

# North East Slavery & Abolition Group ENewsletter

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## Contents

### Page

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Obeah and Other Powers Conference 16-18 July<br>Remainder Books   |
| 2  | Charles Pinckney and Matthew Rdley<br>Slavery, Abolition and South Shields<br>From the Big Lamp to Joseph Cowen |
| 3  | Afro-Brazilians in Newcastle's<br>Codrington Estate and College in Barbados Consett                             |
| 4  | Freemason Supporting Abolition  |
| 5  | William Hutchinson and <i>Princess Zanfara</i>  |
| 6  | Jane Griffiths, Friend of Frederick Douglass<br>Ralph Carr and the Bynes  |
| 7  | A Durham Link with Virginia Negro Slave Miners  |
| 8  | William Johnson   |
| 9  | Miscellaneous   |
| 10 | NESAG News  |
| 12 | Aspects of Belford - book advertisement<br>What is the North East Slavery & Abolition Group?                    |

## Obeah and Other Powers The Politics of Caribbean Religion and Healing Conference 16-18 July at Newcastle University

Interdisciplinary conference bringing together scholars interested in the connections between religion and power in the Caribbean, the power of colonial and post-colonial states, of ruling elites, of subaltern communities, of nationalism, of ritual specialist, and of the spirits, Iwas, oprishas and ancestors.

For further details: [www.obeahconference.org](http://www.obeahconference.org)

NESAG member Diana Paton, who represented the University on the Tyne & Wear Remembering Slavery Project Steering Group is involved in organising the Conference: [Dianapaton@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Dianapaton@ncl.ac.uk).

## REMAINDER BOOKS ON NORTH EAST AND NESAG INTERESTS

The following remainder books are available from

**PostScript Books:** [www.psbooks.co.uk](http://www.psbooks.co.uk).

Keith Proud. Durham City. Philimore 2003. £7.99

Michael Jordon. The Great Abolition Sham. The True Story of the End of the British Slave Trade. Sutton 2005. £6.99

Joseph Robinson. Tommy Turnbull. A Miner's Life. Tempus 2007. £4.99

Max Adams. Admiral Collingwood. Nelson's Own Hero. Weidenfeld & Nicolson 2005. £7.99

Benjamin Woolley. Savage Kingdom. Virginia & The Founding of English America. Harper Press 2007. £7.99

## CHARLES PINCKNEY & MATTHEW RIDLEY

During the research at Northumberland Collections a letter was found from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney in the United States to Matthew White Ridley in Northumberland. Their friendship had begun at University. John Charlton has been trying to find out more about that friendship. He is now in touch Donna Greschner in the States who is also researching the relationship. Donna teaches American constitutional history at a law school south of Los Angeles. She regards the Pinckney/Ridley friendship as an untold strand in the richly narrated history of the drafting of the American Constitution.

A friend of John's looked at relevant papers in Charleston but found nothing. So far Donna's researches into Pinckney papers reveal no letter or notes re-Ridley. This may be because the Pinckney plantation was sacked and burned during the Revolutionary War, a fire that could have destroyed any pre-1776 letters. And then the Pinckney home, where Charles Cotesworth lived for many years after retiring from politics, was completely destroyed in a hurricane, sometime in the 1820s.'

### SLAVERY, ABOLITION AND SOUTH SHIELDS

As one of her final pieces of work as Curatorial Assistant History at Tyne & Wear Museums (TWM), Tamsin Lilley has produced a PDF file 'South Shields and the Slave Trade'. The contents cover:

- Local supporters of the campaign to abolish the slave trade: Dr Thomas Masterman Winterbottom, Russell Boulbey, James Mather
- Meetings to address Earl Grey's Retirement, 1834
- South Shields and the American anti-slavery campaign: William Wells Brown, James Watkins
- South Shields contributors to slave trade
- Objects linking South Shields to the trans-Atlantic slave trade and other forms of slavery

Copies are available on request from NESAG.

### FROM THE BIG LAMP TO JOSEPH COWEN

On Sunday 14 June John Charlton led a very enjoyable walk from the Big Lamp to

Joseph Cowen's statue opposite the Assembly Rooms.

- The cemetery at the Big Lamp has graves of many non-Conformists.
- Summerstown was where Quaker abolitionists lived; there is also a plaque to Mo Mowlem.
- The Discovery Museum is housed in a former Co-operative building, enabling discussion about Co-operative movement history, the problems faced by its retail wing, the role it played in promoting education, including helping form the Workers Education Association, and the Co-operative Permanent Building Society, now Nationwide.
- Joseph Cowen led an amazing life organising Tyneside radicalism and workers education and organisation. He played an important role in galvanising support in Britain for Emancipation during the American Civil War.
- The Assembly Rooms were built by the Newcastle elite in the 1770s. At the same time Thomas Spence and Jean Paul Marat were active in radical political debate. Spence's supporters in London were to be involved in the 1820 Cato St Conspiracy to assassinate the Cabinet as retaliation for the 1819 Peterloo Massacre in Manchester.

