



About the benefactors



Atlantic Slave Traders



Plantation Owners

Nineteenth-Century  
Benefactors of the College  
and the Legacies of  
Enslavement

Main  
Menu

# Plantation Owners

The Rev. Charles  
Douglas Beckford  
(c.1797-1884)

The Rev. Edward  
Dawkins  
(1769-1816)

John Dawkins  
(1774-1844)

The Rev. Edward  
Henry Dawkins  
(1794-1859)

The Hon. Edwin  
Lascelles  
(1799-1865)



# Beckford family and The Rev. Charles Douglas Beckford

The Beckford Family and their Wealth

The Rev. Charles Douglas Beckford

Beckford Family Tree

Plantations



# The Beckford Family and their Wealth

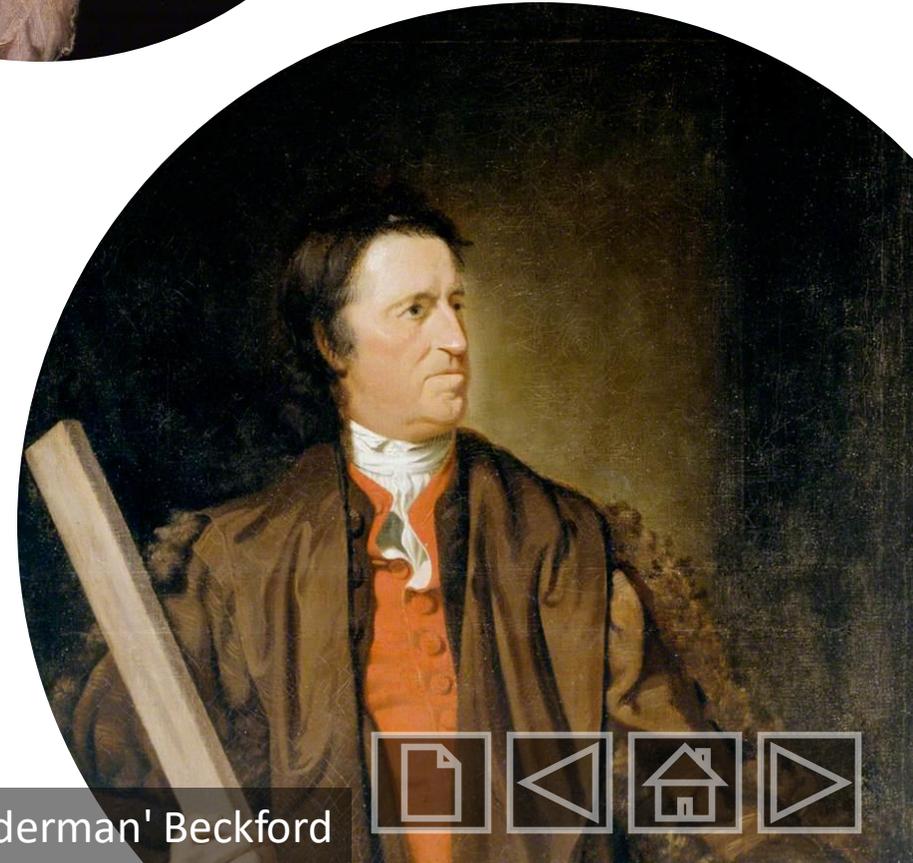
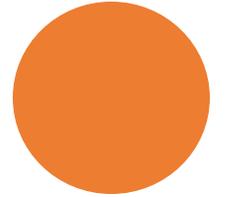
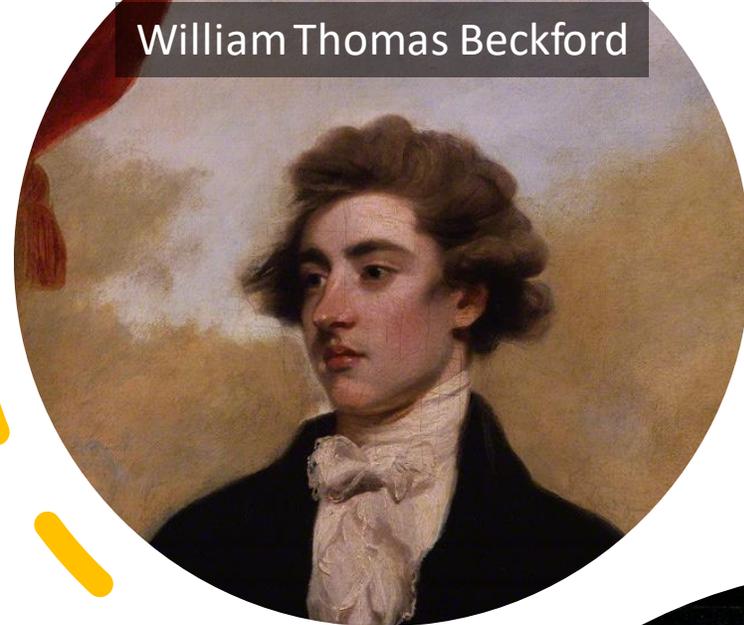
The Beckford family profited from the slave trade more prominently than any other English family of the time and it was not until the abolition of slavery that the family ceased to own enslaved people.

Originating from Jamaica plantations, they amassed one of the largest fortunes in the United Kingdom. At their height they owned 22 plantations and over 1600 African slaves in Jamaica

One of the founders of the family's wealth, Peter Beckford (1673-1735) was Governor of Jamaica and had extensive investments in the island's sugar plantations and in the slave trade. He was reputed at the height of his career to have been the richest British subject.

He also had a reputation for violence, murdering the Deputy Judge-Advocate of Jamaica. On his death his vast fortune was divided among his nine legitimate children, [including Francis Beckford and his elder brother William 'Alderman' Beckford \(1709-70\)](#), who became the father of the art collector and writer, William Thomas Beckford of Fonthill Abbey (1760-1844).

