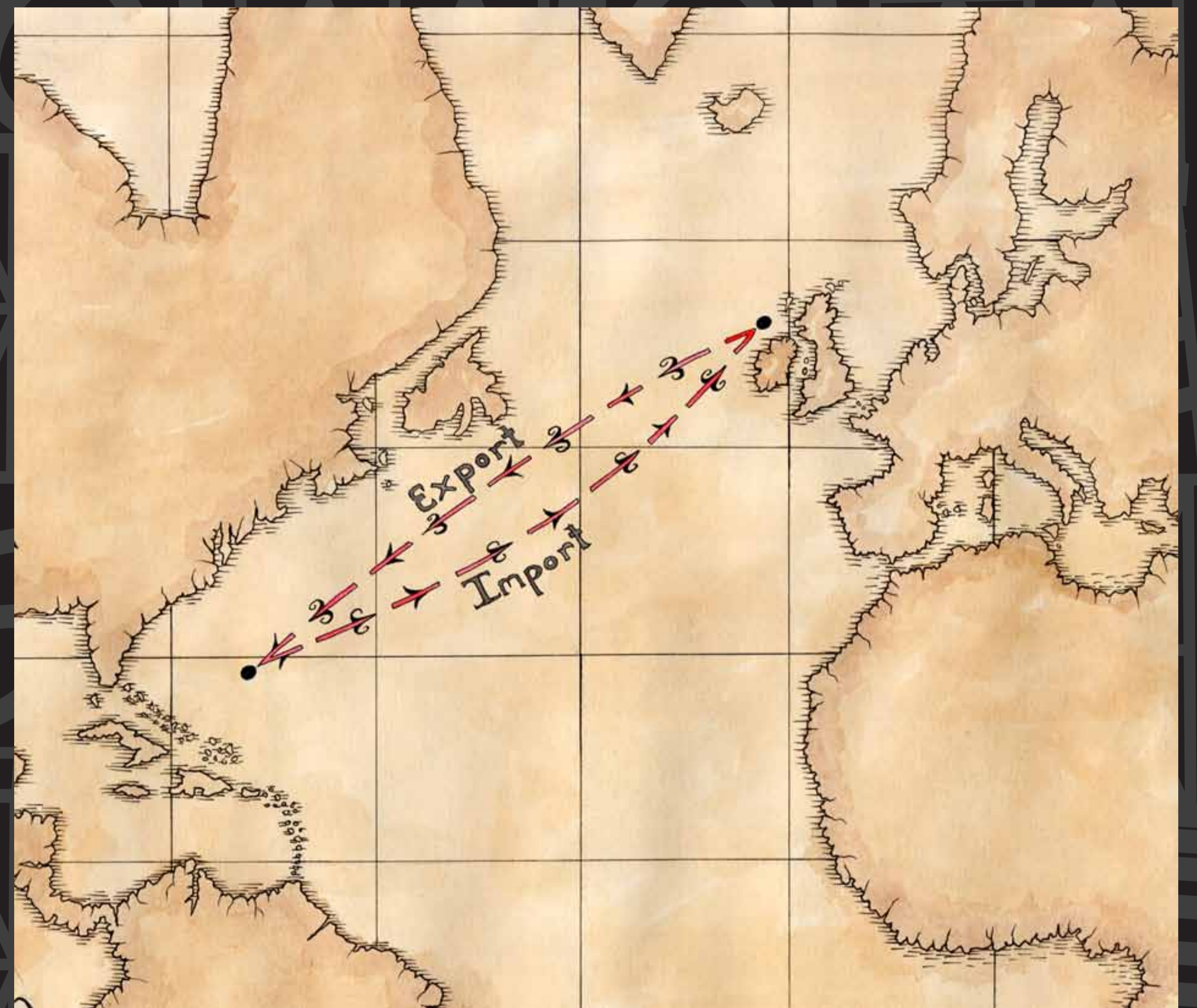
The triangular trade was a dangerous and often costly venture. The few Edinburgh merchants who were brave enough to back a long haul voyage chose the more controllable and safer 'direct trading'. This involved shipping Scottish goods out and tobacco and sugar back.

The Act of Union of 1707, which joined the parliaments of Scotland and England, improved Scotland's trading links with the West Indies. The Edinburgh Corporation even petitioned the new parliament to guarantee access to this lucrative trade.

## IMPORTS TO THE PORT OF LEITH

Imports from North America and the West Indies:

Rum, Muscovado Sugar, Cotton, Rice, Indigo, Mahogany, Sago powder...



## JAMES GILLESPIE

**JAMES GILLESPIE** was a well-known tobacconist in Edinburgh. He sold Virginia tobacco, making a fortunate speculation during the American War, when the price of tobacco was at its peak. Their shop at **231 High Street** was managed by John, the younger brother, while James ground tobacco into snuff at his home in Spylaw. In his will, James Gillespie left £12,000 to build a hospital and school. **JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL** still exists today.



## TOBACCO

The majority of tobacco in Scotland came from **Virginia**. Chattel slaves, brought from Africa, provided the cheap labour needed to keep up with the demand from Europe. By the end of the 18th Century Virginia had seen an increase from 20,000 to 395,000 in its slave population.

Virginia tobacco began coming into Leith at the turn of the 17th century. The first recorded Leith ship to sail to the Americas was the **JOB**. She returned to **LEITH** from Virginia in March 1667 with **20,500lb of leaf tobacco**, consigned to two Edinburgh merchants.

# Trading with the AMERICAS

## SUGAR

There is a clear link between the growth of Britain's sugar and slave trades. Sugar cane was a challenging crop to grow, every stage involved gruelling labour. The life expectancy for sugar slaves was only half that of other field slaves. This seems a huge price to pay in order for a Scot to afford the luxury of adding a couple of teaspoons of sugar to their tea.

**Sugar was transported to port towns and cities such as Edinburgh and Leith to be refined.**

There were at least four sugar refining factories or 'sugar-houses' in Edinburgh and Leith. In 1752 The Edinburgh Sugar House Company was situated at 154 Canongate (now Sugar House Close). The Leith Sugar House Company was created in 1757, and was mostly made up of Edinburgh bankers. Mr Macfie was also a well-known sugar refiner in Leith. His establishment stood in Elbe Street, South Leith, before it was destroyed by fire. Sugarwork Close in North Leith also appears as a sugar refining works in 1813.



## SUGARHOUSE CLOSE

## 'THE EXPORT' TO 'THE WEST' INDIES

Because the islands concentrated on the production of one or two key crops the inhabitants of the West Indies were forced to import all necessary and personal goods.