## AFRO-BRAZILIANS IN NEWCASTLE

Zachary Morgan, Assistant Professor, Department of History at Boston College in the United States, specialises in Latin American/Atlantic history. He is researching/writing a book currently titled *Legacy of the Lash* examining a naval revolt that took place in Rio de Janeiro protesting the ongoing use of corporal punishment in the Brazilian Navy. His essay 'Revolt of the Lash' is in the book 'Naval Mutinies of the Twentieth Century'. The Brazilian Navy awarded a contract in 1906 to overhaul its navy. That contract included the purchase of three dreadnought battleships though only two were delivered, the "Minas Geraes", built by Armstrong on the Tyne, and the "Sao Paulo" built by Vickers but armed by Armstrong. The contract of the third dreadnought, originally named and launched from the Elswick yard as the "Rio de Janeiro" was transferred to Turkey, but she was seized by the British at the start of WW I and renamed "HMS Agincourt."

As early as 1908 there was a sizable contingent of Brazilian officers and enlisted men in Newcastle, but in 1909-10 the crews for the Brazilian ships - nearly one thousand overwhelmingly Afro-Brazilian sailors - arrived in Newcastle and awaited completion of the ships for at least seven months. The launch ceremonies involving Brazilian Officers were covered in the daily and weekly papers. The officers may have attended local Catholic masses, though the enlisted-men were less likely to do so. There are references to the officers and sailors in the local newspapers, and in the Armstrong documents at both the Cambridge University library and the Tyne and Wear Archive. National daily papers contain useful information on the Brazilian dreadnoughts and a bit on the Brazilians in Newcastle. Soon after their arrival back in Rio de Janeiro sailors mutinied in November 1910.

Zachary has been spending time in Newcastle, Cambridge and London researching into the visit and trying to assess the sailors' radicalisation while visiting Newcastle. He has been talking to a number of historians in Newcastle, including Joan Allen and John Charlton, to try and deepen his knowledge of the Newcastle context. Zachary was put in touch with NESAG as a result of Northumbrian University historian Bill Lancaster seeing the Newsletter. Anyone with any further information on this Brazilian community in Newcastle should contact Zachary at [morganz@bc.edu](mailto:morganz@bc.edu).

## CODRINGTON ESTATE & COLLEGE IN BARBADOS AND CONSETT

Gerard Barrie who attended the Newcastle University Conference on the bicentenary held earlier this year, is researching into whether there is any link between the Consett/Codrington estate in Barbados, and the formation of the Consett Iron Company from which the town of Consett gets its name. The Consett family which owned the Barbados plantation came from the Teeside area. William and Mary Consett produced sugar from the 1640s and sold the estate to Christopher Codrington in the 1660s. William is mentioned in Larry Dale Gragg's book 'Englishmen Transplanted: The English Colonization of Barbados 1627-1660' (Oxford University Press. 2003.) Later Codrington left the estate to the Church of England to set up Codrington College. There was an attached slave plantation there until emancipation. The Bay in Barbados which the estate overlooks is named Consett.

In S. D. Smith's book 'Slavery, Family, and Gentry Capitalism in the British Atlantic' on the Lascelles of Yorkshire mention is made of a later Mathew Consett, also from the Teeside area, borrowing some money from Henry Lascelles for his plantations. He may be Captain Consett who married a daughter

of the North Riding Ormesby landowner William Perryman. Another daughter married Rev. William Consett. The latter's son William built Normanby Hall.

The Consett Iron Company started as the Derwent Iron Company in 1840 promoted by Jonathan Richardson. Due to a banking crisis the shareholders took on company status as Derwent and Consett Iron Company. It was later purchased by the Consett Iron Company formed in 1864 with Directors including H Fenwick, the MP, J W Pease and J Priestman. The involvement of Quakers raises tricky questions with regard to any former slavery link. It will probably be difficult to work out whether any Consetts were involved in the early stages. If it turns out that there is a link between the Iron Company and the Consetts who owned plantations in the West Indies, Gerard thinks this could be an interesting area of study in looking into the transition from a plantation economy system to an industrial system of economy.

## FREEMASONS SUPPORTING ABOLITION

Susan Snell has supplied the following information collected while she was researching last year's 'Squaring the Triangle' exhibition at the Library & Museum of Freemasonry.

