

# North East Slavery & Abolition Group ENewsletter

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## Editorial

The first issue of the Enewsletter has been well received. Although it is devoted to the North East's links with Slavery & Abolition, issues will from time to time include information about other related historical matters and about black residents and visitors to the North East post 1865. The first issue can be seen on the Tyne & Wear Archive website:

[www.tyneandweararchives.org.uk](http://www.tyneandweararchives.org.uk). Items and comments for inclusion for Issue 3 should be sent to me by 22 May. - Sean Creighton

### **Africa and the Banjo**

**Sunday 27 April. 8pm. Sage, Gateshead.  
Otis Taylor. Recapturing the Banjo  
- From Mali to Mississippi.**

The banjo was taken to America by Africans argues Otis Taylor who is on tour in Britain. (See What's On section of [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org).) An interview with Taylor in Guardian 2 on 14 April explains how he fell in love with the banjo, and discusses how the original African way of playing was Westernised and broadened out to a wide range of other musical genre. The article's author Alfred Hickling says that Taylor makes the banjo 'a pounding, percussive device emitting strange, droning overtones that reach all the way to Africa.' <http://music.guardian.co.uk/folk/story/0,,2273468,00.html>

### **Colour Blind?**

**11 June. 6.30 for 7pm. Lit & Phil  
23 Westgate Rd, Newcastle 1**

Dave Renton will speak about his new book 'Colour Blind? Race and Migration in North East England Since 1945', just published by University of Sunderland Press. He tells the story of migration from the perspective of those who experienced it. In so far as the region has been open to migrants, the welcome has been decisively shaped by cultures of occupation and class. He undertook the research when as a Research Fellow at University of Sunderland. At the time of writing this Newsletter the book is not yet featured on the UPS website <http://my.sunderland.ac.uk/web/services/uosp/books.html>. Dave's website is [www.dkrenton.co.uk](http://www.dkrenton.co.uk). Meeting has been organised by John Charlton.

## The Yemeni and Arab Community in South Shields

The first issue listed published work about the Yemeni and Arab community in South Shields. Their history is the subject of an exhibition at Gateshead's Baltic Centre 'Last of the Dictionary Men running until 5 May. Press and other coverage can be seen on:

27 March: [www.ncl.ac.uk/press.office/newslink/index.html?ref=1206622895](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/press.office/newslink/index.html?ref=1206622895)

31 March: <http://arts.guardian.co.uk/art/heritage/story/0,,2269482,00.html>

1 April: [www.shieldsgazette.com/news/Recording-stories-of-town39s-Arab.3933926.jp](http://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/Recording-stories-of-town39s-Arab.3933926.jp)  
<http://yib.org.uk/news.php>

Historical information can be seen on the following websites:

Dick Lawless's biographical sketch of Sheikh Abdullah Ali-al-Hakimi on [www.al-bab.com/bys/articles/lawless93.htm](http://www.al-bab.com/bys/articles/lawless93.htm)

1919 Riots: [www.bbc.co.uk/nationonfilm/topics/family-and-community/south-shields-yemeni-riots.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nationonfilm/topics/family-and-community/south-shields-yemeni-riots.shtml)

[www.bbc.co.uk/tyne/roots/2003/10/arabontyne.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/tyne/roots/2003/10/arabontyne.shtml)

1930 riots play by Peter Mortimer: [www.britishtheatreguide.info/reviews/riot-rev.htm](http://www.britishtheatreguide.info/reviews/riot-rev.htm)

Mohamed Ali - The King of South Shields' by Tina Ghavari:

[www.ncl.ac.uk/elll/research/publication/26979](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/elll/research/publication/26979)

Peter Mortimer's 'Cool for Qat' book: [www.petermortimer.co.uk/iwasthere.html](http://www.petermortimer.co.uk/iwasthere.html)

## Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was the very gifted Black British composer who died in 1912. In his biography 'The Hiawatha Man. The Life and Work of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. (Scolare Press. 1995), Geoffrey Self tells us that the first commercial performance of 'Hiawatha's Wedding' was conducted in Sunderland by the composer on 16 November 1898. It looks as if the man instrumental in arranging this was Elgar's friend, the musical 'ironmaster' Nicholas Kilburn'. He directed the choir in the performance. Kilburn's young son Paul was an aspiring composer, and Coleridge-Taylor took his composition seriously. (p. 80) In late December/early January 1899/1900 he was due to perform 'The Wedding Feast' in Newcastle, and hoped to attend a concert by the Sunderland Philharmonic Society. He cancelled all his engagements as he was getting married on 1 January 1900. (p.99) In March he wrote to Kilburn bemoaning the Royal Choral Society's rehearsal of 'Hiawatha's Departure' for performance at the Albert Hall. 'Heavens! How I long for Sunderland and Middlesbrough!' 'I'm glad you live in Bishop Auckland or you might feel inclined to sever friendship.' (p.102) In February 1904 he hoped that Kilburn would perform 'The Atonment' at Sunderland or Middlesbrough, and in September 1905 the 'Choral Ballads' in either town or Bishop Auckland. (p. 141 and 167). According to University of Leeds 'Opera and concert

programmes collected by Herbert Thompson' listing the November 1898 performance at the Victoria Hall included Coleridge-Taylor's, ballade in A minor, op. 33 and Mendelssohn's 'Lobgesang'.