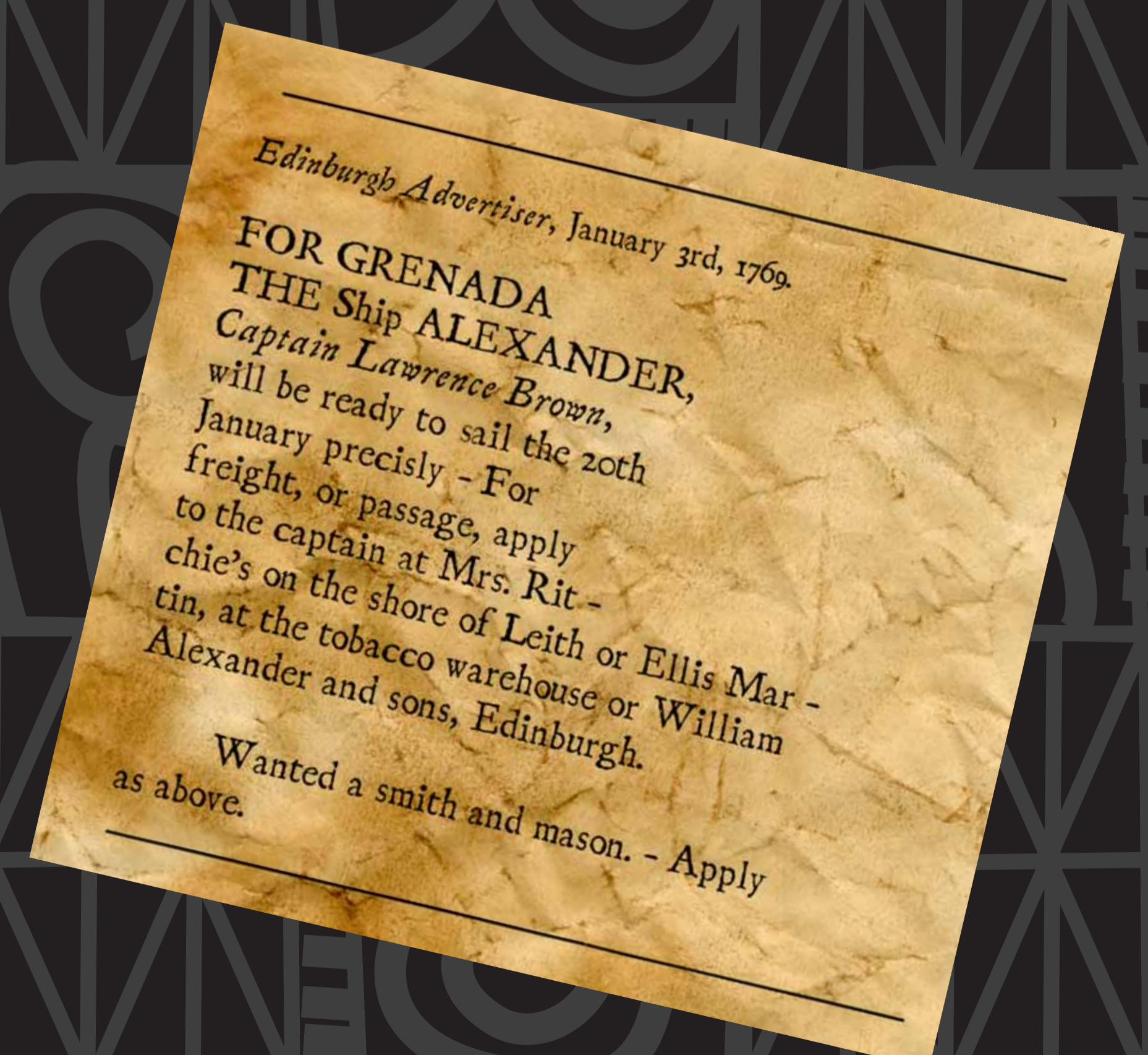
## EXPORTS FROM THE PORT OF LEITH

Exports to North America and West Indies:

Negroes clothing, Linens, Household furniture, Wearing apparel, Glass bottles, Leather shoes, Smiths and Joiners tools', Bricks, Carriages....

## WILLIAM ALEXANDER

WILLIAM ALEXANDER was the Lord Provost of Edinburgh in 1753. Between 1756 and 1763 he owned four vessels, described as 'armed running ships' which were given special permission to sail to the New World during the Seven Years War (1756 -60). He must have been very wealthy considering other ships were often owned by groups of men.



# 'Will ye go to the INDIES?'

'The Company of Scotland trading to Africa and the Indies' was set up by an Act of the Scots Parliament in 1695. The subsequent Darien scheme unsuccessfully attempted to set up a Colony on the Isthmus of Panama, with disastrous consequences, involving huge losses of capital for the investors. While many Scots continued to seek wealth and prosperity in the West Indies, others had little choice ....