**James Field Stanfield 1749/50-1824** - actor and author, Sunderland. Member of the Phoenix Lodge, No. 94, Sunderland from 1789. Wrote *Observations on a Guinea Voyage*, in a series of Letters addressed to the Rev'd Thomas Clarkson, published 1788. Songs and verse in *Freemasons' Magazine* 1793 -1798: e.g. April 1795, p.173 vol. 4; Sept 1796, vol. 7 p. 205. While in Scarborough, 18 September 1796, he wrote an *Elegy on Mr Matthew Winterbotham, Captain of a vessel in the Sierra Leone Company's Service, who was drowned going ashore at Dix-Cove, on the Gold Coast, Africa*. There

is a portrait of him in *History of the Phoenix Lodge, No. 94* by T. O. Todd.

**William Hutchinson 1732-1814** - attorney, from a Quaker family, married Elizabeth Marshall, a Quakeress, in 1759. Barnard Castle, Co. Durham. Wrote *The Spirit of Masonry* (1775), and an anti-slavery play, *The Princess of Zanfara* (originally anonymously and then under his name in 1792). The first edition was printed by the freemason John Wilkie in St Paul's Churchyard, who also printed *The Spirit of Masonry*. *Zanfara* uses the image of a slave by Thomas Bewick. It is dedicated to the Society instituted in the year 1787 for the purpose of effecting an Abolition of the Slave Trade. He was encouraged to write it by his neighbour and fellow freemason, Rev Daniel Watson. Member of Lodge of Concord.

**Robert Ormston**, Newcastle banker, freemason and abolitionist.

**William Batson**, Treasurer of the Newcastle Bible Society, freemason and abolitionist.

**Robert Jackson (1750-1827)**. Doctor in Jamaica. Moved to Stockton on Tees 1778. Freemason who corresponded with George Allen. Wrote *Treatise on the Fevers of Jamaica, With Some Observations on the Intermitting Fever of America*, and an Appendix, *Containing Some Hints on the Means of Preserving the Health of Soldiers in Hot Climates*, (1795). Provided evidence re-the slave trade to the House of Commons Committee in 1790 and 1791. Thought to be member of Lodge of Philanthropy.

**George Allan, FSA (1736 - 1800)**. Freemason, Restoration Lodge, No. 111, Darlington. Friend of Rev. Daniel Watson who suggested Hutchinson wrote his play. Some of his books and natural history specimens from his home, Blackwell Grange, formed the nucleus of the collections at the Literary and

Philosophical Society of Newcastle founded in 1792. Collector who passed his MSS to Hutchinson, so he might write three-volume *History of Durham* (1785 & 1794). Had private theatre where Hutchinson's play may have been performed. Not anti-slavery per se but influential in this area.

**Rev Daniel Watson MA (1718-1804).** Muggleswick & Middleton Tyas, nr. Darlington, Co. Durham. Encouraged Hutchinson to write his anti-slavery play. Tutor of Rev Dr John Carr, MA, LLD (1732-1807), later Headmaster of Hertford Free Grammar School. Was enthusiastic assessor of one of late 1790s anti-slavery works of William Wilberforce. Thought to be member of Restoration Lodge, Darlington.

#### **Further information on Freemasonry: in Northumberland**

[www.northumberlandmasons.com/freemasonry\\_in\\_northumberland.html](http://www.northumberlandmasons.com/freemasonry_in_northumberland.html)

in Sunderland - the Resources page of the County Durham section of the England's Past for Everyone website:

[www.englishpastforeveryone.org.uk/home](http://www.englishpastforeveryone.org.uk/home)

in England

[www.ugle.org.uk/ugle/library.htm](http://www.ugle.org.uk/ugle/library.htm)

### **WILLIAM HUTCHINSON AND PRINCESS ZANFARA**

This is the results of my preliminary research into William Hutchinson's anti-slavery play *The Princess of Zanfara: A Dramatic Poem*.

#### **Bewick's Image**

He seems to have paid for its publication in 1789 because a publisher had rejected it. Thomas Bewick provided an image of a kneeling slave. This was to be used again by the Newcastle Anti-Slavery Society in its 1791 edition of Thomas Clarkson's summary of the evidence to House of Commons Select Committee on Abolition of the Slave Trade

1790/91.

In their *A Dictionary of of the Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature of Great Britain* (Vol III) Samuel Halkett and John Laing (Vol III) state that the 1789 publication was mentioned in the *Monthly Review* and *Nicols' Literary Illustrated*.

The Hugo/Bewick Collector VI of the books and pamphlets of Thomas and John Bewick lists the 1789 edition as being published by Mess. Wilkie, St Paul's Yard, London, and states:

'This work has a beautiful wood-engraving on the title, of a Negro kneeling, by Thomas Bewick. It was from the pen of William Hutchinson, of Barnard Castle, and was republished, but not reprinted, in the same year by Hodgson in Newcastle. It was again issued in 1792, when a new title was added, with the imprint of London, for B. Law and Son, and F Jollie, Carlisle. The cut has since been used in part of the publications of of the Anti-Slavery Society, and Religious Tract Society, Newcastle.