([www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/handlists/045MS459\\_Thompson.pdf](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/handlists/045MS459_Thompson.pdf))

### Nicholas Kilburn (1843-1923)

Self spells Kilburn's name as Nicolas; it is in fact Nicholas. He is described as being a pump manufacturer in Bishop Auckland and a Sunderland iron merchant. He was organist at St Peter's Parish Church in Bishop Auckland. He had Elgar's 'The Music Makers' first performed at the church in 1910. The piece had been dedicated to him

([www.archiveshub.ac.uk/news/0307addm.html](http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/news/0307addm.html) ; [www.seaham.i12.com/myers/kilburn.htm](http://www.seaham.i12.com/myers/kilburn.htm); <http://bishopaucklandfellowshipofchristianchurches.org/default.asp?sid=9859618236316756633920080229224850927&p=indexid1178>).

He was conductor of the Bishop Auckland Musical Society from 1875, the Middlesbrough Musical Union from 1882, and the Sunderland Philharmonic Society from 1886. As well as the organ he played the cello and the piano and composed. Both Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections and Durham County Record Office have papers relating to

the Kilburns. A biographical sketch about Nicholas by Chris Lloyd on the Northern Echo's North East History page can be seen on [www.northeasthistory.co.uk/the\\_north\\_east/hi](http://www.northeasthistory.co.uk/the_north_east/hi)

[story/echomemories/darlington/206/070606.html](http://story/echomemories/darlington/206/070606.html), Nicholas also wrote several books on music - see Amazon website.

## 'Sharp Practice' Play

On Friday 4 April John Charlton and I went to Stanhope to see one of the four performances of 'Sharp Practice', the Jack Ass Youth Theatre and Jack Drum Arts original play on slavery and abolition and the North East's involvement. A packed house, including many members of Crook Local History Society. An enjoyable evening, an excellent performance with humour and shock. It was packed with historical information scripted in a very clever way. We were introduced to the orgy of sugar consumption, the Hiltons arriving in America, the colonial goods on sale at Durham market, the richness of the food stuffs at an African market, James Stanfield, the kidnapping of Equiano, the middle passage including the episode from Equiano's book about the flogging to death of a white seaman, and the slave auction in Tobago. After the interval we learnt about the Sharp family's involvement in abolition, using a device of the family's music practice inspired by the Zoffany painting, and the Durham Light Infantry in action against rebellious slaves in the West Indies. The slow progress of abolition through Parliament was cleverly told through both sides drinking in a Gent's Club. The final scenes introduced us to the Darlington women abolitionists led by Elizabeth Pease deciding to start a boycott against slave produced cotton clothing, the Darlington male abolitionists expressing concern about some of the things the women were doing and reminiscing about Equiano's visit to Darlington, and the Summerhill based woman abolitionists getting ready to welcome Frederick Douglass. The play ended with the singing of the spiritual 'Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child'.

### Stanhope Performance

The performance at Stanhope included a short play by younger children on the theme of the contemporary exploitation of child labour making the clothes and shoes for us in the West. Durham County Record Office brought their display. Audience members were given John's overview pamphlet published by the Lit & Phil, and notes by me on the historical

aspects of the play. These were given out because the original idea of giving a talk would not have been feasible.

### Audience Feedback

The feedback from those who filled in the evaluation forms at the performances was very positive. All said that their awareness of the important role County Durham played in securing the abolition of slavery had been raised. Almost all said that their awareness of local heritage had been raised. A big majority indicated that their awareness had been raised about local resources like the Record Office. Everyone said they enjoyed the event. Additional comments were very positive:

- Thought everyone did a great job. The Army scene, Ladies scene were among the best well done.
- I'm quite young so I didn't get some of what was going on, but the action was great.
- It's great to see young people doing something worthwhile instead of hanging around on street corners causing trouble - thank you.
- Just great. A lot of applause for everyone.
- Brilliant acting by young people. Thanks.
- In this project it was so satisfying to see how young people immersed themselves in the history of slavery albeit in our area.
- It was just a brilliant and thought provoking performance ...
- I was very much impressed by the imagination and creativeness of the script, its grounding in well researched original sources, the exuberance and wit and no little skill of the performance and the overall sense of a both highly entertaining and educative event.
- Many thanks to all for the obviously considerable effort that went into the evening.
- The performance was excellent. I was very impressed by how historical materials could be woven so well into the play and used in such an effective manner. It typified how heritage and culture are different sides to

the same coin and should be used as an example of best practice. The commitment to telling the story and understanding of what are very complex issues was apparent in all the performers. Well done to everyone.