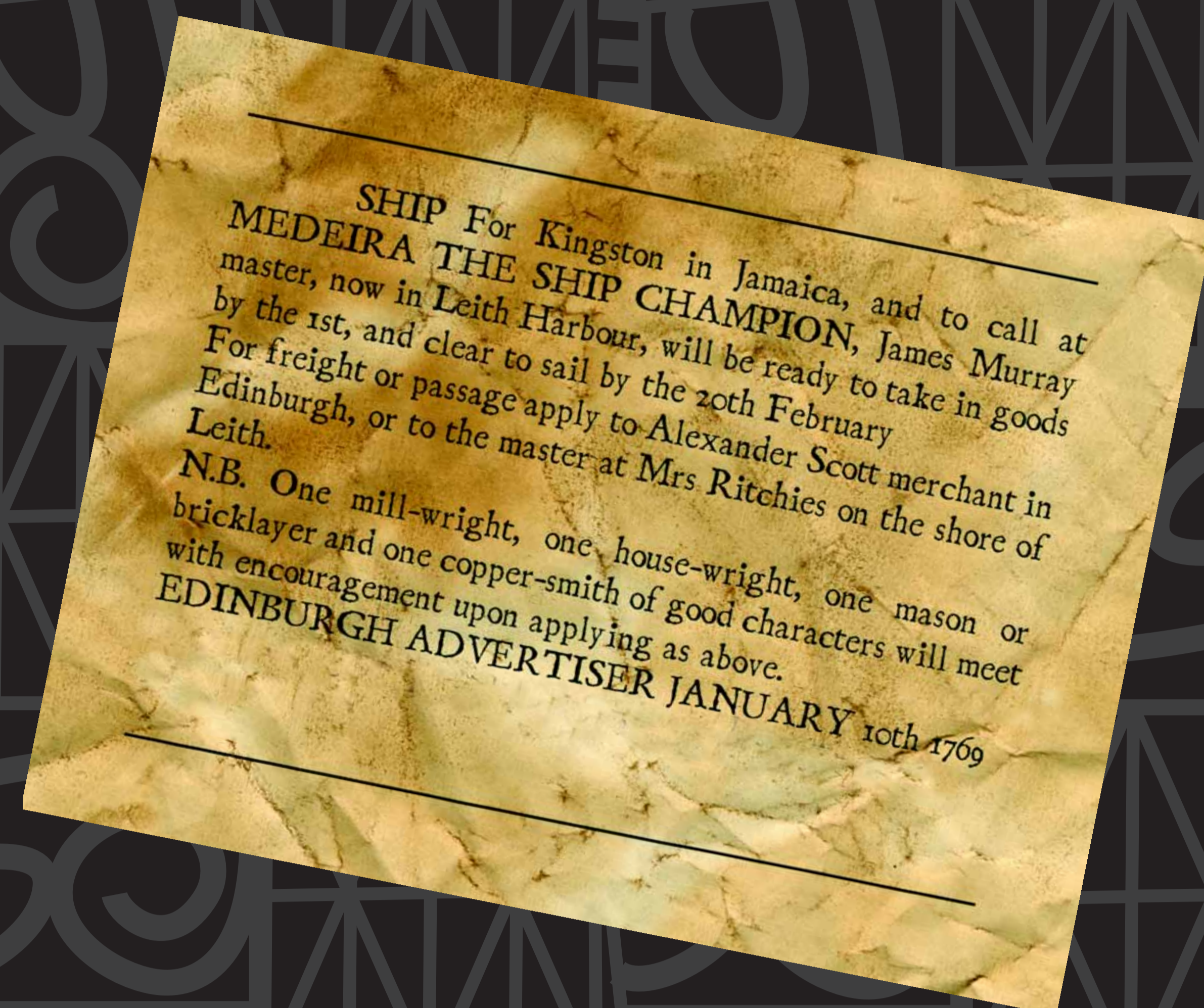
Indentured labourers, religious nonconformists, convicted criminals and '*such vagabonds and idle persones as ar not fitt to stay in the Kingdome*' were regularly sent out to plantations in Virginia and the Caribbean throughout the later 17th and early 18th centuries.

**CHARLES ALLEN**, a servant from Leith, fought against the English at the battle of Culloden in 1746. Instead of being hanged he was sent to Barbados.



*Indian Peter*  
by John Kay

There are many records of children being kidnapped and sold into indentured servitude. One of the best known cases is that of **PETER WILLIAMSON** (Indian Peter) who returned from America, and in 1763 successfully took his case against Aberdeen merchants before the Edinburgh Court of Session.



*Detail from 'Robert Burns in James Sibbald's Circulating Library, Parliament Square, Edinburgh', by William Borthwick Johnstone. Courtesy of The Edinburgh Booksellers' Society Ltd.*

**ROBERT BURNS** (1759-1796) had considered emigrating with 'Highland Mary' to Jamaica to work on a sugar estate. Mary's death and the success of his first volume of poems, published at Kilmarnock in 1786, changed his mind and instead he travelled to Edinburgh.

# SCOTS in the West Indies

SCOTS sought their fortunes and contributed to the ownership and management of estates throughout the whole of the British West Indies during the 18th century.

From St Kitts, the first British settlement in 1632, to Barbados, Antigua, Jamaica and the British Virgin Islands, the islands generated considerable wealth. By the early 19th century 30% of Jamaican estates were owned or managed by Scots.

**JOHN GLADSTONE**, the father of the Prime Minister William E. Gladstone, was born in Leith. He was Chairman of the West India Association and made his fortune through his large plantations in Jamaica and Demerara.



Prof Geoff Palmer demonstrates how the layout of Inveresk Lodge Estate was modelled on a Jamaican sugar plantation.

Scottish names were given to places in Jamaica, many of these were plantations.

**INVERESK LODGE** near Musselburgh was bought by **JAMES WEDDERBURN** in 1773 from the fortune he made over 27 years as a slave master in Jamaica. **ROBERT WEDDERBURN** was born in 1762, the son of James and his black slave Rosanna. In 1795 Robert travelled to Inveresk to find his father, but was sent away with the 'gift of a cracked sixpence'.