'"Bewick took a deal of pains with this cut. It was done for a Society in London and Newcastle, 1787, in which there were Sir John E. Swinburne, Mr. Thomas Bigge, and others, who were particular friends. It has since been much hacked, by being used for everything which had any allusion to Negroes or the Slave Trade. Hutchinson stuck it into the title of his Play or Poem, the Princess of Zanfara, 1789." M.S. Note of the late Mr. John Bell.'

If Bell's note is correct the question that I posed in one of my talks at the Lit & Phil last year raises its head again: did Wedgewood adapt Bewick's image to create his simpler version of the 'Am I Not A Man and a Brother'? Wedgewood's image which became the emblem for the movement was also created in 1787 - see [www.thepotteries.org/did\\_you/005.htm](http://www.thepotteries.org/did_you/005.htm)

## Swinburne and Bigge

The fact that Bell specifically mentions Sir John E. Swinburne and Thomas Bigge suggests the need to undertake research on their detailed involvements. It is interesting to note that both had sons who went to Trinidad, the former Spanish colony captured by the British in 1797. Henry Swinburne, an expert on Spain, died there in April 1803. John Thomas Bigge, an expert on Spanish law, served as Chief Justice in Trinidad 1814-18.

### Sources inc.:

Copies of the printed *Princess Zanfara* at the British Library:

- 1789 edition . System No. 004011539. Shelf No. 11777.c.109
- 1792 edition. System 004011540. Shelf No. 11777.f.76
- 1792 edition. System No. 001777922. Shelf No. 004011539

The Northern Echo.

[www.thepubspy.co.uk/the\\_north\\_east/history/echomemories/darlington/207/040407.html](http://www.thepubspy.co.uk/the_north_east/history/echomemories/darlington/207/040407.html)

The Myers Literary Guide website:

[www.seaham.i12.com/myers/m-hutchinson.html](http://www.seaham.i12.com/myers/m-hutchinson.html)

Thomas Bell Library Catalogue auctioned in 1869 cites the publication as 1789 with a cut by Thomas Bewick. (See Google Books)

The Georgian Era: Memoirs of the Most Prominent People, who have flourished in Great Britain. Vol III. 1834, p. 468. (Google Book)

John Thomas Bigge: Australian Dictionary of Biography.

[www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A010093b.htm](http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A010093b.htm)

## JANE GRIFFITHS, FRIEND OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Janet Douglas, a friend of John Charlton's, a local historian and a lecturer at Leeds Metropolitan University, has been researching Jane Griffiths Croft. Janet explains that Griffiths met 'Frederick Douglass when he spoke in Newcastle in 1846, and with her sister, Eliza, followed

him to the USA. Julia remained there until 1855 acting as Douglass' business manager, raising money, editing the North Star and living with the Douglass family. The latter gave rise to an inevitable scandal which was much amplified by Douglass' political opponents including William Lloyd Garrison. Whether she was Douglass' mistress no one really knows but that was the allegation and certainly Anna Douglass wasn't happy about her living in the family home. Probably because of the attacks on Douglass due to her close contact with him, Julia came back to Britain and for reasons I haven't been able to fathom, she came to Leeds. In 1859 she married the Rev. Crofts but then I lose sight of them. Nothing in 1861 census. They re-appear again in 1871 living in Gateshead in a household which contains an aunt called Griffiths.' Can anybody help?

## RALPH CARR AND THE BYNES

Ralph Carr, the Newcastle merchant who traded with the American and West Indian colonies before the American Revolution lived till he was 96 in 1807. A biographical sketch of his life and an analysis of his colonial trade letters can be seen in 'The American Papers of Ralph Carr, merchant of Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1741 -1778 in the Northumberland Record Office', with an introduction by Walter R Minchinton, Professor of Economic History, University of Exeter' (1977) on the website of EP Microform:

[www.microform.co.uk/guides/R96783.pdf](http://www.microform.co.uk/guides/R96783.pdf).

### Rev. Henry Byne

Carr married Isabella, daughter of the Rev. Henry Byne, Vicar of Ponteland. According to the Clergy Database website Byne studied at Merton College, Oxford, and was a Fellow there in 1713-14, being ordained in 1714 and becoming Ponteland's vicar in 1717. He died in 1732. According to Professor Minchinton the Byne family held the lease of the rectoral tithes of

Ponteland and Embleton from the College, and Carr took on the lease in 1769 after his mother-in-law's death. In 1792 he purchased the Prendwick estate from the Bynes and the Alders. English Heritage records that the Ponteland parish church of St. Mary contains a memorial in 1769 to two Anne Bynes, mother (probably Byne's wife; d. 1769) and daughter. A number of documents relating to the Bynes are in Sutton Local Studies Centre. They show a Henry Byne in Newcastle 1734, Morpeth 1749/50, and Carshalton, Surrey 1762.