William Thomas Beckford



William 'Alderman' Beckford



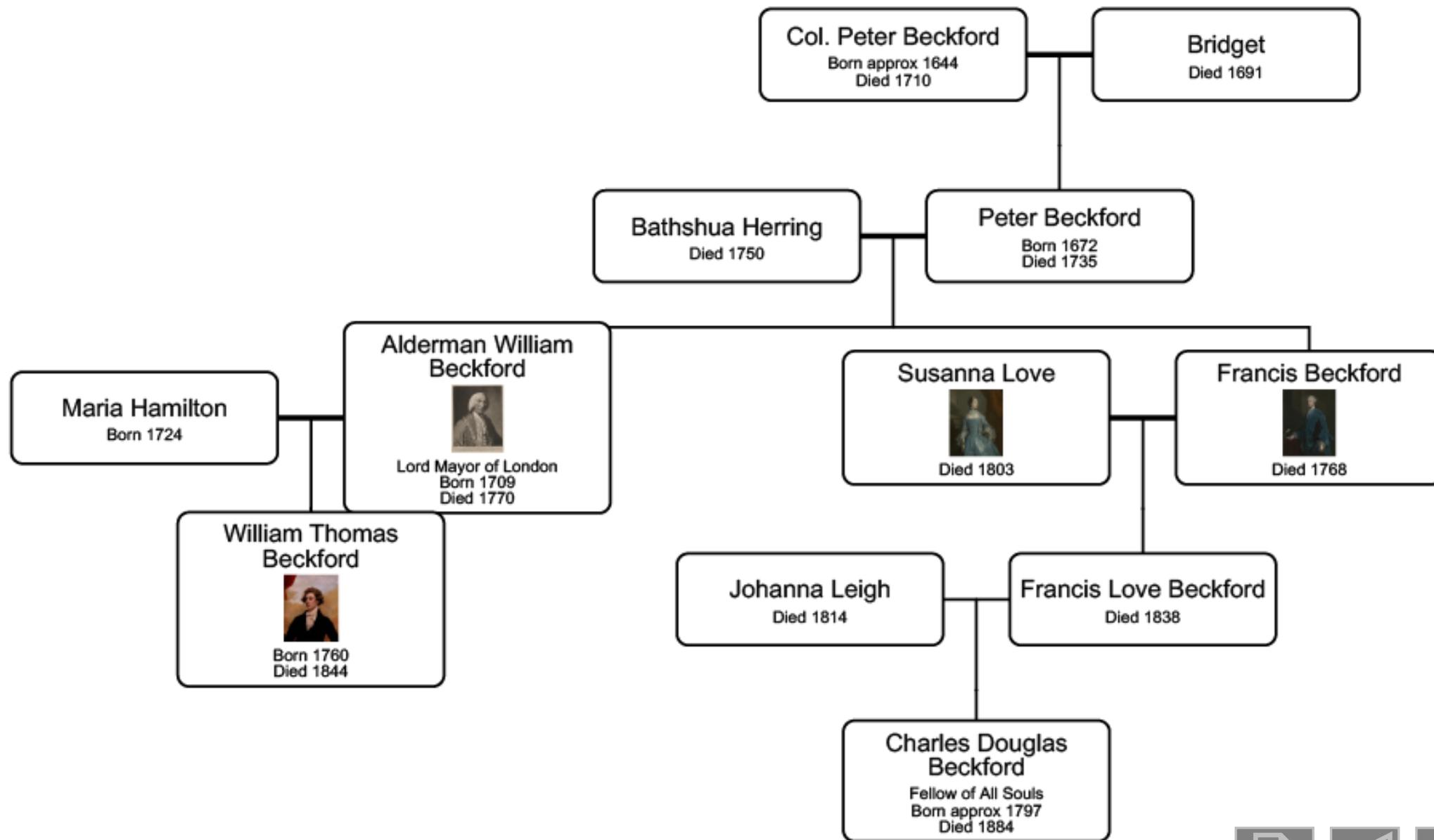
# Rev. Charles Douglas Beckford (c.1797-1884), Fellow 1821-32

- The Rev. Charles Douglas Beckford was the great-grandson of Peter Beckford (1673-1735) of Jamaica, owner of sugar plantations who 'at his death he was the wealthiest planter in Jamaica'.
- On his death, Peter Beckford's vast fortune was divided among his nine legitimate children, including Charles Douglas' grandfather, Francis Beckford (1723-68)
- Charles Douglas was the son of Francis Love Beckford (d. 1838) of St. Marylebone, London who owned several plantations. Francis Love's will pledged £7,000 to his son Charles Douglas.
- In 1831, Charles Douglas married his cousin Charlotte Maria Middleton who was also a grandchild of Francis Beckford and Susanna Love. Charlotte's brother, Rev. Frederick Graeme Middleton was party to a deed concerning the Beckford family plantations in 1835.
- He died in 1884 at 5 Cumberland Place, Southampton, aged 86.



Portraits of Francis Beckford and his wife Suzanna by Joshua Reynolds, c. 1756 (Tate, London)





# Francis Love Beckford's Plantations

Francis Love Beckford was awardee of the following plantations:

- [Jamaica St James 395 \(\[New\] Canaan Estate\) £3569 4S 4D \[174 Enslaved\]](#)
- Jamaica St Thomas-in-the-East, Surrey 117 (Golden Grove) £7483 10S 6D [416 Enslaved]
- Jamaica Westmoreland 232A & B (Canaan Estate) £3529 8S 10D [200 Enslaved]
- Jamaica Westmoreland 265 (Lincoln) £2685 15S 5D [135 Enslaved]
- Jamaica Westmoreland 28 (Petersfield) £5979 8S 8D [305 Enslaved]

Source: UCL Legacies of Slavery database



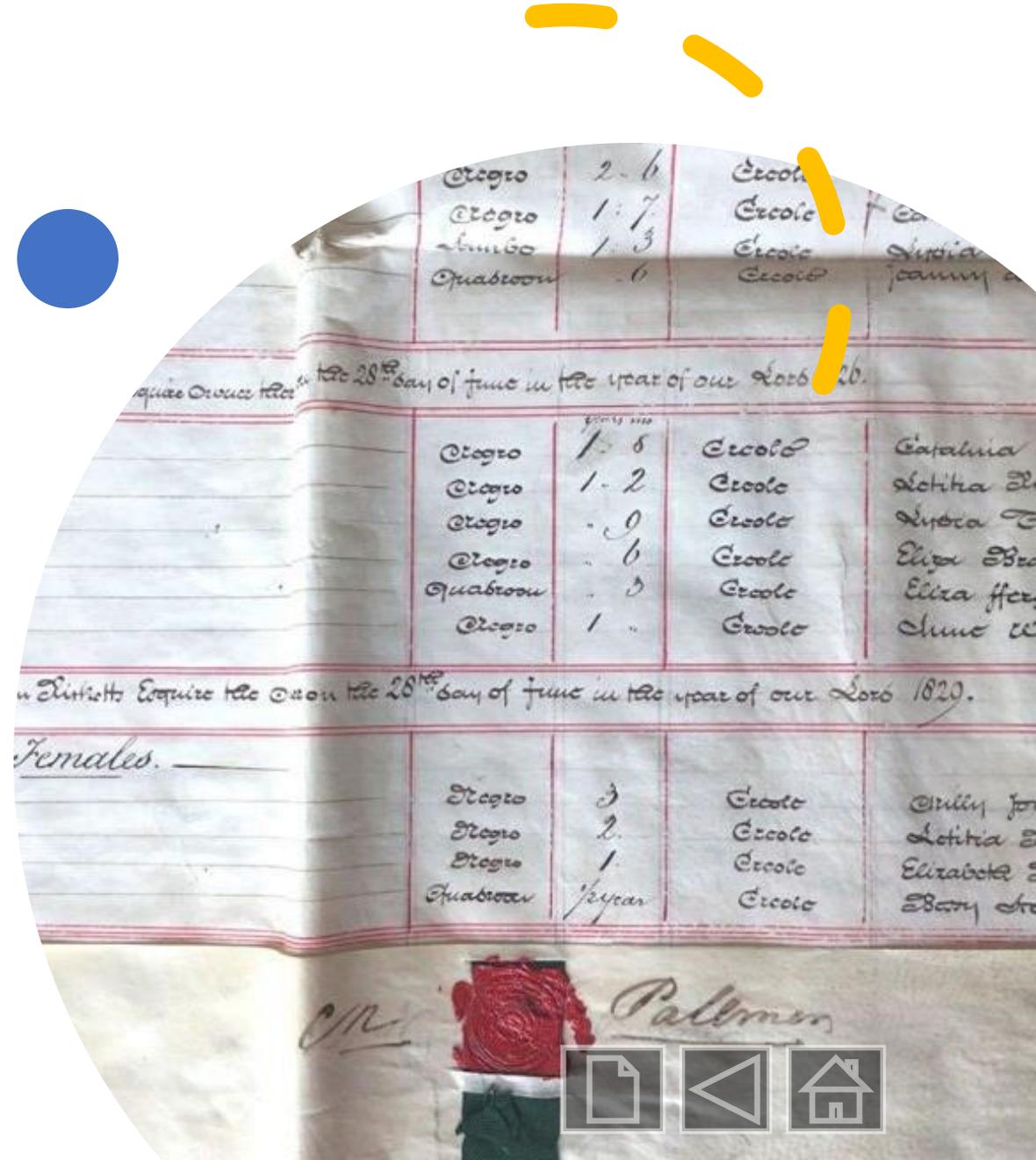
# New Canaan Estate, Jamaica

Surrey History Centre, Woking, includes a deed relating to property in Jamaica for an appointment of new trustees.