- I thoroughly enjoyed the play. It was well researched and enthusiastically performed. At times the music from the Requiem obscured the voices in the first half - otherwise it was excellent
- The play was very well performed.
- Excellent!! Congratulations on your hard work. Keep up the great work.
- Great production, great commitment.
- An innovative production, acted out with great enthusiasm by the young cast. Well done.
- Very enjoyable - wonderful to see how the young people seemed to enjoy performing too.
- Tremendous enthusiasm from the performers. The event could have been even better if the cast had been better rehearsed or specifically been more conscious of the need for voice projection.
- Excellent performances.
- Performance - thought-provoking, sensitive, outstanding performances which could be used as a tool nationally and internationally

- to raise awareness for all ages.
- Very enjoyable and informative.

There were very few negative comments, and they were mainly related to venue problems.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations are due to Julie Ward of Jack Drum who was the driving force behind the idea and the production, and to Stephen Wiper of Wear Valley District Council for helping obtain the funding and for other support. Above all the young people involved cannot be praised too highly for their enthusiasm, the excellent performance, the original research they undertook including looking at the Sharp papers at Gloucester Record Office, their leading role in shaping the script, their ability to remember their lines, which were constantly evolving close to the first performance at Durham on the Wednesday. The young woman playing the Spirit, the device providing continuity and narrative, had a particularly heavy load to remember.

It is hoped that the group will be able to perform the play at a national youth theatre event in Epping in the summer. Discussions have also started about performances in Darlington and on Tyneside.

## **Robert Morrison and China**

Issue 1 contained a short note about Robert Morrison, the Morpeth born, Newcastle raised first British missionary to China. On my visit to Newcastle in February Kay Easson, the Lit & Phil Librarian showed me H. P Parker's portrait of Morrison which he had painted during the latter's visit to Britain in 1824-5, and which he had donated to the Lit & Phil in 1833. Morrison donated a number of his books to the Lit & Phil and he was given Honorary membership. The day before I visited his books had been shown to a group of Chinese visitors to the Lit & Phil. His 'Grammar of Logic' was published in 1815 by the Mission Press at Serampore. His 'Dictionary of the Chinese Language' was published by the East India Company in several parts 1819-1823.

### **Serampore**

The Serampore Mission was set up by the Baptist Missionary Society in 1793, but split off for a short while between 1827 and 1837.

(Mundus gateway to missionary records website [www.mundus.ac.uk/cats/10/1092.htm](http://www.mundus.ac.uk/cats/10/1092.htm))

The Mission at Serampore crops up in a number of documents about the work of Newcastle organisations supporting missionary work.

The 1822 Thirteenth Report of the Newcastle Auxiliary Bible Society states: 'The United Netherlands Society has exerted itself, not only at home, but in the East Indies, by the establishment of an extensive Auxiliary at Batavia, by printing large editions of Chinese and Malay Bibles, and by co-operating with the British exertions in India, particularly by contributing largely to the Baptist Missionaries' press at Serampore, which last circumstances it is understood has been owing to the good offices of our townsman, Mr. W.H. Angas.' (p. 4-5. Resource Disc Template TWA B85)

## George Richardson

In his Memoir George Richardson one of the activists, and an abolitionist, wrote 'Have we not heard a call from Serampore for the translation of the scriptures and a loud call from the poor Negroes of the West Indies for schools and teachers. Is there not a call from China for the scriptures and from the dense population of the entire East Indies for these, and especially for female education? And can we, as members of the Society of Friends, truly say that no man hath called us? The promotion of all these objects is quite consistent with our religious principles; and we are assured by the missionaries themselves, that these are amongst their best and surest means of success. Could we not, for these purposes, form a society amongst our own members, solicit contributions, and appropriate the money entrusted to our care to such objects as at the

time shall appear most urgently to call for pecuniary assistance taking care that it shall always be applied in strict accordance with our religious principles.' (p.12. Resource Disc Template TWA B138)

## Morrison Biography

A life of Morrison was published in 1924 and reprinted in 1927: 'Robert Morrison. A Master-BUILDER.' Marshall Broomhall. London. Student Christian Movement. The text includes detail on his childhood and youth in Morpeth and Newcastle, and his relationship with the Chinese man in Clapham who taught him Chinese. The book can be seen on the Internet Archive: [www.archive.org/stream/MN41605ucmf\\_3/MN41605ucmf\\_3\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/MN41605ucmf_3/MN41605ucmf_3_djvu.txt). It refers to Morrison's death in 1834 being reported in the 'Tyne Mercury'.