### The Bynes in Carshalton

The rectory and estate of Carshalton were inherited by the Byne family. Another Henry based at Carshalton served as High Sheriff of Surrey in 1791. His first wife was called Mary Ann. On 22 September 1801 he married Mary Frances Thomas, a widow, at St John's Church in Wellington Somerset, the marriage being witnessed by Ann Isabella Byne. ([www.pbenyon1.plus.com](http://www.pbenyon1.plus.com)) His portrait is in the Tate. He died in 1816.

Surrey History Centre has a document relating to Henry Byne's estate in Mitcham, which included land called 'Upper America' and 'Lower America', which is of course very intriguing. His will appointed George Adams and Ralph Carr (the son of Ralph and Isabella) as executors to sell the estates for the benefit of his children. There were three Chancery cases involving his affairs in 1816, 1820 and 1827 (see National Archives & Google books).

### John Skerrett

A letter has recently been located at Northumberland Collections to Carr from a Skerrett in Jamaica put on board a ship bound for Newcastle. Henry Byne's daughter Anne married John Skerrett, who seems to have added Byne as a middle name, and rose to the rank of Major General. He died of a wound received at the battle of Bergen op Zoom in the

Netherlands in 1814. John and Anne are commemorated in a monumental inscription in Newcastle's St Nicholas Church. For the text see [www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43353](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43353). Skerrett is also commemorated by a joint memorial with Arthur Gore in St Paul's Church, London. Sutton has a document relating to a grant of an annuity of George Byne, of Bath Somerset, a reduced lieutenant in the Marines, to a William Sharp, which is later transferred to a John Skerrett (possibly a misspelling of Skerritt). Skerrett may have been the British Commander in Newfoundland in the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century whose 1813 will is in the National Archives. John, Ralph Carr, Senior's other son who lived at Dunstone Hill, had a son Henry Byne Carr who became a vicar and who according to *The Gentleman's Magazine* of 1838 married Elina, a daughter of John Ridley of Park-end, Northumberland. Henry became vicar of Whickham. There are no documents relating to Bynes or Skerretts in the web catalogues of NCS or TWA.

### A DURHAM LINK WITH VIRGINIA NEGRO SLAVE COALMINERS

John has identified a Durham link with the use of negro slaves as coal miners in Virginia. He searched Durham County Record Office's web catalogue under 'negroe' and found in the National Coal Board archive the papers of Thomas Young Hall (1802-1870): 'Ref No. NCB I/TH 47. Various papers, including pay bill, account of money due to 8 miners sent from England, minutes of shareholders' meeting re sending T.Y. Hall to America, lists of men and property, valuation of negroes, directors' instructions to T.Y. Hall, working and sales accounts, etc., 1839 - 1841?'

This listing had not appeared when I searched the word 'negro' towards the end of 2006. When I tried to do John's search using 'negroe' the DCRO website did not find it, until I searched for 'negro'

indicating searching for its variations as well.

The group of papers listed under NCB 1/TH justify some detailed research. They include papers relating to a dispute involving Hall in connection with the Blackheath Mines in Virginia. A DCRO note explains that Hall and a colleague Frank Foster 'restored the mines to a working state for the managing owner, Colonel Heth, in 1839, after which the concern was sold to an English company, in which Hall was given shares and appointed resident superintendent and manager.' (NCB 1/TH 43) Hall was an important engineer who later lived in Newcastle and at Stella Hall.

### Blackheath Mines

The Blackheath Mines were in Chesterfield County, and the DCRO also has some papers relation to Hall and the Chesterfield Mining Co. If the information on Wikipedia entries are correct Colonel Henry 'Harry' Heth who owned the mines up to his death in 1821 had gone to America in 1759. He fought for the Americans in the Revolutionary War. He used negro slave labour. The Heth Hall worked for in 1839 is likely to be his son John Heth, a naval captain, who escaped from captivity in Bermuda during the 1812 war with Britain, and died in 1842.

There were two fatal explosions between 1839 and 1844. The one on March 18 1839 killed 40 miners, mostly slaves. However, a different interpretation is given in the book 'Black coal miners in America: race, class and community conflict, 1780 - 1980' (University Press of Kentucky, 1987). Its author Ronald L Lewis suggests that following an explosion in 1836 killing 45 miners, the mine was sold to the English owned Chesterfield Coal and Mining Company, which then employed free black rather than slave miners (see relevant extract on page 5 of the Google Book project's partial digitalisation).