It refers to a conveyance of 2 Jun 1829 by George William Ricketts of Winchester, Esq, and his wife, to Francis Love Beckford and Charles Nicholas Palmer of a plantation called New Canaan in St James and Trelawney parishes, Cornwall, Jamaica, with slaves, cattle and stock.

It records assets at the New Canaan Plantation and Sugar Works, Co. Cornwall, Jamaica.

It records enslaved people working on the New Canaan Plantation. Each of them is named, along with their age, sex and colour as registered by the Registrar of Colonial Slaves, between 1817 and 1829



# Dawkins family

The Dawkins  
Family and their  
Wealth

John Dawkins

The Rev.  
Edward  
Henry Dawkins

Dawkins Family  
Tree

Plantations



# The Dawkins Family

Three members of the Dawkins family were fellows of All Souls College in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries:

- **The Rev. Edward Dawkins** (1769-1816), Fellow (1791-1794)
- [John Dawkins](#) (1774-1844), Fellow (1797-1844)
- [The Rev. Edward Henry Dawkins](#) (1794-1859), Fellow (1815-36)

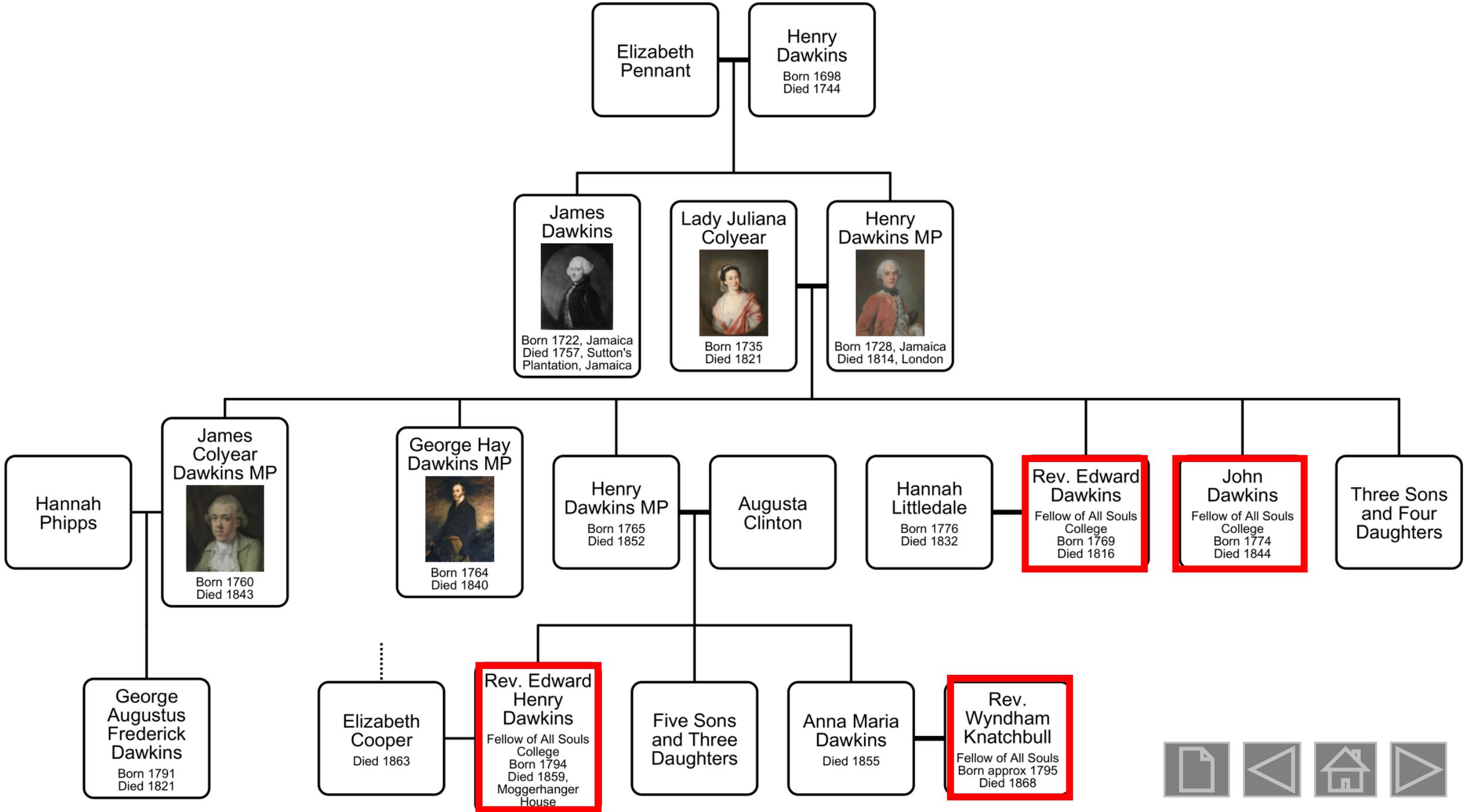
They were the sons and the grandson of Henry Dawkins II MP (1728-1814) who was born in Jamaica and was a 'plantation and slave owner and politician' [1]. His two elder sons were also significant plantation owners.

'[The plantation wealth](#) of the Dawkins family was only exceeded by that of the Beckford's and Bayly's in the period prior to 1776. When Henry Dawkins [1698-1743], the grandfather, died in 1743 he left 5,761 acres of land, ten sugar estates, 1,062 Negro slaves, and personal property valued at £93,960 sterling'[2]

[1] ODNB

[2] Sheridan, R. B., 'The Wealth of Jamaica in the Eighteenth Century', *The Economic History Review*, 1965, 18(2), pp. 292-311, p. 307.