## Rev. Robert Trotter's Anglo-Indian Granddaughter

Morpeth's Rev Robert Trotter was an abolitionist. His brother Thomas was involved in trying to get into the slave trade. The Reverend appears to have been the Town's first Presbyterian Minister at what is now St George's Church. He had seven children. According to Ruth Holliday in the 'Morpeth Herald' on 2 March 2008, the eldest, John Spottiswoode Trotter became a Captain with the East India Company and had an Indian wife, both dying in 1824. Their daughter Mary was sent to Morpeth to live with her uncle Dr William Trotter, who officially adopted her. She married Richard Hollon and they became active in York. She had a clock put in the steeple of St George's dedicated to Rev Robert and Dr William. After 25 years of marriage she died her husband set up the Mary Hollon Annuity and Coal Fund in Morepeth giving 13 women and 12 men an annuity of £10.

[www.morpethherald.co.uk/CustomPages/CustomPage.aspx?PageID=34325&sectionID=6262](http://www.morpethherald.co.uk/CustomPages/CustomPage.aspx?PageID=34325&sectionID=6262)).

### Assessment of Rev Trotter

I have an unattributed quotation 'In April 1807, the Rev. Robert Trotter, of Windyhaugh, died here, aged 75, after having been minister of the dissenting congregation of this place during 51 years. He was a gentleman distinguished through a long and useful life for his unaffected piety, the meakness of his disposition, and this

theological and classical learning. Mr Trotter was one of the oldest families of the north... The ruin of the family was completed in 1745... At his death three of Mr Trotter's sons were wielding the sword in the service of their country.'

### John Trotter

In June 1823 issue of 'The Asiatic Journal and Monthly Miscellany for British India and its Dependencies' of June 1823 reported that a Captain J S Trotter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Pioneers. (Google book) John Spottiswoode Trotter's death was reported in 'Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine' (Vol XVII. January - June, 1825, p. 760. Google book) . 'At Rangoun, in the Burman Empire, deeply lamented, John Spottiswoode Trotter, Esq. (son of the lat Rev. Robert Trotter of Morpeth,) Captain in the 16<sup>th</sup> N. I. and Commander of the whole force of Madras Pioneers in the expedition under Sir. A. Campbell. After a service of 20 years in various countries of the East, and in many campaigns, in which he bore a distinguished part, this gallant officer at last fell a victim to fever, brought on by fatigue and over-exertion in the late conflict with the Burmese.'



## Henry Dundas Trotter

It should be noted that Henry Dundas Trotter, the naval officer leading the 1841 Niger expedition, and who served in the East and

West Indies and South Africa, is not a son of Rev Robert. Henry was the son of Alexander Trotter, a Scot, who was friend of Henry Dundas and brother of Coutts Trotter, the banker. ([www.pdavis.nl/ShowBiog.php?id=99](http://www.pdavis.nl/ShowBiog.php?id=99))

## Newcastle Coals to Jamaica

Simon Taylor was an important merchant, plantation owner and manager of other people's estates on Jamaica. He looked after the interests of Chaloner Arcedeckne, who lived in England. Their correspondence is in Cambridge University Library and also available on microfilm (VANNECK - ARC/3 - JAMAICAN ESTATE PAPERS . VANNECK - ARC/3A: Correspondence and Papers of West Indian Agents, c1765-1848.

[www.adam-matthew-publications.co.uk/digital\\_guides/plantation\\_life\\_in\\_the\\_caribbean\\_part\\_1/documents/PlantationLifePt1CULReels1-7DetailedListing.pdf](http://www.adam-matthew-publications.co.uk/digital_guides/plantation_life_in_the_caribbean_part_1/documents/PlantationLifePt1CULReels1-7DetailedListing.pdf)

The following items from the catalogue show the links with Tyneside.

- 13 November 1784. To Chaloner Arcedeckne from Long, Drake & Long. Coals are to be sent from London rather than Newcastle; sugar is fetching a better price.
- 25 May 1789. To Chaloner Arcedeckne from Simon Taylor, Kingston. Discusses coal shipments received from Newcastle and sugar and rum to be sent to England.
- 24 April 1790. To Chaloner Arcedeckne from Simon Taylor, Kingston. Details of sugar and rum sent to England and coals to be sent from Newcastle.
- 20 September 1793. To Chaloner Arcedeckne from Captain Renwick, Newcastle upon Tyne. Details on shipments of coal from Newcastle to Jamaica.
- 11 January 1799. To Chaloner Arcedeckne from Long, Drake & Long. Letter forwarded received from Captain Renwick. To Long, Drake & Long from Captain Renwick. Regarding the shipping of coal from Newcastle.
- 30 January 1799. To Chaloner Arcedeckne from Long, Drake & Long. Reports on the sailing of ships from Jamaica; bill for coal from Newcastle has been accepted.
- 24 September From Captain John Renwick to Chaloner Arcedeckne. Wishes to have instructions on supplies to be sent from Newcastle.
- 14 October 1799. Captain John Renwick to Chaloner Arcedeckne. Coals have been loaded at Newcastle and ship is ready to sail.
- 5 November 1899. From Captain John Renwick to Chaloner Arcedeckne. Reports that the "Albion" has sailed from Newcastle.