## WILLIAM JOHNSON

The search is underway for more information about William Johnson, a black slave who became servant to the Earl of Strathmore. The starting off point is the following text of a note at Durham County Record Office DCRO D/St/C1/10/47. Dated 10 December 1810:

'William Johnson a Negro aged 67 was born a Slave to a Captain Young in the City of Philadelphia in North America that at the Age of seven years his freedom was purchased by Captain afterwards Collonel and now General Campbell and embarked from thence to Liverpool and was a Servant to him about 9 years during which time he learned to play upon the French Horn and played upon that Instrument in the Regiment commanded by the said Cole Campbell at the end of that time he entd into the Service of the late Earl of Strathmore as footman to his Lordship and continued in his Service about 14 years afterwards he was footman to the late Sir Wm Nairn of Densannan in North Britain and continued about 8 years afterwards he kept a small Grocers Shop in Edinburgh and was in the habit of teaching young men to play upon the French horn that he left Edinburgh about 3 weeks ago and now is an Object of Charity and will be obliged to any Gentleman and Ladies who will bestow a little towards his support.'

### Johnson's Chronology

Based on the date 1810 Johnson's chronology back in time is as follows:

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1810 | Aged 67. Leaves Edinburgh   |
| 1781 | Sets up as grocer and French horn teacher in Edinburgh              |
| 1781 | Leaves Nairn's service  |
| 1773 | Leave Earl Strathmore' service and becomes footman of William Nairn |
| 1759 | Leaves Colonel Campbell's service and becomes Earl                  |

- 1750 Strathmore's servant  
Purchased and freed by Captain  
Campbell in America and  
brought to Britain
- 1743 Born into slavery, owner Captain  
Young Philadelphia

Densannan is Dunnisane. Nairn was probably Sir William Nairne, a baronet who was made Lord Dunsinane when he was appointed to the Bench in 1786, and who died in 1811. (Dictionary National Biography. G. F. R. Barker. Nairne, Sir William, fifth baronet, Lord Dunsinane (bap 1731.d. 1811) revised Anita McConnell, first published Sept 2004.

[www.oxforddnb.com/index/101019730/](http://www.oxforddnb.com/index/101019730/))

Enquiries with specialist Scottish researchers have not as yet revealed any information about Johnson in Edinburgh. At the moment the National Trust at Strathmore's Gibside has no information it can add. Because there many Campbells serving in the British Army, a major stumbling block is trying to identify who Captain/Colonel Campbell was.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**The Trevelyans of Wallington** were related to those in Somerset. Details of the latter can be found in Mary Siraut. (ed) *The Trevelyan Letters to 1840*. Somerset Record Office. 1990. Alan Sutton. There are also other documents relating to the family on the Somerset RO web catalogue.

**British Guiana.** An additional book has been identified in the Lit & Phil collection: 'Storm van Gravesande. The rise of British Guiana. Compiled from his despatches by C.A. Harris and J.A.J. de Villiers. (Hakluyt Society 1911 - Bolbec 910.6/1 v.124). A detailed history of Guyana can be seen on [www.guyana.org/features/guyanastory/chapter1.html](http://www.guyana.org/features/guyanastory/chapter1.html)

**The Horrors of the Slave Trade.** NCS has a printed extract from a letter dated 5

February, with a handwritten date of 1807 tells of a Portuguese Guineaman leaving Angola with 700m negroes, arrived at Barbados en route to Paraguay. The crew had thrown overboard 200 'to prevent the others from starving.  
(SANT/PRI/5/3/229/G)

**Henry Liddell & Barbados Tar.** In a letter from London dated 31 May 1714 to William Cotesworth, Henry Liddell reports 'On board off John Charleton of Yarm[outh] I have put a small gally pott off Barbadoes tarr; the ship loads with Tom Dodds.' [It is] recommended to the master's particular care, directed for you. It is extraord[inarily] good and the fame of it spreads apace. The ladys make no difficulty to make use and with success. Franck desired me to procure him a small quantity for one off Robin Bowes' nieces that lives in town.' (The Letters of Henry Liddell to William Cotesworth. J. M Ellis (ed). James Hall (Leamington Spa) Ltd. 1987. p. 139)

**Colonel Edward Chamberlayne.**

Although it is not clear why it has it, Northumberland Collections has the 1673 will of Colonel Edward Chamberlayne of Barbados. In it he states his wish to leave substantial sums to his children and numerous other relatives, including 'the whole proceeds of the Negroes & Rum' he sent with his nephew John Camberlaine to Virginia, and 20,000lbs of muscavdo sugar for his niece Susanna Chamberlaine when she reached the age of 22. (NRO 2024/32) He died in 23 July 1673. A monument in St Michael's Cathedral states: 'Here lyes interred the body of the Honourable Colonel Edward Chamberlaine one of His Majesties Councill of this Island, who was borne in the County of Leicester in England, who married Mary ye daughter of Edward Butler of Stratfoold in ye County of Bedford Esq.' he departed this life ye 23 July. (Cited in 'Monumental inscriptions in the churches and churchyards of the island of Barbados, British West Indies' by Vere Langford

Oliver, The Borgo Press, San Bernadino, California/The Sidewinder Press, Glendale, California, MCMLXXXIX. From Ira Helms website - Search for the parents of the North Carolina Helms Brothers (1690-1750).