## JAMAICAN PHONE BOOK

Some Scots names in the Jamaican phone book

CALLAM - CAMERON 79	CAMPBELL 87	JOHNSON - JOHNSTONE 277	MCHUGH - MCINTOSH 335	372 MURRAY
907 Cameron Gary A 36 Brotherton Av Kgn 13 ..... 757-0460	34 Campbell Patsy Lot 444 Catherine Hall MoBy ..... 952-3945	2 Johnson Winston R 36 1/2 Barbican Rd Kgn 6 ..... 977-7199	037 McIntosh Lemuel A Lot 1407 4th Manatee Wy DkPn ..... 998-2132	Murray Blanche I 13 Omara Cres Kgn 10 ..... 926-2937
221 Cameron Geofrey D 110 Bob Marley Av Kgn 20 ..... 765-2369	73 Campbell Paul 17 Binns Rd Kgn 11 ..... 901-3812	0 Johnson Winston S 61 Delido Dr SpTn ..... 984-0067	040 McIntosh Lena C Darliston ..... 955-0405	Murray Blossom A Allman Hill ABRk ..... 903-9330
748 Cameron George C March Twn ..... 609-0304	28 Campbell Paul Content MrBy ..... 703-0549	8 Johnson Yrigan V 8 Waltham Av Kgn 13 ..... 758-6150	018 McIntosh Levant D 23 Kings Dr Kgn 6 ..... 978-7714	Murray C 12 Pk Av Kgn 19 ..... 755-1861
650 Cameron Gerald 40 Sunrise Dr Kgn 19 ..... 925-5338	Campbell Paul Gayle ..... 975-8504	Campbell Paul Llandilo Svln ..... 918-0584	McIntosh Levi E Cave ..... 955-8527	Murray C C 12 Manor Pk Dr Kgn 8 ..... 924-2210
Cameron Gertrude G Station Rd LtLn ..... 955-7377	98 Campbell Paul ..... 949-6568	2 Johnson Yhonic N 24 Frazers Blvd SpTn ..... 748-3011	019 McIntosh Lilla West Prospect Knol ..... 985-8518	Murray C F 69 Leeward Cl Wik2 ..... 750-1228
443 Cameron Gladstone L Hollywood Norwood MoBy 1 ..... 979-9436	36 Campbell Paul 8 Willow Cl Ptmr ..... 740-8685	3 Johnson Yolanda G 47 Shortwood Rd Kgn 8 ..... 931-1433	385 McIntosh Linden A 91 Bamboo Rd Hpw ..... 956-5204	Murray Calbert Heartease GrGn ..... 963-3215
343 Cameron Glen A Cross Rd Cht1 ..... 785-0107	17 Campbell Paul A 10 Baldwin Cres Kgn 20 ..... 934-1576	3 Johnson Yolanda G 47 Shortwood Rd Kgn 8 ..... 925-4793	212 McIntosh Linrose M Chantilly Gdns Svln ..... 918-0482	Murray Calvin Apt 14 Calabar Mews Kgn 20 ..... 925-0888
098 Cameron Glenovan H 10 Coolshade Dr Kgn 19 ..... 969-8614	74 Campbell Paul D 33b Omara Rd Kgn 10 ..... 968-3169	3 Johnson Yvonne E Barnstaple MDay ..... 904-7776	079 McIntosh Lorna Rose Hgts MoBy ..... 952-8724	Murray Canute Apt 14 11 West Av Kgn 8 ..... 925-6083
265 Cameron Glenroy E Bartons ..... 602-1276	48 Campbell Paul E 18 Portview Av Kgn 20 ..... 933-1100	3 Johnson Yvonne E Malton Wlfd ..... 624-0412	069 McIntosh Lucie C Lot 271 Canary Cres MoBy ..... 979-6488	Murray Carlene Somerton Smtm ..... 912-7389
195 Cameron Grace A 8 1/4 Dunoon Rd Kgn 2 ..... 928-1354	18 Campbell Paul E 13 Longfellow Av Kgn 20 ..... 933-5365	1 Johnson Yvette M 2a Mansfield Wy Ocho ..... 974-2415	036 McIntosh Lucille C Lot 168 Woodpecker Av MoBy ..... 979-7113	Murray Carlos S 4 Donald Cl Ptmr ..... 704-2806
058 Cameron Grace L 8 Ocean Blvd ..... 922-5296	80 Campbell Paula D 13 Longfellow Av Kgn 20 ..... 933-5365	9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	350 McIntosh Luke A 21 Deaney Rd Kgn 3 ..... 928-4284	Murray Caroline A Fairfield Bath ..... 703-4030
624 Cameron Graceann M 31 Pandora Cres Kgn 11 ..... 764-8084	28 Campbell Paula D Shelly Rd Bamb ..... 962-9766	1 Johnson Yvonne M Tnise 9 55 Shortwood Rd Kgn 8 ..... 969-8325	037 McIntosh M C 3 Roehampton Av Kgn 19 ..... 925-7628	Murray Catherine M Ramble SAbY ..... 972-0232
343 Cameron Harold C 16 Acadia Dr Kgn 8 ..... 931-9599	54 Campbell Paul E 17 West Palm Av PtAn ..... 715-6911	9 Johnson Yvonne P 52 1/2 Chisholm Av Kgn 13 ..... 923-5401	038 McIntosh M L 3 Roehampton Av Kgn 19 ..... 925-9049	Murray Cecile B Lot 57 Ocean Blvd Yala ..... 706-1280
367 Cameron Hazel H Corner CrHl ..... 966-7278	33 Campbell Paul E 17 West Palm Av PtAn ..... 715-6911	9 Johnson Zedford Flagstaff ..... 912-5892	005 McIntosh Marva L 38 Paddington Terr Kgn 6 ..... 978-4788	Murray Charles A Landsettlemnt Wf1 ..... 624-0436
209 Cameron Hazel P Lot 1139 2 East Greater Portmore ..... 740-7214	42 Campbell Paulette 43 August Twn Rd Kgn 7 ..... 702-4774	7 Johnson Zela D Lot 39 Inglewood Dr May Pen ..... 902-4754	053 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Charles C Landswood Exchange Ocho ..... 974-0948
589 Cameron Henry Geddes Mtn Ocba ..... 726-1681	24 Campbell Paulette 42 Edinburgh Av Kgn 10 ..... 969-5321	9 Johnson Yvonne E Stanton Fllo ..... 913-5337	079 McIntosh Marjie 7 Aldene Dr Kgn 20 ..... 925-1850	Murray Christopher R Landswood Exchange Ocho ..... 974-0948
200 Cameron Henry C 10a Worthington Av Kgn 5 ..... 929-6378	59 Campbell Paulette 51 Hillside Cres Kgn 2 ..... 759-3182	9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	094 McIntosh Marjorie 21 North Access Rd Wldn ..... 602-0034	Murray Clarence Lot 4 Farm Hill Ocho ..... 974-2387
446 Cameron Hensley O Lot 34 Rosemount Gdns Montego Bay ..... 971-8000	04 Campbell Paulette 17 West Palm Av PtAn ..... 715-6911	9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	065 McIntosh Marlon Y Mt Nebo Benbow ..... 994-3641	Murray Carlene Somerton Smtm ..... 912-7389
318 Cameron Herbert Lot 34 Rosemount Gdns Montego Bay ..... 971-8000	36 Campbell Paulette A Lot 398 OrBy ..... 957-6600	9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	037 McIntosh Marva L 38 Paddington Terr Kgn 6 ..... 978-4788	Murray Carlos S 4 Donald Cl Ptmr ..... 704-2806
457 Cameron Herbert 4 Adina Spence Pkwy Kgn 12 ..... 967-7442	03 Campbell Paulette D 2a Deaney Rd Kgn 3 ..... 938-0202	9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	038 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Caroline A Fairfield Bath ..... 703-4030
762 Cameron Hilda R Mrs Lot 832 Enson Av SpTn ..... 984-1676	39 Campbell Paulette D 95 Mtn Vw Av Kgn 3 ..... 938-2603	9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	039 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Cassandra Coxheath RnBy ..... 973-4751
265 Cameron Horace L Hanson Av StCz ..... 966-3814	04 Campbell Paulette J 5 Waltham Av Kgn 13 ..... 757-7837	9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	040 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Catherine Long Grass Wtmt ..... 705-3353
286 Cameron Hubert Lot 198 Hermitage Hsng HpBy ..... 913-0135		9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	041 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Cecile B Lot 57 Ocean Blvd Yala ..... 706-1280
426 Cameron Icelyn Frankfield Frnk ..... 904-4569		9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	042 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Charles A Landsettlemnt Wf1 ..... 624-0436
033 Cameron Inez 4 Adina Spence Pkwy Kgn 12 ..... 967-7442		9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	043 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Charles C Landswood Exchange Ocho ..... 974-0948
915 Cameron Inez Mrs Browns Twn PTHl ..... 705-5732		9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	044 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Carlene Somerton Smtm ..... 912-7389
972 Cameron Iris 14 Savoy Av SJon ..... 981-5400		9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	045 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Carlos S 4 Donald Cl Ptmr ..... 704-2806
309 Cameron Ivy 18 McLaughlin Dr Kgn 3 ..... 928-4794		9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	046 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Caroline A Fairfield Bath ..... 703-4030
074 Cameron Jacqueline M ..... 757-3005		9 Johnson Yvonne E Waterlwr Rd Ewtn ..... 985-0055	047 McIntosh Marvie E Nowatt Hill GrNv ..... 601-0659	Murray Cassandra Coxheath RnBy ..... 973-4751