## Miscellaneous

**Dr Thomas Trotter.** According to Edinburgh University's Information Services reply to a query, Dr. Thomas Trotter, the abolitionist, who served on the Bookes slave ship and in the Royal Navy was from Roxburghshire and received his MD from Edinburgh in 1788. ([www.lib.ed.ac/faqs/parqsmtp.shtml](http://www.lib.ed.ac/faqs/parqsmtp.shtml)). The good doctors is not to be confused with Rev Trotter's brother (see above).

**Sir Charles Grey, First Earl.** Sir Charles Grey was the father of Charles, later Earl, Grey of the 1832 Reform Act and 1833 Emancipation Act. A biography by Paul David Nelson, 'Sir Charles Grey. Royal Soldier, Family Patriarch' (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. 1996) can be seen on Google Books. It includes chapters on his military career in the American colonies and the West Indies.

**Royal African Company.** The list of Trustees and members of the Royal African Company in September 1672 is on the website: [www.genealogy-quest.com:80/collections/nrac.html](http://www.genealogy-quest.com:80/collections/nrac.html). Research is needed into whether any of them had North East connections.

**Barbados and Antigua Emancipation Compensation.** A database on the compensation paid to slave owners on Barbadoes and Antigua and a historical introduction can be seen on: <http://compensations.plantations.bb/>

## James Craggs and the South Sea Company

John Charlton has found an interesting link between the Durham area and the South Sea Bubble in the Dictionary of National Biography entry written by Stuart Handley about John Craggs (bap. 1657, d. 1721). Here is a summary.

### Secretary and Politician

Craggs was a politician and government official. He was born the son of Anthony Craggs of Holbeck, Wolsingham parish, Durham, and Anne (1628-1672), daughter of the Reverend Ferdinando Morecroft, rector of Stanhope in Wardell, Durham, and prebendary of Durham. He was educated at Bishops Auckland's free grammar school. From 1680 he was in London serving the Duke of York and the Earl of Peterborough. From 1684 he was steward to the Duke of Norfolk, Peterborough's son-in-law. He married Elizabeth Roberts, the daughter of a corn chandler in January 1684. They had six children, three boys and three girls. Of the former only James Craggs the younger (1686-1721) survived infancy. He became the Earl of Marlborough's private secretary, and involved in business: army clothing contracts, financial brokerage, East India Company. He was imprisoned in the Tower in March 1695 for refusing to submit his clothing accounts to the Parliamentary Commissioners of Public Accounts.

### Office Holder

From 1700 he was Secretary to the Commission on debts due to the army. He was a leading figure in the reform of the East India Company between 1700-5. He became MP for

Grampound, In December 1702 he became Secretary to the Master-General of the Ordnance until 1711, developing a close relationship with Sir James Lowther of Whitehaven. From June 1703 to 1711 he was also Clerk of the Deliveries. In the Parliamentary debate on Marlborough's dismissal in 1711 he defended him. He was a member of the Whig opposition until losing his seat in 1713. After George 1 became King Craggs was re-appointed Clerk of Deliveries of the Ordnance, and in 1715 joint Postmaster-General.

### The South Sea Affair

He held a large amount of South Sea stock. He helped the Chancellor of the Exchequer, John Aislabie, negotiate the conversion of Government debt into South Sea stock in 1719. He was involved in the behind the scenes negotiations to prevent the Company's collapse in the South Sea Bubble. The Commons inquiry discovered that he had received £30,000 of stock for which he had not paid, and £50,000 for Sunderland. He was devastated by the death of his son, dieing a month later. He is buried at Charlton in Kent on 28 March. His estate worth £1.5m was fined £68,920 in compensation for the crash. His property in the Lewisham and Greenwich area was inherited by his three daughters who were all married to MPs: Margaret (Samuel Trefusis), Elizabeth (Edward Eliot) and Anne (John Newsham).

For readers with access to the DNB on line the full entry can be seen on [www.oxforddnb.com/view/lotw/2008-03-16](http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/lotw/2008-03-16)

## Follow-up From Remembering Slavery 2007

Tamsin Little, Curatorial Assistant at Tyne & Wear Museums, who has been undertaking work on slavery and abolition with Hazel Edwards, who co-ordinated the activity across the North East, has sent the following round the North East Museums, Archives and Libraries enetwork.

'It is a year now since the 2007 bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British colonies so we thought it appropriate to give you an update on the Remembering Slavery

programme.