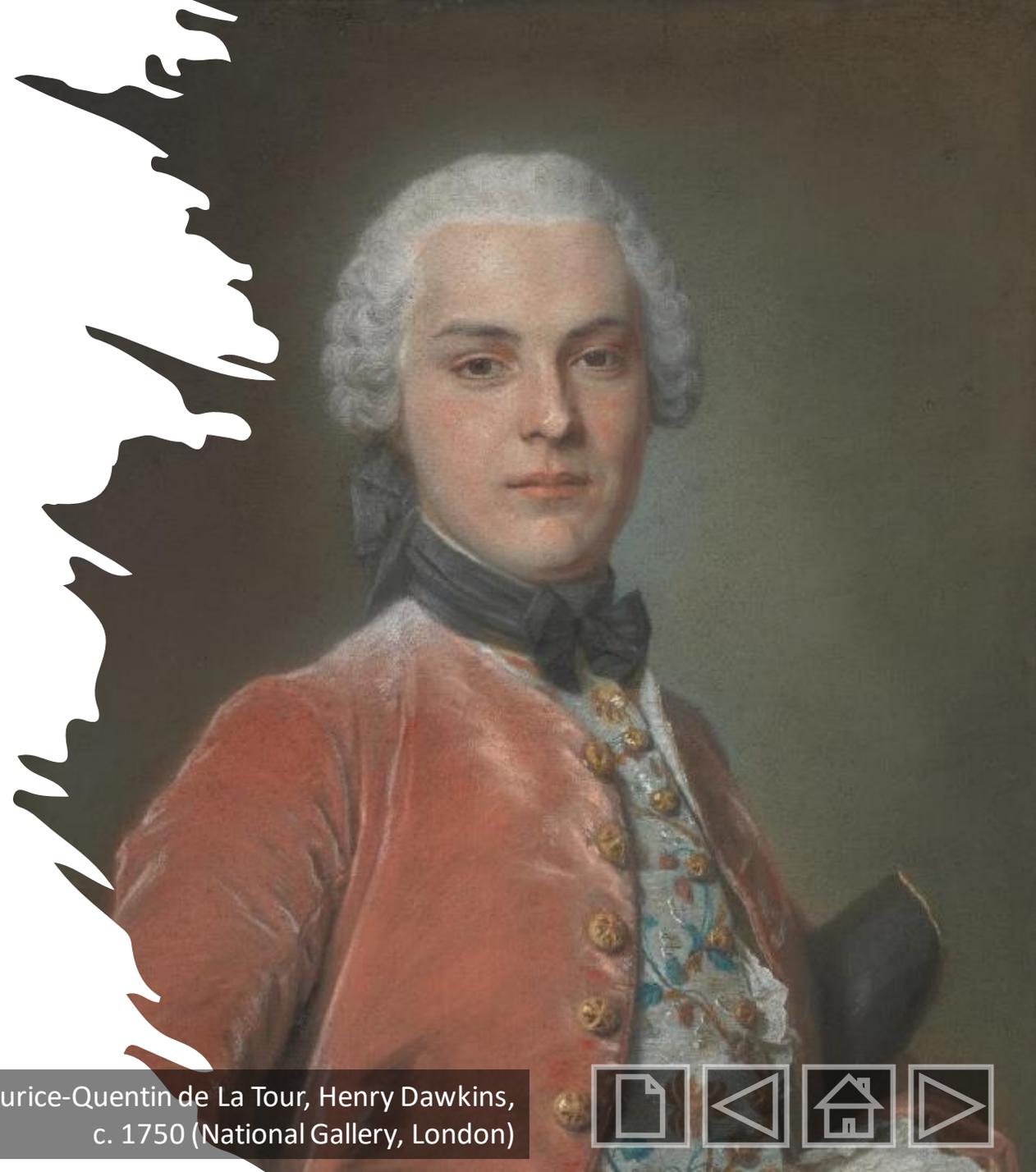




# Henry Dawkins'

## Plantations

- Bog Pen [ Jamaica | St Catherine ]
- Dawkins Caymanas [ Jamaica | St Catherine ]
- Dawkins Salt Pond Pen [ Jamaica | St Catherine ]
- Folly [ Jamaica | Clarendon ]
- Friendship [1] [ Jamaica | Clarendon ]
- Old Plantation [ Jamaica | Clarendon ]
- Parnassus Estate [ Jamaica | Clarendon ]
- Sandy Gully Estate [ Jamaica | Vere ]
- Sutton's [ Jamaica | Clarendon ]
- Suttons Pasture Estate [ Jamaica | Vere ]
- Treadways [ Jamaica | St Thomas-in-the-Vale ]
- Vere [ Jamaica | Clarendon ]
- Windsor [ Jamaica | Clarendon ]



Maurice-Quentin de La Tour, Henry Dawkins,  
c. 1750 (National Gallery, London)





Richard Brompton, The family of Henry Dawkins, 1773  
(National Trust)

**John Dawkins and Henry Dawkins III (The Rev. Edward Henry Dawkins' father) were awardees of:**

- **Jamaica Trelawney 411 (York) £4668 16S 5D [246 Enslaved]**
- **Jamaica Trelawney 412 (Gale's Valley) £4499 8S 3D [229 Enslaved][1]**

John Dawkins left 200 guineas to All Souls in his will. However, this is not recorded in the Benefactors' Register

Dawkins' family's "long history in both Jamaica and in Britain underscores the continuities available to slave owners who made a successful transition to the British landed gentry." [2]

[1] UCL Legacies of Slavery database

[2] *ODNB*





# The Rev. Edward Henry Dawkins (1794-1859), Fellow (1815-36)

- As well as a Fellow, he was vicar of West Markham Nottinghamshire
- In 1835, he left his fellowship to marry Elizabeth Cooper, daughter of The Rev. Sir William Cooper, Bart. and Isabella, daughter and heiress of Moses Franks, a London merchant
- Isabella was beneficiary of **Duckenfield Hall, St Thomas-in-the-East, Jamaica. Receiving £6379 12s 5d for 336 enslaved people.**
- Through his wife, Edward became the heir to a considerable fortune, derived from enslavement
- With the money, the couple bought Moggerhanger House, Bedfordshire in 1858 for £34,374 19s 6d
- The following year, The Rev. Edward Henry Dawkins died at Moggerhanger House, aged 64
- His descendants continued to own the plantations. In 1888, the Chinese workers at Duckenfield estate protested the harsh conditions in the first recorded strike of paid workers in Jamaica.

# The Honourable Edwin Lascelles (1799-1865), Fellow (1822-65)

Edwin Lascelles was the younger son of Henry, second Earl of Harewood (1767–1841) and was MP for Ripon (1846-57). The family was descended from Henry Lascelles (c.1690-1753), who had established the family's wealth, partly as a slave trader in Barbados.

The Lascelles  
Wealth

Plantations

Political  
Influence



# Origin of Lascelles Wealth

- The family's wealth was made from the slave trade: 'Slave trading was among Lascelles's business interests; he imported 1101 slaves between the years 1713 and 1717 alone... The three brothers established a London commission house, importing sugar from the West Indies.' (ODNB).
- 'The expertise and contacts Lascelles acquired as a victualler were employed to support vessels in Africa engaged in slaving. In association with a London merchant, Thomas Hall, he created a slaving syndicate of merchants to establish a 'floating factory' (permanently moored vessels) off the Guinea coast at Anomabu between 1736 and 1743 in order to receive slaves for shipment to the Caribbean. He assembled an extensive West Indies loan portfolio during and after the War of Jenkins's Ear and the War of the Austrian Succession. Lascelles also invested in East India commerce. By 1740 he was a director of the East India Company, and, in 1750, he was part owner of an East Indies ship captained by his third son, Henry Lascelles (1716–1786).'
- 'Lascelles's ascendancy in mercantile activity in the Caribbean had provided the income upon which the transformation of his family into one of the principal aristocratic dynasties of Yorkshire was founded.' (ODNB)



# Lascelles plantations

- The acquisition of estates began in 1773 — by 1787 the family held more than 27,000 acres in Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada and Tobago.
- Having become owners of plantations and slaves, the Lascelles continued to protect their rights over their human property, firstly from those who wanted to abolish the slave trade (who succeeded in 1807) and secondly from those who wanted to abolish slavery itself (who succeeded in 1833). The family did not sell their final plantation in the Caribbean until 1975.
- <https://www.york.ac.uk/projects/harewoodslavery/about.html>





# 2nd Earl of Harewood's plantations

- The following are the plantation for which Henry Lascelles, 2nd Earl of Harewood received compensation and from which Edwin Lascelles directly benefitted:
  - Barbados 211 (Belle) £6486 1S 6D [292 Enslaved]
  - Barbados 2769 (Fortescues) £3291 11S 4D [176 Enslaved]
  - Barbados 2770 (Thicket) £5810 5S 6D [277 Enslaved]
  - Barbados 3817 (Mount St George) £3835 6S 5D [188 Enslaved]
  - Jamaica St Dorothy 23 (Nightingale Grove Estate) £2599 0S 4D [112 Enslaved]
  - Jamaica St Thomas-in-the-Vale 147 (Williamsfield Estate) £4286 19S 3D [232 Enslaved]



Painting of Williamsfield Estate (1820-1824) from Hakewill's *A Picturesque Tour of the Island of Jamaica*



# Political influence

- During the debates on slavery abolition, the second Earl of Harewood (1767–1841) 'was a leading representative of the West India interest, chairing a large meeting in London in April 1832 of merchants and others with investments in the slave economies of the West Indies, and presented a petition to the House of Lords stating their deteriorating economic position and calling for relief.
- He was an advocate of amelioration, to improve the material conditions of the enslaved and the provision of places of worship and religious instruction for them, as a means of averting immediate emancipation, which he opposed. He owned six estates in Jamaica and Barbados, and in 1835–6, after abolition, he received compensation of £26,309 for ownership of 1277 enslaved people.
- In 1807 general election, the same year as the Bill for the abolition of the slave trade, the Earl stood against Lord Milton and William Wilberforce for the county of Yorkshire. It was the costliest election of its time. His opponents used the connection with slavery against him, as can be seen from this election flyer (c.1807).