# BLACK people in EDINBURGH

Many children and young people were brought from the Caribbean to Edinburgh as personal servants and status symbols for the wealthy, or to be apprenticed into a trade. Some were sold on, some escaped, while others became integrated into society.

**EDINBURGH EVENING COURANT,  
7 MARCH 1721**

Advertisement for the apprehension of 18 year old Ann wearing a brass collar about her neck on which was engraved 'Gustavas Brown in Dalkeith, his negro'.

THE COUNTESS OF STAIR, who resided in Lady Stairs' House (now the Writers' Museum) in Lady Stairs Close was reported in 1744 to have a 'black boy'.

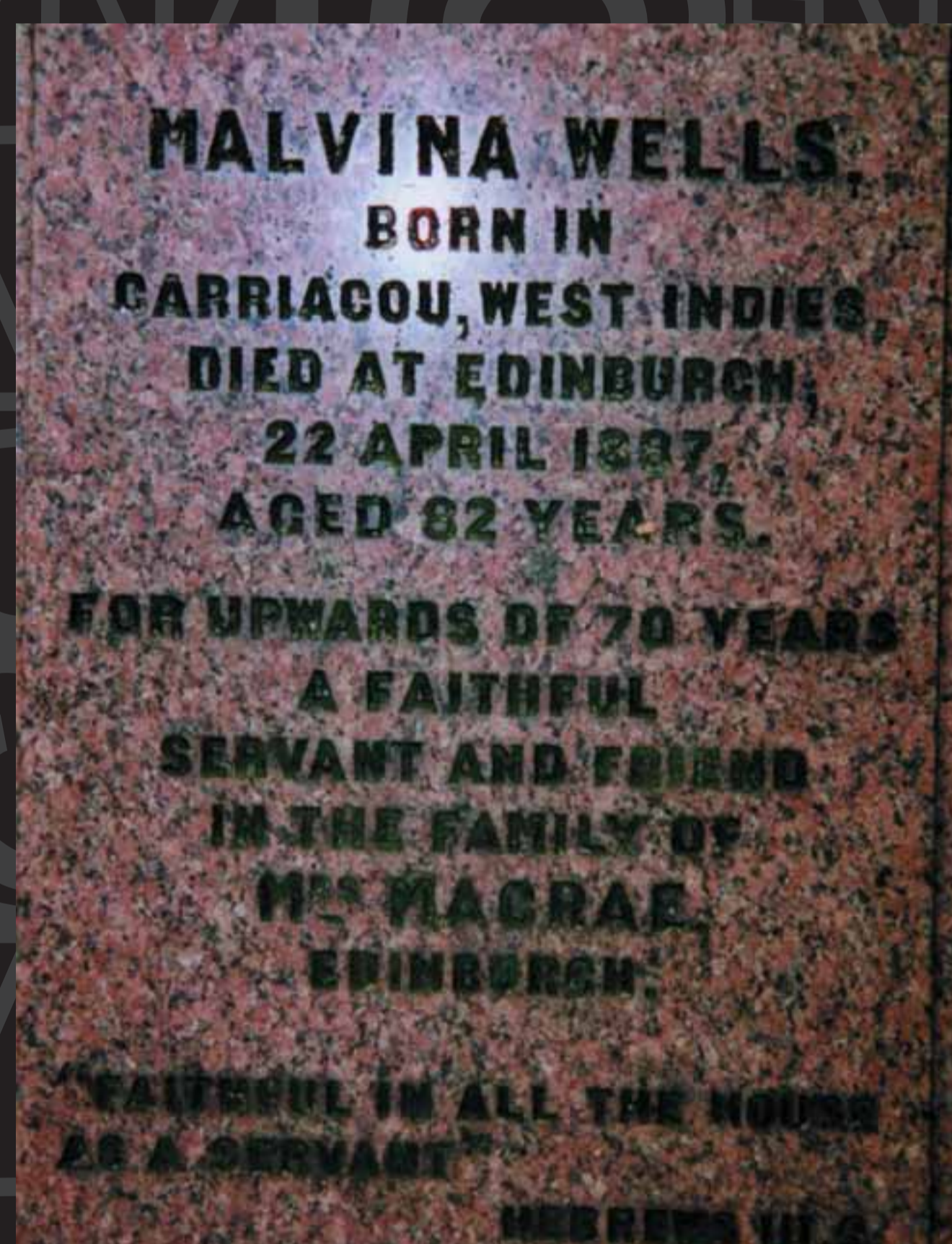
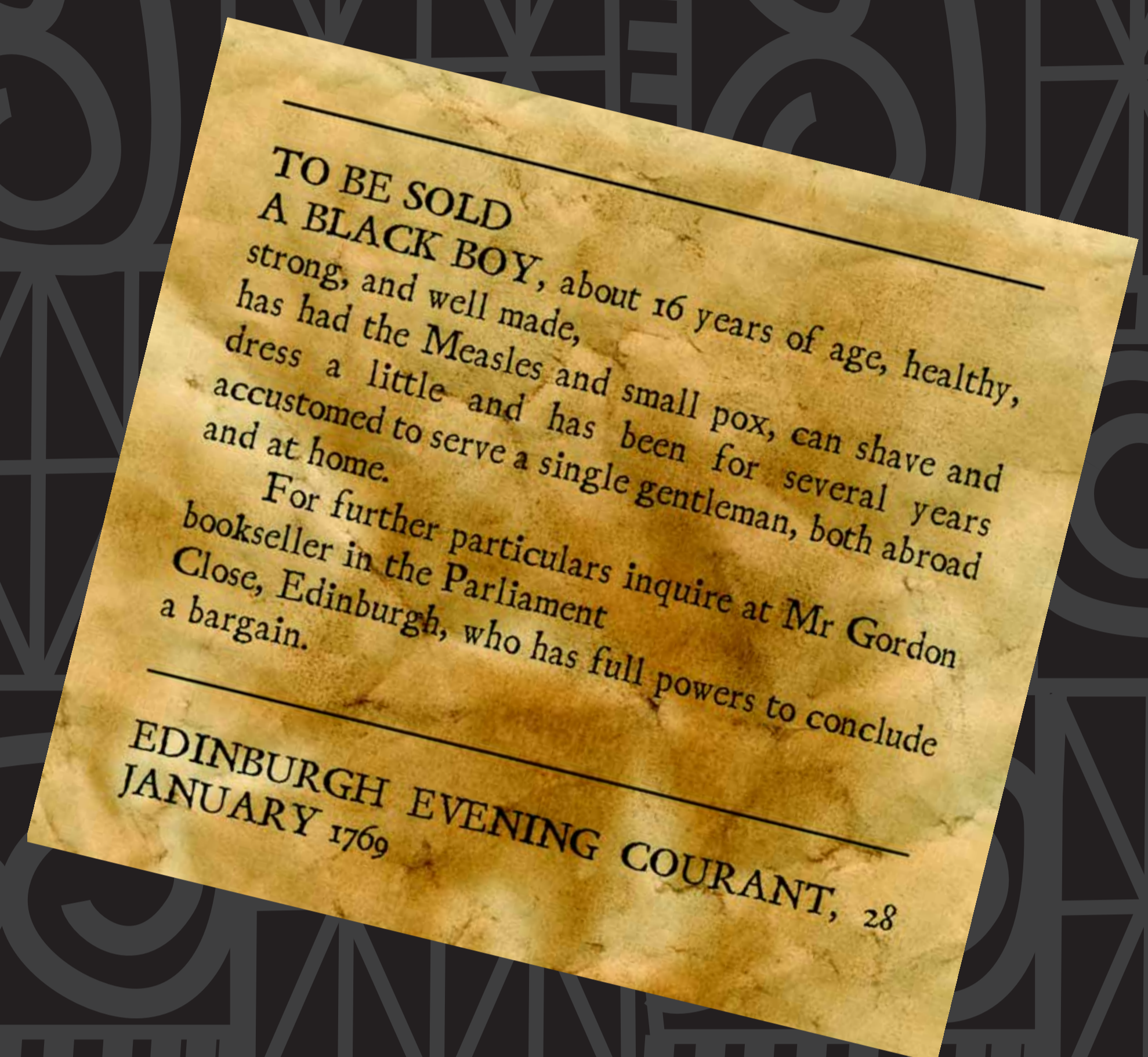
## THE BLACK BIRD-STUFFER