You may already be aware that the public aspects of the Remembering Slavery 2007 project have concluded with the close of the

exhibition at the Laing in early February. It was a very successful year-long programme of events, exhibitions and lectures to explore slavery in both its historical and modern context and we are very grateful to you all for your support and contributions throughout 2007. We are now working hard to create a sustainable legacy for this programme through the following ways:

1. Developing the [www.rememberingslavery.com](http://www.rememberingslavery.com) website from a marketing tool into a learning and research-based resource as a legacy of the 2007 bicentenary. This will include an online exhibition and the research gathered in 2007, as well as our learning resources.
2. John Charlton is writing a book on the north east's links to the slave trade. It will be published by Tyne Bridge Publishing with support from Tyne and Wear Museums and will be launched in October 2008.
3. Re-printing and distribution of a free smaller pamphlet relating to the local links to the slave trade, also written by John Charlton. This is available as a booklet or as a PDF document so please contact us for a copy.
4. Creation and distribution of a teacher's pack and resources based on the Remembering Slavery 2007 project in order to develop

sustainable resources which could continue to be used after 2007. The pack includes information about the slave trade as well as cross-curricular activities for Key Stages 3 and 4. The pack will be available in a downloadable format online at [www.rememberingslavery.com](http://www.rememberingslavery.com).

5. The Archives Research and Mapping group established for the project is continuing its work, now called the North East Slavery & Abolition Group (NESAG). The group can be contacted at the Literary and Philosophical Society [library@litandphil.org.uk](mailto:library@litandphil.org.uk)

All of the above will be launched in October 2008 to coincide with Black History Month. Please see attached documents for other events in the region and information surrounding the Remembering Slavery initiative.

The Remembering Slavery project is currently being evaluated by an external consultant and a report will be produced by the end of April.'

(Please note that NESAG is contactable at [sean.creighton@btinternet.com](mailto:sean.creighton@btinternet.com).)

Best wishes to Tamsin for her future. Her contract ends at the end of June.

## Wage Slavery

One of the problems many British working class activists had between the 1830s and 1860s was what they regarded as the hypocrisy of businessmen and politicians who supported the abolition of slavery in the West Indies, and then emancipation of the US slaves, but held their own workers in 'wage slavery'. Here is an example from Reynold's Political Instructor. Vol.1 No.2. Saturday 17 November 1849, p. 15:

"It is not in the vilest extortions alone, that the practice of the cotton Lords belies their declamatory patriotism and philanthropy. When the great topic of the day was "black slaves," a great and proper emphasis was laid upon the special oppression in which female slaves were subject. How is it that no champion has yet stepped forward to rescue the chastity of the female slaves of Manchester from the careful keeping of lascivious factory owners and their

brutalized overlookers?" - T.H.'

### Robert Lowery

Lowery is one of the Chartists who refers to English workers as slaves. 'The labourers of Britain are a despised, enslaved, and outlawed race, "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for their oppressors; they are starving amidst an abundance of their own creating - they are aliens in their fatherland - the brand of slavery is on their forehead...' (from Address to the Fathers and Mothers, Sons and Daughters of the Working Classes, on the system of Exclusive Dealing and the formation of Joint Stock Provision Companies.' Newcastle upon Tyne. 1830 (Brian Harrison and Patricia Hollis (ed). Robert Lowery. Radical and Chartist. Europa Publications Ltd. 1979. p. 197)



'In what a state of slavery did we live, when six men were transported from their country, for combining to protect their property.' (Speech at the public Meeting on Newcastle Town Moor 14 April 1834 from Newcastle Chronicle 19 April 1834. (Ibid. p. 207)

Born North Shields 14 October 1809. His father a seaman. (p. 41) Then lived at Peterhead and then back to Sheriff-hill south of Newcastle where father died. (p. 45). Aged 13 mother moved back to N. Shields. Became an apprentice on a ship largely working the North American timber trade (Canada). (p. 47). After becoming disabled he went into the tailoring trade, and between 1835 and 1838 lived in S. Shields. He then went to work for James Mather, the wholesale wine and spirit merchant

who also 'added a tea and coffee and West Indian preserves business to the establishment.' They knew each other through political activity. (p. 103).

### James Mather

Mather (1799-1873) studied medicine and philosophy at Edinburgh Univ. He invented the first lifeboat used in the merchant service. He published 'The Constitutions of Great Britain, France, and the United States of America' (1834) and visited the States in 1838. (p. 103 fn. 97). Mather was an abolitionist.

([www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs/James-Mather.html](http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs/James-Mather.html)) For a suggestion that Mather's wife's family had made their money in slaves, see [www.ndfhs.org.uk/Reports/st\\_2004\\_05.html](http://www.ndfhs.org.uk/Reports/st_2004_05.html)

## North East Chartists in America

Many Chartists either had to flee the country and went to, or decided to emigrate to the United States. Thomas Devyr, from Newcastle, became an anti-slavery supporter, while others defended slavery. Newcastle Chartists who went to the States include:

- **James Charlton:** Born 1820 Newcastle-on-Tyne. Miner, then engineer/ mechanic. Northern Political Union. 'Physical force' Chartist. Went to Chicago 1855.
- **Thomas Ainge Devyr:** Born 1805, Donegal, Ireland, pedlar, author of, 'Our Natural Rights' (Belfast, 1836; republished New York, 1842). Assistant Editor, 'Northern Liberator', 1839-40 Newcastle-on Tyne; Corresponding Secretary of Northern Political Union; organizer of armed band of Chartist guerrillas. Escaped UK, a 'wanted man', 1840., Politically active in the States. Edited Fenian newspaper, *The Irish People* 1865-66. Pro-abolition of slavery. Died 1887 in New York.
- **Robert Lowery:** Born 1805, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Tailor. 'Moral Force' Chartist. Member of Northern Political Union. Left UK. Worked in New York and Boston. Died Canada, 1861.
- **John Mason:** Born 1809 Newcastle-on-Tyne. Printer and chairman, Northern Political Union. Went to New York, 1842.
- **John Rewcastle (or Rucastle):** Born 1806,

Newcastle-on-Tyne. Druggist's assistant. 'Physical Force' Chartist. Fled with Devyr to New York 1840.

- **Mark Thompson:** Born 1801 Newcastle-on-Tyne, Chartist. Went to States 1840.

Further details can be seen on:

[www.chartists.net](http://www.chartists.net)

### Holyoake on Devyr

In his book 'Among the Americans' George Holyoake wrote:

'Mr. Thomas Ainge Devyr, of the "Irish World," who was on the platform, was the first to advocate in Ireland that doctrine of Land Reform which has since occupied so much public attention. About 1858, three years before the slave war broke out in America, he sent me from New York a printed statement of the causes whose operations would end in war. It was a perfect political prophecy.'

[www.gerald-massey.org.uk/holyoake/c\\_americans\\_3.htm](http://www.gerald-massey.org.uk/holyoake/c_americans_3.htm)

Devyr's views in the States on slavery can be seen in Foner's 'Labour Movement in the United States' (Google book). An essay by Eric Foner cites the book by Ray Boston 'The Chartists in America'.

## Information on Books and Web Resources

### Books That May Be Relevant

A G Kenwood. Capital Formation in North East England 1800-1913 (Garland. ISBN 0824066855)

Paul Brassley. Agricultural Economy of Northumberland and Durham in the Period 1640-1750. (Garland. ISBN 0824066766)

Ian Duffy. Bankruptcy and Insolvency in London during the Industrial Revolution, (Garland. SBN 0842066790)

Ann P Robson. On Higher than Commercial Grounds: The Factory Controversy: 1830-1853. (Garland)

David Oldroyd. Estates, Enterprise and Investment at the Dawn of the Industrial Revolution. Estate Management and Accounting in the North-East of England, c 1700-1780. (November 2007. Ashgate Publishing. ISBN 978-0-7546-3455-3. Hardback. £55.  
[www.ashgate.com](http://www.ashgate.com)

### Remainder and Special Offer Books

Rev. William Turner. Stephen Harbottle's 'The Reverend William Turner. Dissent and Reform in Georgian Newcastle-upon-Tyne' (Northern University Press?lit & Phil Society) 1997 is being remaindered by Postscript books for £6.99. See: [www.psbooks.co.uk](http://www.psbooks.co.uk).

Turner was a founder of the Literary and Philosophical Society in 1793, and of many other institutions in the city, including the Trustee Savings Bank. Turner was a Unitarian. Harbottle sets Unitarianism in the context of the late Georgian period, describing its beliefs and the contemporary restraint on their expression. He also discusses the Unitarian enthusiasm for education in science and the humanities as well as Turner's own intellectual associations and achievements.

**The Carrs & Ellisons.** A W Purdue's 'Merchants and Gentry in North-East England 1650-1830' book is currently on special offer from the University of Sunderland Press at £9.95 (normal price £16.95). It charts the progress of the Ellisons of Hebburn Hall and the Carrs of Dunston Hill from their mercantile success in the seventeenth century to their solid gentry and land-owning status in the nineteenth century. See <http://my.sunderland.ac.uk/web/services/uos/p/offers.html>

### Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood

John Charlton strongly recommends Max Adams' book 'Admiral Collingwood: Nelson's Own Hero' the North Easterner who played an important role in Naval affairs in the West Indies. Published by Wiedenfeld & Nicholson in hardback 2005, and then in paperback in 2006.

### Local History Bibliographies

Bibliographies of published work on different localities in the North East and other localities around the country can be seen by doing a search for on the Royal Historical Society's bibliography web page [www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl](http://www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl).

### Web Resources

Digital Library of Historical Directories, 1750-1919: Durham and Northumberland, 1801-1916 on [www.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/collection.htm?uri=hist-5116-1](http://www.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/collection.htm?uri=hist-5116-1)

<http://www.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/collection.htm?uri=hist-5116-1>  
(Only accessible to people attached to Institutions.)