1807 election flyer

**WANTED**  
A Hundred  
**Negro**  
**DRIVERS**  
To be employed in the  
**ISLAND OF**  
**BARBADOES**  
Apply at Har-w—d Houfe.

No Yorkshire Clothier need apply, as they have been found too refractory to be infulted and trampled upon by  
**The Son of the Proprietor.**

*Should the Slave Trade be revived in the next Session of Parliament, with a View to which the Proprietor is labouring to procure for his Son the Representation of the County of York, the Number of Negro Drivers wanted will not be limited, but may extend to Two Thousand at least.*

Printed at the York Museum & Library, by Edward Bates.



# Transatlantic Slave Traders

In the second half of the eighteenth century, British merchants forcibly shipped one-and-a-half-million enslaved Africans to the Americas, making Britain the most prolific slave traders in the Atlantic world. These fellows of All Souls College directly benefitted from this 'trade'.

The Rev. John  
Edward Tarleton  
(1784-1849)

Simon Taylor  
(1799-1828)



# Rev. John Edward Tarleton (1784-1849)

- **The Rev. John Edward Tarleton was elected a fellow of All Souls College in 1809 and remained until 1835.**
- He was the son of Thomas Tarleton (1753-1820), **Liverpool slave-trader** and then landed gentleman. His family had been involved in the transatlantic slave trade for three generations.
- **In 1836, he was awardee of Mount Pleasant Estate plantation in Grenada. The compensation was £6526 2s 0d for 256 enslaved people.**
- During his fellowship, he was appointed to several livings that were in the gift of the college which gave him additional income.
- In 1834, the college awarded him the rectory of Chelsfield, Kent, the income of which was enough for him to leave the fellowship.
- Despite his large income (at least £1,000-2,000pa) and compensation award, in 1848 he was in debtors' court for insolvency, due to his excessive spending. When he died in 1849, his effects were under £600