JOHN EDMONSTONE was a freed slave from Guyana who lived in Lothian Street and taught the art of taxidermy to Edinburgh University students. In 1826 one of these was Charles Darwin, author of the Origin of Species.



Thomas Jenkins hoarding stumps of discarded candles so he could read late at night.

THOMAS JENKINS was brought from Upper Guinea (Liberia) to Hawick to gain an education. In 1817 he studied classics at Edinburgh University. This example of an 'intelligent negro' was used by abolitionists to counter the racist view that the black African was incapable of higher learning.



Horse fair in the Grassmarket  
James Howe (1780-1836)  
Detail showing a black man at the horse fair.

# The HORRIBLE traffic

## KEY EVENTS FOR EDINBURGH IN THE ABOLITION MOVEMENT

1778

Slave, **JOSEPH KNIGHT**, seeks his freedom. The Court of Session in Edinburgh heard the case and ruled that the law of Scotland did not allow slavery.

1787

Founding of the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in London. This activated public opinion throughout Britain to have an organised fight for abolition.

1788

First Scottish petition to the Parliament from the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce. Argued they could not see the slave trade as profitable and in any case it was against humanity.\*

\* Members of the public, including working men and women, who didn't yet have the vote, could be involved by signing petitions.

1789

Founding of The Edinburgh Committee for the Abolition of the African Slave Trade. It was the oldest and strongest of all abolitionist societies in Scotland.

1802

Henry Brougham and three legal and literary friends founded the **EDINBURGH REVIEW**, which took a strong position against the slave trade from the start.

1807

On March 25th the **SLAVE TRADE ABOLITION BILL** was passed in the British Parliament. It outlawed trading in slaves by British ships and British citizens.

## CAMPAIGNERS

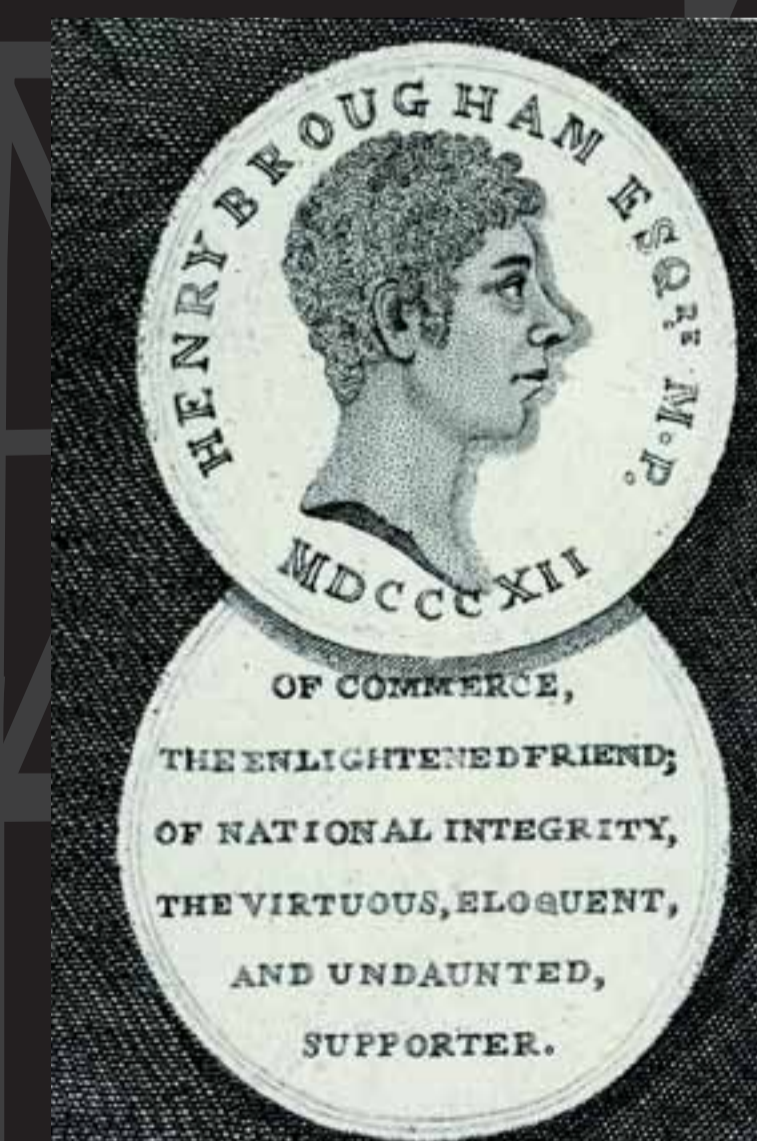
**EDINBURGH-BORN HENRY DUNDAS**, MP for Midlothian, controlled most of the Scottish MPs in the late 18th century. It was his proposal in 1792, that 'the slave trade ought to be gradually abolished' that effectively delayed abolition for a further 15 years.