Also on the site:

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: a Revised and Enlarged Database, 1500-1867

English Slave Trade, 1791-1799: House of Lords Survey

Liverpool Trade and Shipping, 1744-1786

Slave Trade Movement between Africa and the Americas, 1817-1843

## Colonial Trading

While doing some work in Tyne & Wear Archives as a student on work placement with Tyne & Wear Museums, Katie Gant noted that the following files which had not been looked at in the Project but are on the Project listings on the Resource Disc, have mentions of trading with the

colonies. They need to be looked at to obtain the detail.

**Dx180/1.** Account book of John and Andrew White who owned ship yards and coal mines. 1834. Shows some evidence of coal and shipping trade from Newcastle to the colonies.

**Dx249/1.** Thomas Parker. Letter from New York back to Newcastle. September 12<sup>th</sup> 1831. He writes about ships/trade around the colonies and the West Indies and mentions slaves he encountered and saw collected.

**1192/6.** Transcripts of the lives of Colonel Elwes and his two sons. 1860. Elwes served for the army in the southern colonies and spent an amount of time serving in the West Indies.

## Newcastle Mayors

Katie Gant also noted that 'Folders relating to Mayors and Sheriffs of Newcastle. 1656-1921' (TWA 1074/35) contain letters, tables, posters and newspaper extracts. These contain information on significant events at the time, and information on the mayors and sheriffs during that period. These might be worth looking at to see if there is any relevant material, especially on the Common Council's support of abolition and subscription to the Newcastle Anti-Slavery Society, and the Mayors chairing any anti-slavery meetings.

## An Appreciation

I recently shared some of Resource Disc files about George Thompson and George Richardson's travels round the Quaker circuit with Janette Martin, a postgraduate student at York University, who previously worked in the People's Museum and Labour Party Archive in Manchester. She is researching itinerant lecturers in the Chartist period in the North East and Yorkshire. Her response: 'thank you so much for all this wonderful material - its most appreciated as the time I get to spend in libraries and archives in the North East is very limited and the standard work of the volunteers on this project is stunning, if only I could have a couple of them for my research!!'

## New Files on Resource Disc

New files have been put onto the Slavery and Abolition Resource Disc produced during last year's project. The Disc can be consulted at the Lit & Phil, Tyne & Wear Archives, Robinson Library Special Collections and Northumberland Collections Service. The new files deal with: additional information from Edward Pease's Diaries, summaries of studies on British Quakers and North East Women Slavery Abolition supporters, the Non-conformists and Methodists, miscellaneous items at NCS on Jamaica, William Fifefield, a black resident of

Newcastle, the Barretts and the Newcastle and Jamaica businessman John Graham-Clarke, miscellaneous material relating to Sunderland, additional information on the May 1823 House of Commons debate on Rev. John Smith, and digests of press coverage in 1791 and 1792 in the Newcastle Courant and Newcastle Advertiser and the will of James Hedley of Bewick Folly. Thanks to Ruth Blower, John Charlton, Valerie Glass, Patricia Hix, Peter Livsey and David Richardson for their contributions to these new files.

## Cowen Tracts

For about the last year the Cowen Tracts at Newcastle University Robinson Library Special Collections and Archives were away being digitalised. Peter Livsey, Ann Nicol and I were able to do a crash review of most of them before they went. The files are in their own folder on the Resource Disc. Melanie Wood (The Special Collections Librarian) reports: 'the physical volumes were returned to us on 3rd April and are once again available to users. It is anticipated that the digital surrogates will start to appear on JSTOR around autumn of this year but that is unconfirmed.' JSTOR is a subscription porthole service accessible to ticket holders of subscribing organisations like University Libraries.

## MLA North East Faces Wind-Down

MLA (Museums, Libraries & Archives) North East was one of the organisations supporting the Remembering Slavery activities across the region last year, and funder for the Archival Mapping & Research Project. It now faces a year of winding down along with the other regional MLAs as result of Government funding decisions. The national MLA Board claims this will release more money for activities on the ground. Whether that will turn out to be the case remains to be seen. Many MLA

staff are already being made redundant; the post I applied for but did not get at MLA London a few months ago is one of them. There will be many staff in individual Museums, Libraries and Archives who will not regret the demise of the current MLAs; several have told me that MLAs have been bureaucratic and proscriptive, and it was an issue I was questioned about in my London interview. The MLA North East Board's statement on its future can be seen on

[www.mlanortheast.org.uk/nemlac/page.php3?495](http://www.mlanortheast.org.uk/nemlac/page.php3?495)

## **What is the North East Slavery & Abolition Group?**

The North East Slavery & Abolition Group has been set up by the group of volunteers who worked on the Tyneside Remembering Slavery 2007 Project researching into the archives of literature and documents held at the Literary & Philosophical Society, Tyne & Wear Archives, the University's Robinson Library Special Collections and Northumberland Collections. The Group is an informal group and will mainly operate on the basis of its members continuing the research, writing and giving talks, and through email.

**Erratum in Newsletter 1.** Reference was made to a file being added to the Resource Disc titled 'Robert Trotter - Sunderland's Slave Trader'. This should have been 'Robert Hutton'.

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