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~helmsnc/>

**Newcastle Women Chartists and Abolition.** 'Acting from those feelings when told of the oppression exercised upon the enslaved negroes in our colonies, we raised our voices in denunciation of their tyrants, and never rested until the dealers in human blood were compelled to abandon their hell-born traffic; but we have learned by bitter experience that slavery is not confined to colour of clime, and even in England cruel oppression reigns - and we are compelled by our love of God and hatred of wrong to join our countrywomen in their demand for liberty and justice.' - From 'Address of the Female Political Union of Newcastle upon Tyne to their Fellow Countrymen.' - Northern Star', 2 February 1839. Source: Political Women 1800-1850. Ruth & Edmund Frow (ed). Pluto Press. 1989.

**Lord Seaforth and the Murders of Black Slaves.** The cuttings volumes at Northumberland Collections include page 1

of an article on 'Horrors of West Indian Slavery' in 1804, which refers to a letter from Lord Seaforth, Governor of Barbados to Lord Hobart, 18 March 1802, laid before the House of Commons discussing murders by whites of black slaves on Simmon's estate and St Lucy's plantation. It decries the problems of securing convictions re-crimes against negroes. Names include Clarke, owner of Simmons estate, Mr Harding, manager of Codrington College estate, Herbert of St Kitts, Mr Colbeck, overseer of Cabbage Tree Plantation in St Lucy's, and Mr Crone, overseer of Rowe's estate. (NRO SANT/PRI/5/2/395)

Seaforth was Francis Humberston Mackenzie, chief of the Mackenzies. He was created Lord Seaforth and Baron Mackenzie of Kintail in 1797 'He held for six years the office of Governor of Barbadoes, and by his firmness and even-handed justice he succeeded in putting an end to the practice of slave-killing, which was at that time not unfrequent in the island, and was deemed by the planters a venial offence to be punished only by a small fine. He held high office also in Demerara and Berbice.'

[www.electricscotland.com/webclans/families/mackenzies\\_seaforth.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/families/mackenzies_seaforth.htm)

## NESAG NEWS

A lot is going on involving individual and organisational members of NESAG.

**John Charlton.** His pamphlet Remembering Slavery. Slave trade, slavery and abolition: the north east of England connections' published by the Lit & Phil last year has been re-designed and re-printed by Tyne & Wear Museums. 5,000 copies will be available free at Musuems, Archives & Libraries in the North East, especially during October's Black History Month. His book 'Hidden Chains. The Slavery Business in the North East' is due to be published in October by Tyneside Publishers. James Walvin, a leading expert on slavery and abolition, who gave a talk in the Lit & Phil's lecture programme last year, is writing the introduction. As member of North East Labour History Society John has g to organised a talk, for Wednesday, 1 October at 7pm at the Lit & Phil, by Dave Renton about his book 'Colour Blind? Race and Migration in North East England Since 1945'. John continues to speak to local history groups around the region. He is editing the essays mentioned below for the special slavery and abolition supplement of the 2008 issue of *North East History*, the journal of North East Labour History Society. The text of John's

pamphlet can be seen on the PDF and EPapers page of [www.seancreighton.co.uk](http://www.seancreighton.co.uk). The Society's website is: [www.nelh.net](http://www.nelh.net). John can be contacted on [johncharlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:johncharlton@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Patricia Hix.** Her article about Newcastle Grammar School' Headmaster G Mortimer's pamphlet outlining an Abolition Plan is being considered for publication in *Tyne & Tweed*. Her essay on Quakers and abolition will appear in *North East History*. She is continuing to work on Newcastle Ladies' Negro Friend & Emancipation Society Minute Book (1838-1850s) with a view to writing an introduction for publication by *History & Social Action Publications* (Sean's imprint). As Hon. Secretary Patricia is including a note about NESAG in the September newsletter of the Association of Northumberland Local History Societies ([www.anlhs.org.uk](http://www.anlhs.org.uk)). Patricia's email is [pa.hix@btinternet.com](mailto:pa.hix@btinternet.com).