Educated at Edinburgh Royal High School and Edinburgh University, **HENRY BROUGHAM** was elected as an MP in 1810. In his first year of office, he introduced a bill to increase the penalties for anyone 'who dare to trade in human flesh', because the existing small fines were proving to be no deterrent to the slavers. The penalties were raised during the following year, largely due to his speech. Brougham took over from Wilberforce as the MP who could bring the issue of slavery to Parliament's attention.

The famous ex-slave **OLAUDAH EQUIANO**, an activist in the London abolition movement, toured Scotland to talk to audiences. He saw a debate of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh in 1792 after which he wrote a letter to the Edinburgh Evening Courant offering 'the warmest effusions of a heart overflowing with hope from your pious efforts'.



Henry Dundas  
by John Kay



Henry Brougham  
by John Kay



© National Maritime Museum,  
London

# 'For we are ALL naturally EQUAL'

The 1807 Act effectively ended the British transatlantic slave trade, but not slavery. A new campaign therefore began to abolish slavery throughout the British Empire, resulting in the Emancipation Act of 1833.

## KEY EVENTS FOR EDINBURGH IN THE ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT

### 1823

Founding of **The Edinburgh Society for Promoting the Mitigation and Ultimate Abolition of Negro Slavery**. Once again it was the **Strongest committee in Scotland**. Seeking to end 'this most grievous outrage on humanity'.

### 1830

October 1830, two meetings in Edinburgh mark a new era in the anti-slavery campaign. Dr Andrew Thomson's speeches at the meetings resulted in the Society being renamed **The Edinburgh Society for the Abolition of Negro Slavery**.

### 1833

**The Emancipation Act was passed**. It abolished slavery in the British Empire but included the choice of binding the slaves into a six-year apprenticeship. Slave owners also received in today's money £2.2 billion for their loss.

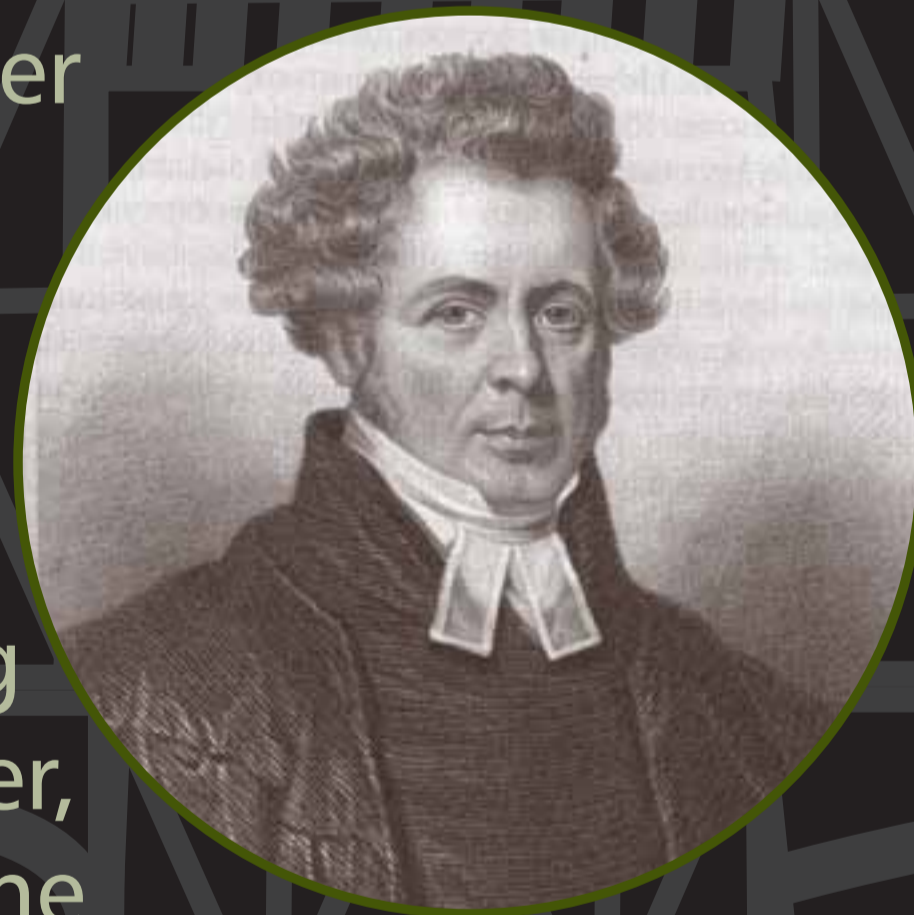
### 1838

The British Government agreed to end the apprenticeship scheme, freeing nearly 800,000 men and women two years early. This was also due to the mounting pressure which included petitions from Edinburgh and Glasgow.

### 1865

Campaigners like **Eliza Wigham** continued to fight to abolish slavery around the world. Slavery was finally abolished in the United States territories following the American Civil War (1861-65).

**DR ANDREW THOMSON** was minister of St George's Church, Edinburgh. On 19th October 1830 he addressed a crowd of 2,500 in the Assembly Rooms George Street, Edinburgh. Before his speech many campaigners had been cautiously petitioning for the **gradual** abolition of slavery. However, he argued for the 'immediate' abolition of the slave trade, 'let man be free, even though all our colonies should be the price of such a consummation'.