Tarletons &  
Slave Trade

Mount  
Pleasant  
plantation

Tarletons &  
Anti-Abolition

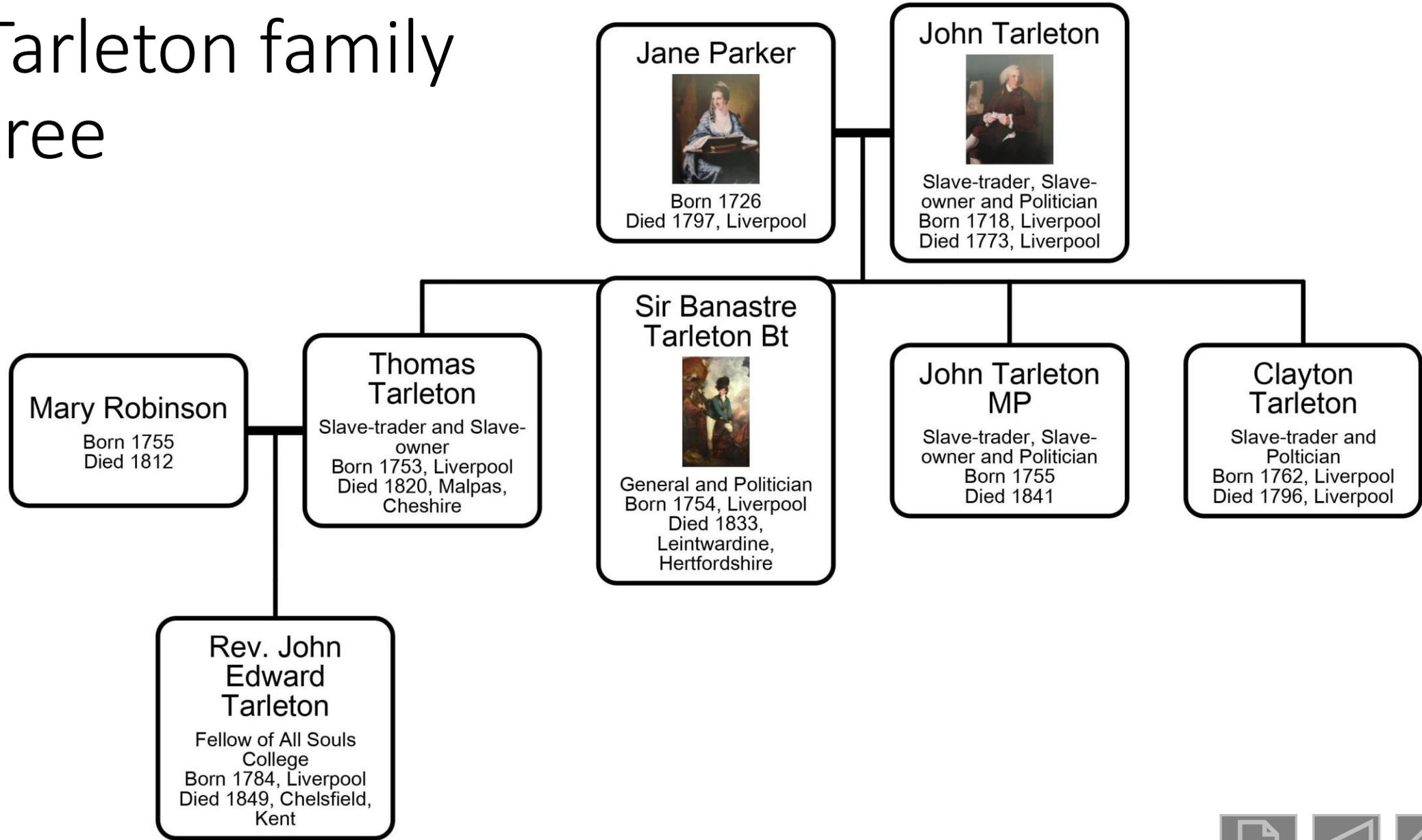




# Tarletons and Atlantic Slave Trade

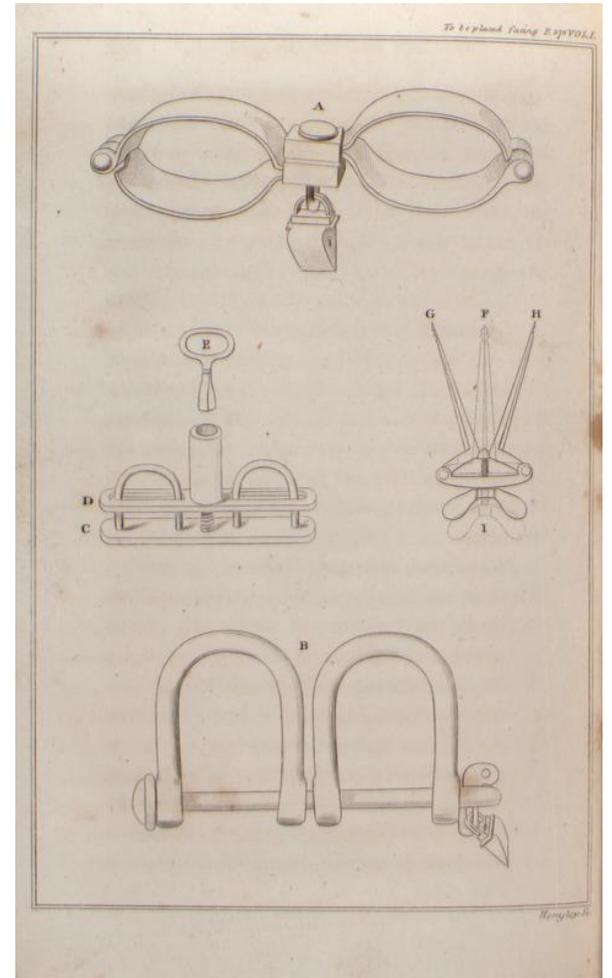
- The Rev. John Edward Tarleton's father, Thomas Tarleton (1753-1820), was a slave-trader and [slave-owner on Grenada](#). Later, he became a landed gentleman when he bought Bolesworth Castle in Cheshire.
  - In Thomas' will, dated 21 Sep 1820, he left personal estate of £7,000.
- In 1809 when John Edward Tarleton was elected to All Souls, the Tarleton family had been involved in the trade of enslaved people in Liverpool for over three generations. His father, Thomas Tarleton was the eldest of four brothers who were all significant in the transatlantic slave trade in Liverpool and had extended their interests politically against abolition in parliament. Three of the four brothers attended Oxford University; Banastre (University College, 1771), Clayton (Oriel, 1779) and Thomas (Brasenose, 1771).
- The brothers' fortune originated from their father John Tarleton (1719–1773), Mayor of Liverpool, who was a merchant and ship-owner in the sugar and slave trades. He owned an estate called Bellfield in Dominica.
  - John Tarleton died in 1773 with a fortune of £80,000. This makes him **one of the richest of Liverpool slave traders**.

# Tarleton family tree



# Tarleton and Backhouse

- John, Jr, Clayton and Thomas formed the firm **Tarleton and Backhouse** with Daniel Backhouse, which became a major factor in the Liverpool Slave Trade and one of the most profitable.
- In 1788, they owned 8 vessels at sea and held shares in many more. They sent for 2,302 slaves and were said to have a contract to sell 3,000 slaves annually to Spanish buyers.
- According to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, the Tarleton-owned ships **undertook 184 voyages, forcibly transporting 52,674 people of whom 45,561 were disembarked.**
- **Over 7,000 people died** on their ships due to harsh conditions, disease and forced transportation to plantations in the West Indies and North America.



Iron shackles purchased in Liverpool that had been used on slave ships, 1808 (CC BY-NC 4.0)



Visualisation of the voyages made by Tarleton-owned ships (1740s-1802) from Transatlantic Slave Trade database

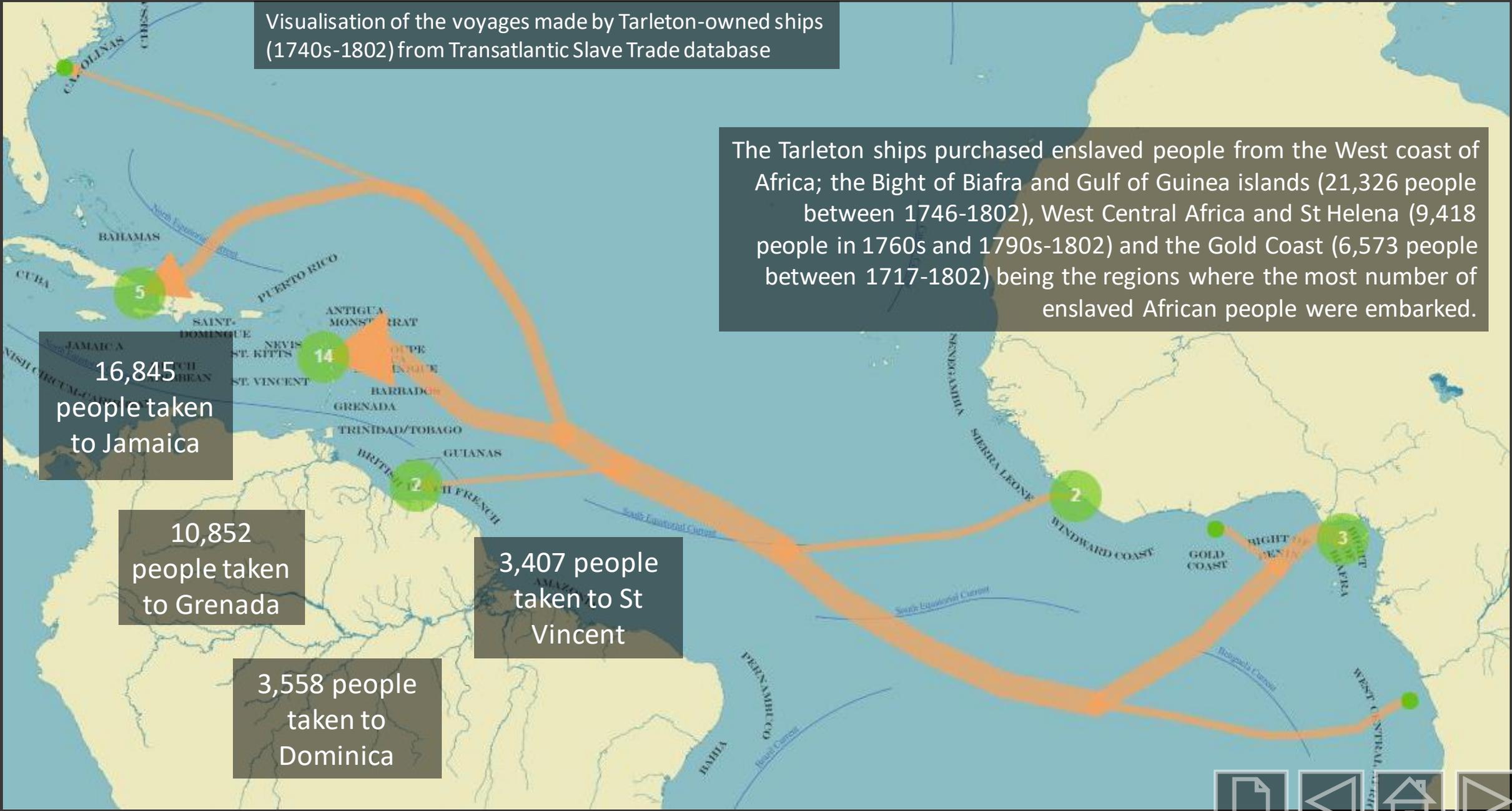
The Tarleton ships purchased enslaved people from the West coast of Africa; the Bight of Biafra and Gulf of Guinea islands (21,326 people between 1746-1802), West Central Africa and St Helena (9,418 people in 1760s and 1790s-1802) and the Gold Coast (6,573 people between 1717-1802) being the regions where the most number of enslaved African people were embarked.