**Tyne & Wear Museums.** Tamsin Lilley has been updating the TWM North East Remembering Slavery website. The new site will be launched in October's Black History Month: [www.rememberingslavery.com](http://www.rememberingslavery.com). Enquiries about the Remembering Slavery project across the North East can be made to Hazel Edwards: [hazel.edwards@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:hazel.edwards@twmuseums.org.uk). Tyne & Wear Museums is at the Discovery Museum, Blandford Square, Newcastle, NE1 4JA. 0191 232 6789. Tamsin is going to be the Heritage Officer at Morpeth. In addition to the re-design and re-printing of John's pamphlet (see above), TWM is exploring creating learning resources for schools, re-staging the Jack Drum youth theatre's play 'Sharp Practice' on Tyneside and a video-conferencing learning initiative on the theme of slavery and abolition. [www.twmuseums.org.uk](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk)

**Sean Creighton.** His essay on Black People in North East in the period of slavery and abolition will be in *North East History*. He is preparing a talk on the work in the North East for a national conference in September reviewing last year's commemoration, and writing for inclusion in a book an essay about *The Slave*, the newspaper of the Free Labour Produce movement edited by the Richardsons in Newcastle. His overview of slavery and abolition in the North East on the Resource Disc can be seen on the PDF and EPapers page of [www.sean.creighton.co.uk](http://www.sean.creighton.co.uk).

**Tyne & Wear Archives** is posting NESAG newsletters on its website [www.tyneandweararchives.org.uk](http://www.tyneandweararchives.org.uk). It has recently taken in a new collection photographs of the Spence family.

**Valerie Glass** has an essay appearing in *North East History*. *She has contributed an essay to the new book 'Aspects of Belford' - see below*

**Peter Livsey** has essay appearing in *North East History*.

**New Member - Anna Kett.** Anna has just joined the NESAG list. She is doing an Mphil/PhD at University of Brighton (School of Historical and Critical Studies, Faculty of Arts and Architecture) on Quaker Women, anti-slavery and material culture, with a focus on the transatlantic free produce movement. She has a dress studies and material culture background and a special interest in female Quakers in the mid-nineteenth century. She has just been to a joint Conference at the Quaker Study Centre at Woodbrooke, Birmingham, of the Quaker Historians and Archivists and the Quaker Studies Research Association (of which she is a member). This Conference raised many

themes relating to Transatlantic co-operation between anti-slavery Quakers. Anna sees that the Pennsylvania connection is a good way to move forward. She came into contact with NESAG through Elizabeth O'Donnell. Sean has given Anna some preliminary advice on researching the free labour produce movement. If you have any ideas or information to share Anna can be contacted on [anna.kett@btinternet.com](mailto:anna.kett@btinternet.com).

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCE FILES

The following additional Resource files have been created by members:

**Durham Elections 1802.** L&P Add 57

**Charles Sumner's Visits to Britain.** Notes from *The Life and Letters of the Hon Charles Sumner. Memoir and Letter of Charles Sumner.* Vol 1 1811-1838 and Vol II 1838-1848. Sumner was an American abolitionist politician. The file contains information on his North East contacts. L&P Add E18

**The Maude and Ogden Family.** Details about these Sunderland Quaker families. TWA Add A59

**Quaker Visitors to Newcastle 1789-1830.** Notes by George Richardson's. Includes visits by American Quakers. TWA Add A134

**John Edmund Sturge and Jane Richardson.** NESAG 32

**Quakers 1661-97.** Notes by Emma Pumphrey 1896. NESAG 33

**Advert for ship for Grenada Sugar Trade 1772.** NESAG 34

**Anti-slavery and other material in Newcastle Courant Feb-May 1792.** NESAG 35

**The Hamiltons, Sundrum and Jamaica.** NESAG 36

**Extracts from 18<sup>th</sup> Century North-East Diaries.** NESAG 37

**The Cadogans, Barbados and Brinkburn Abbey.** NESAG 38

**Robert Spears and 'The Christian Freeman'.** NESAG 39

**Rev. Thomas Gisborne on Slavery & Abolition.** NESAG 40

**Advert play "West Indian".** NESAG 41

**Advert for tradesman for ship re Graham- Clarke 1792.** NESAG 42

**Oroonoko or The Royal Slave - play 1792.** NESAG 43

**Darlington Meeting on British India Feb 1839.** NESAG 44

### ASPECTS OF BELFORD

Jane Bowen (ed). Aspects of Belford. Written by members of the Belford & District Local History Society with chapters on The Parish Church, Belford Hall and estate, Pubs of Belford, "All ink is frozen"- history of Presbyterian School, Health and Welfare in Belford, The Contribution of Belford to 2nd World War. Society members undertook their own research using local people, local archives and national archives. Publication of the book has been funded by the Northumberland Coast A.O.N.B. Partnership, the Northern Angel Fund of the Community Foundation; the Sir James Knott Trust, The Joicey Trust, Clark Homes, Carruthers Leisure and several other local businesses and private donors.

Blackhall Publishers, 2008. £10.00 inc postage from V Glass, Belle Vue Resource Centre, 33 West St, Belford, NE70 7QB. Cheques payable to Belford and District Local History Society.

### 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 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 operates on the basis of its members continuing research, writing and giving talks, and through email.

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