**LINCOLN MONUMENT** in Old Carlton Burial Ground, commemorates the Scottish soldiers who served in the Union Army against the Confederate South during the American Civil War.

**ELIZA WIGHAM** was born in Edinburgh in 1820.

A Quaker, she was a member of the Ladies Edinburgh Emancipation Society and has been seen as one of six key women in the British 'transatlantic anti-slavery sisterhood'. Her family were at the centre of the anti-slavery campaign in Edinburgh. Her father John Wigham Jr. was a leader of the Edinburgh Anti-Slavery Society. Eliza raised money to aid Harriet Tubman in freeing North American slaves. Tubman was a conductor on the Underground Railroad, carrying about 300 slaves to freedom in the North.





# Testimony

**ARCHIBALD DALZEL**, from Kirkliston, director of the Royal African Company's fort at Whydah in today's Benin. His book, *History of Dahomey - an inland Kingdom of Africa*, was used by Liverpool merchants to defend the slave trade. In it, he argues that the slave trade **rescued** West Africans from the brutality and constant warring in their homeland.

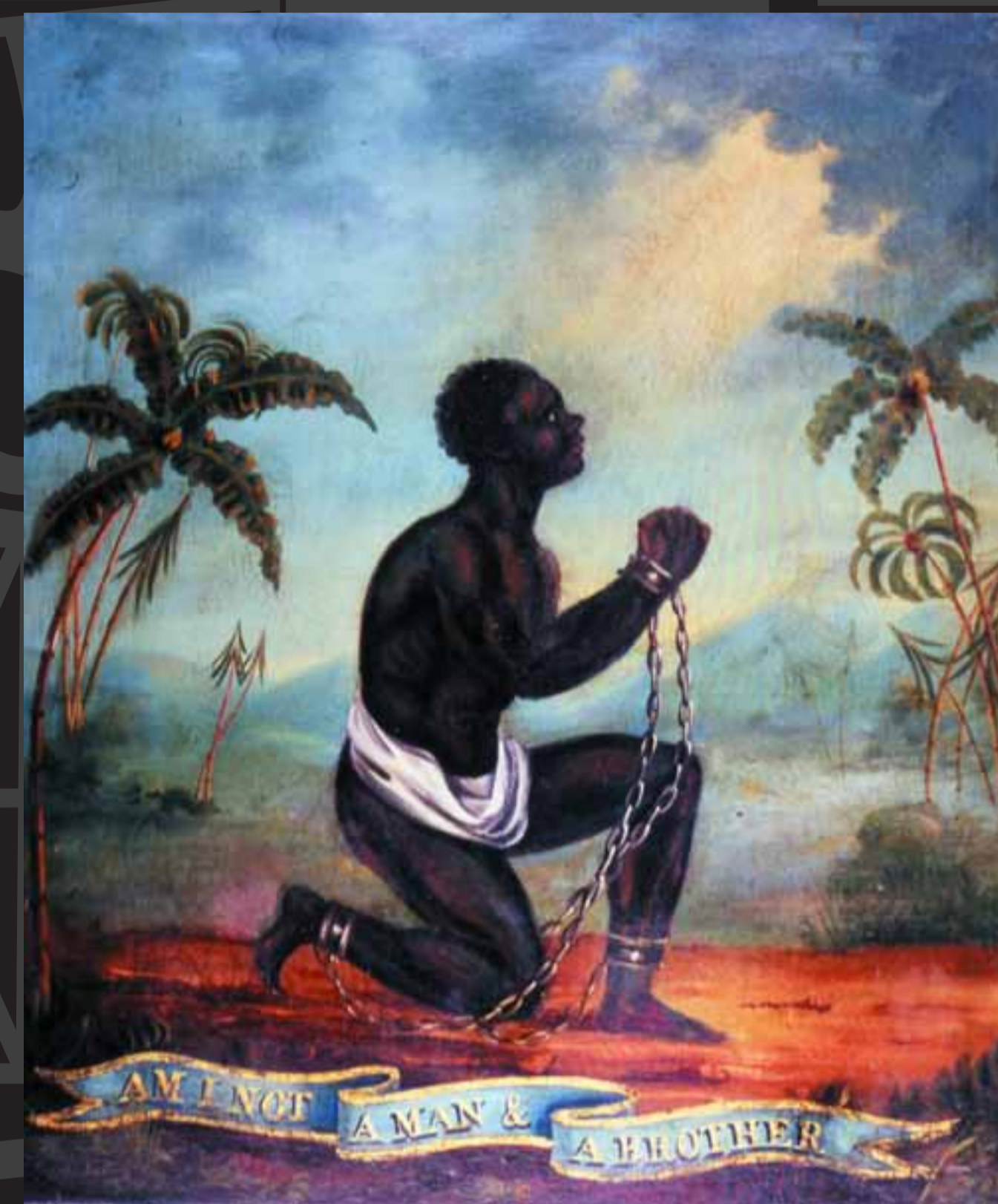
*'In this light, Asiatic pomp and European necessity for labourers inured to a tropical sun, appear to have been the only effectual instruments of mercy, the only means whereby the lives of these unfortunate people have been saved'.*

**JANET SCHAW** an Edinburgh 'Lady of Quality' wrote about her travels on a voyage to the West Indies in 1774. Here she lands in St Kitts:

*'Every ten Negroes have a driver, who walks behind them, holding in his hand a short whip and a long one. You will too easily guess the use of these weapons; a circumstance of all others the most horrid. They are naked, male and female, down to the girdle, and you constantly observe where the application has been made.'*

**ROBERT WEDDERBURN** was born in 1762, the son of plantation owner James Wedderburn of Inveresk Lodge near Musselburgh, and his black slave Rosanna. In a letter to the Editor of Bell's Life in London on 29th February 1824 he wrote:

*'I have seen my poor mother stretched on the ground, tied hands and feet, and FLOGGED in the most indecent manner, though PREGNANT AT THE SAME TIME!!!! her fault being the not acquainting her mistress that her master had given her leave to go to see her mother in town!'*



The Kneeling Slave - 'Am I not a Man and a Brother'  
Courtesy Wilberforce House, Hull City Museums and Galleries

An extract from a sermon preached by **PROFESSOR WILLIAM ROBERTSON** (1721-1793) Minister of Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh and leading intellectual in the Scottish Enlightenment:

*'No inequality of condition, no superiority in power, no pretext of consent, can justify this ignominious depression of human nature, or can confer upon one man the right of domination over the person of another'.*