16,845  
people taken  
to Jamaica

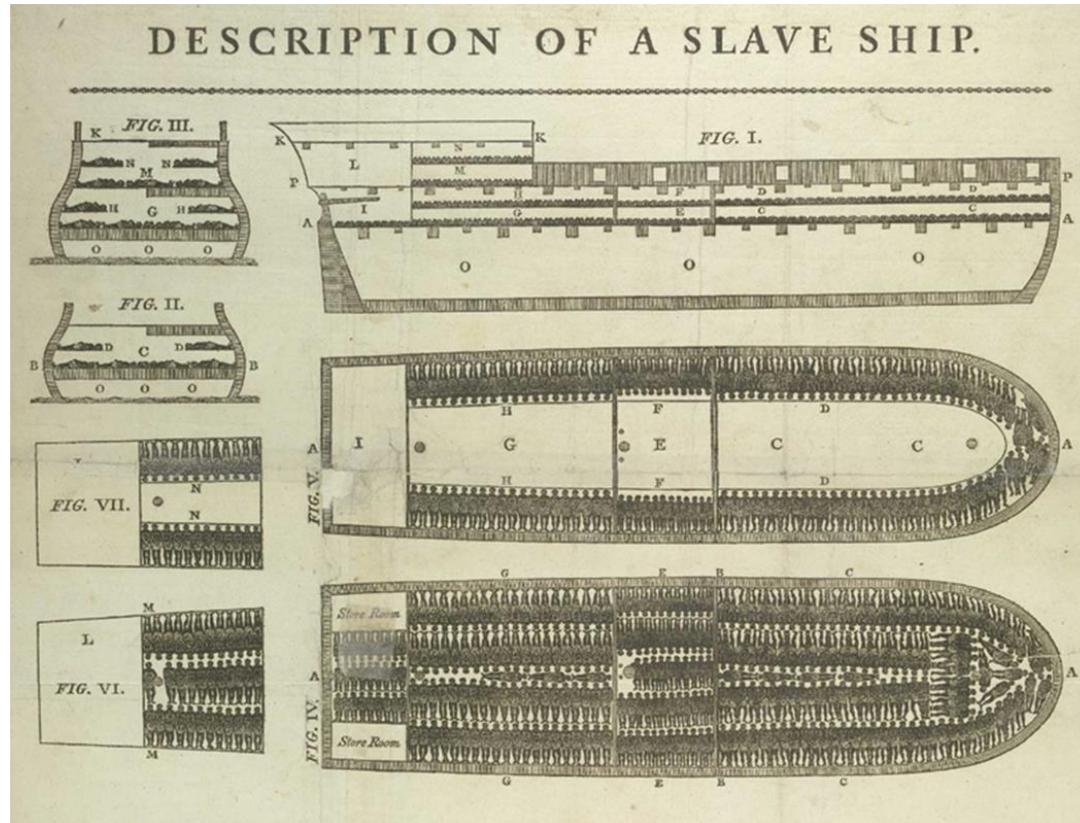
10,852  
people taken  
to Grenada

3,558 people  
taken to  
Dominica

3,407 people  
taken to St  
Vincent



# Description of a slave ship, based on the Liverpool ship *Brooks*



- This image was distributed widely to support the campaign of abolition of the British transatlantic slave trade in 1789-92 and was widely copied.
- The engraving is based on *Brooks*, a Liverpool slave ship, showing the method for stowing African captives; in total there are 609 enslaved men, women and children packed four tiers, in **spaces just 10 inches high** and were **often chained or shackled together in pairs**, making movement more difficult.
- Jane Tarleton, Thomas Tarleton, Clayton Tarleton, and John Backhouse were co-owners of the *Brooks* on its voyages in 1797, 1798 and 1799.
- Of these three voyages, two were successful for the ship's owners: **transporting 940 people, of whom 110 people died during the 48-day passage.**
- The cramped conditions meant that there were high incidences of diseases such as smallpox, measles, scurvy and dysentery. Because of the long distance involved, food and water were rationed and always in short supply, or may have ran out completely.



Ottobah Cugoano describes his capture and transportation from west Africa to Grenada when he was 13 years old:

After I was ordered out, the horrors I soon saw and felt, cannot be well described; I saw many of my miserable countrymen **chained two and two, some handcuffed**, and some with their hands tied behind ... I asked my guide what I was brought there for, he told me to learn the ways of the browfow, that is the white faced people. I saw him take a gun, a piece of cloth, and some lead for me ... I was soon conducted to a prison, for three days, where **I heard the groans and cries of many, and saw some of my fellow-captives**. But when a vessel arrived to conduct us away to the ship, it was a most horrible scene; **there was nothing to be heard but rattling of chains, smacking of whips, and the groans and cries of our fellow-men. Some would not stir from the ground, when they were lashed and beat in the most horrible manner.**

Ottobah Cugoano, *Thoughts and sentiments on the evil and wicked traffic of the slavery and commerce of the human species* (London, 1787).



# Mount Pleasant, Carriacou

- In his will, dated 20 January 1770, John Tarleton senior left his 'Estate in the Island of Carriacou in America being about Five Hundred and nine Acres of Land with the buildings I have erected there, the Negroes and all the Stock I have thereon', his 'house or store in the Town of Grand Acre in the said Island of Carriacou' and 'his House and Stores in the Town of St. George in the Island of Grenada' to his eldest son Thomas (1753–1820)
- Absentee Thomas Tarleton was Carriacou's most conspicuous property owner and the fourth largest Carriacou slaveholder in 1790 with 227 enslaved people on his 510-acre Mount Pleasant estate.
- After the Abolition of the Slave Trade, the Tarleton family continued to own Mount Pleasant, and the enslaved people who were forced to work it.
- The eastern point of Carriacou, where the Mount Pleasant plantation once was, is still called Tarleton Point.



# Gregware, Antoine and Dan

- In 1821, Gregware, Antoine and Dan, three men enslaved on the plantation, escaped, stole a canoe, and sailed to mainland Grenada to petition the Governor due to ill treatment and not receiving their food allowance.
- The guardians and overseers denied these allegations. One overseer stated that he “found Gregware deficient in duty and deserving of punishment” and “Antoine to be of a most turbulent disposition, and the ringleader of frequent disturbances.” He explained that on account of Antoine being absent from work, “he received a punishment not exceeding twelve lashes.”
- The governor was satisfied with the evidence from the guardians and overseers and took no action.
- Two of the enslaved men were later sold to another slave-owner in Trinidad. Dan remained on Mount Pleasant.

*Report of the Commissioner of Inquiry Into the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the West Indies (1827), pp. 281-82.*



|                      |     |        |         |                                    |                              |         | Total Increase |         |
|----------------------|-----|--------|---------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|----------------|---------|
|                      |     |        |         |                                    |                              |         | 2              | 3       |
|                      |     |        |         |                                    |                              |         | Decrease       |         |
| Names                | Age | Colour | Country | Manner of death<br>or how disposed | Conspicuous marks            | Remarks | Males          | Females |
| York 1 <sup>st</sup> | 80  | Black  | Africa  | old Age &<br>Debility              | Cut on his forehead          | "       | 1              | "       |
| Baptiste             | 39  | ditto  | Creole  | Dropsy & mal<br>de Stomache        | None                         | "       | 1              | "       |
| Colla                | 49  | ditto  | ditto   | Pulmonary Consump <sup>tion</sup>  | None                         | "       | 1              | "       |
| Dumfries             | 49  | ditto  | Africa  | Dropsy & mal de<br>Stomache        | Country marks on his<br>face | "       | 1              | "       |
| Antoine              | 34  | ditto  | Creole  | Sent to Trinidad                   | None                         | "       | 1              | "       |
| Gregware             | 38  | ditto  | ditto   | ditto                              | None                         | "       | 1              | "       |

Slave register for Mount Pleasant plantation, 1821 in Former British Colonial Dependencies, Slave Registers, 1813-1834 (drawn from National Archives ref T71)



## Ottobah Cugoana (c.1757-1791) describes his experience on a plantation in Grenada, c. 1770

Being in this dreadful captivity and horrible slavery, without any hope of deliverance, for about eight or nine months, beholding the most dreadful scenes of misery and cruelty, and seeing my miserable companions often cruelly lashed, and as it were cut to pieces, for the most trifling faults; this made me often tremble and weep, but I escaped better than many of them. For eating a piece of sugarcane, some were cruelly lashed, or struck over the face to knock their teeth out. [...] Some told me they had their teeth pulled out to deter others, and to prevent them from eating any cane in future. Thus seeing my miserable companions and countrymen in this pitiful, distressed and horrible situation, with all the brutish baseness and barbarity attending it, could not but fill my little mind with horror and indignation. [...] [The] hard-hearted overseers have neither regard to the laws of God, nor the life of their fellow-men.



# Anti-Abolition

- The Tarletons, as one of the most significant Liverpool merchant and slave trading families, exerted political influence against the abolition of the Slave Trade in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
- Col. Sir Banastre Tarleton was elected MP and spoke against the abolition of the slave trade made in the committee of the whole House [parliament] on 2 April 1792:

"I shall not now, observed the Colonel, notice the origin of the trade—the sanction it has received from Parliament; the state of ignorance in which the natives of Africa are involved; the horrid despotism which pervades it, in consequence of the barbarism; or compare the mild government of the West Indies with the savage tyranny of the Kings and Princes of Africa; but endeavour to point out the IMPOSSIBILITY of ABOLISHING the AFRICAN TRADE"

-- *An Appeal to the Candour and Justice of the People of England, in Behalf of the West India Merchants and Planters* (1792)

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Joshua Reynolds, Sir Banastre Tarleton, 1782  
(National Gallery, London)



The political influence of the Tarleton family can still be seen to this day; this street in Liverpool remains named Tarleton Street



**TARLETON  
STREET**

# Simon Taylor (1799-1828), Fellow (1821-1828)

About Simon  
Taylor

Robert Taylor  
& Co.

Taylors in  
Jamaica

Jamaican  
'guinea factor'

Jamaican  
cousins



# Simon Taylor (1799-1828), Fellow (1821-1828)

- Simon Taylor was an active London merchant in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- His father, who owned a slave trading company and left Simon £20,000, as well as his counting house in Billiter Court (his merchant house).
- He was a co-trustee of Lucky Valley and Mount Atlas coffee plantations with his brother and sister.
- He was a director of West India Dock Co and a director of the Bank of England
- He was elected Fellow the same year as [Rev. Charles Douglas Beckford](#), whose family was connected to the Taylors through plantations in Jamaica
- On the afternoon of 8 Aug 1828, Simon Taylor was thrown from his horse in Regent's Park and died the following day.
- His memorial is in All Souls College chapel.

M. S.  
SIMONIS TAYLOR, L.L.B.  
IN COLL: OMN: ANIM: BIS COOPTATI SOCI,  
VIRI, SI QUIS ALIUS,  
VIRTUTIBUS LENIORIBUS ORNATI,  
LITERIS IMBUTI VARIIS,  
SERMONE, MORIBUS, INGENIO,  
GRATI CARIQUE OMNIBUS;  
VITAQUE, HEU NIMIUM BREVIS;  
GRAVIORIBUS OFFICIIS OPTIME PERFUNCTI;  
HOC MARMOR AMICI MAJARENTES P. C.  
UT SODALIS ABREPTI DESIDERIUM  
QUODAMMODO TESTARENTUR,  
QUI, LAPSO EXCUSSUS EQUO,  
INOPINATE MORTI ET INTEMPESTIVE  
IPSE HAUD IMMATURUS OCCUBUIT.  
MENS: AUG: DIE IX. A. D. MDCCCXXVIII.  
ÆTAT: SUÆ, XXVIII.

—  
"TULLIATE ERGO, QUILA...  
DOMINUS FRATER...  
AN: CAP: XXIV: F.





# Robert Taylor and Company

- Simon Taylor was the son of Robert Taylor (c.1752-1823) of Ember Court in Thames Ditton, Surrey.
- Originally from Scotland, after a period as a sailor in the East India Trade, Robert Taylor had set up a West Indian merchant house in London, near the West India Dock. He formed Robert Taylor & Co with his brother John Tailzour, who was a merchant and 'guinea factor' in Jamaica.
- The firm became the main agents for Robert's second-cousin, and Simon Taylor's godfather and namesake, the Rt Hon. Simon Taylor (1739-1813), named the 'sugar king' of Jamaica.

# Transatlantic Slave Trade

- Robert Taylor appears as the owner in 18 voyages transporting enslaved people from 1793 to 1807, one which has a Robert Taylor listed as the captain as well as owner in 1793.
- In total, **4,932 people were forcibly embarked from the West coast of Africa** (Ghana, Benin and Nigeria) and 4,445 disembarked in British Caribbean colonies.
- From this, it can be imputed that these voyages are responsible for **487 deaths**, as well as 9 reported crew deaths. This is a mortality rate **close to 10%**.
- Nine of the voyages were disembarked in Kingston, Jamaica, where Robert Taylor's relations continued the enslavement of the people as slave-owners, administrators, attorneys and owners and investors in plantations.



# Rt Hon. Simon Taylor of Jamaica (1739-1813)

- The Simon Taylor who was a fellow of All Souls College was a distant cousin and god-son of Rt Hon. Simon Taylor, known as the 'sugar king' of Jamaica.
- Simon Taylor was described in 1806 as 'by much the richest proprietor in the island, and in the habit of accumulating money, so as to make his nephew [Simon Brissett Taylor] and heir one of the most wealthy subjects of His Majesty'.
- When Simon Taylor of Jamaica died in 1813, the 2,138 enslaved people alone on his Jamaican sugar estates and pens had been valued at £124,578 and his overall personalty in Jamaica at £226,609.
- Born in Jamaica and educated at Eton before returning to Jamaica in 1760. Like his cousins, he was a 'Guinea and town factor' through his firm Taylor & Graham, and also acting as an attorney for Chaloner Arcedeckne, an absentee planter with large landholding in Jamaica, Taylor built a large fortune, which he reinvested in sugar plantations and livestock pens.
- The Rt Hon. Simon Taylor of Jamaica left instructions in his will to give £500 currency to his godson Simon Taylor, son of Robert Taylor of Great Britain, and 100 guineas each to Robert Taylor and John Taylor to buy rings.





# Jamaican 'Guinea factor'

- Simon Taylor's uncle John Tailyour (1755-1815), turned to his wealthy Jamaican second-cousin [Rt Hon. Simon Taylor](#) to establish himself as a Kingston 'town factor', an eighteenth-century term for port-based importers of plantation goods.
- In 1785, Tailyour changed his last name to Taylor – to capitalise on his connection to his wealthier cousin – and began selling captive Africans as a 'Guinea factor', which he continued until he returned to England in 1792, after which he acted as an agent for his slave-trading company with his brother Robert.
- In 1796, John retired from slave trading (aged forty-one) and returned to Scotland a rich man and purchased his ancestral estate Kirktonhill, Montrose.
- In the course of his twelve-year career, Tailyour and his partners sold 17,295 enslaved Africans from 54 voyages, making him Jamaica's second-largest slave trader (1785-96), with 11% share of the Jamaica slave trade. John Tailyour died 1816, with a net worth of almost £100,000.

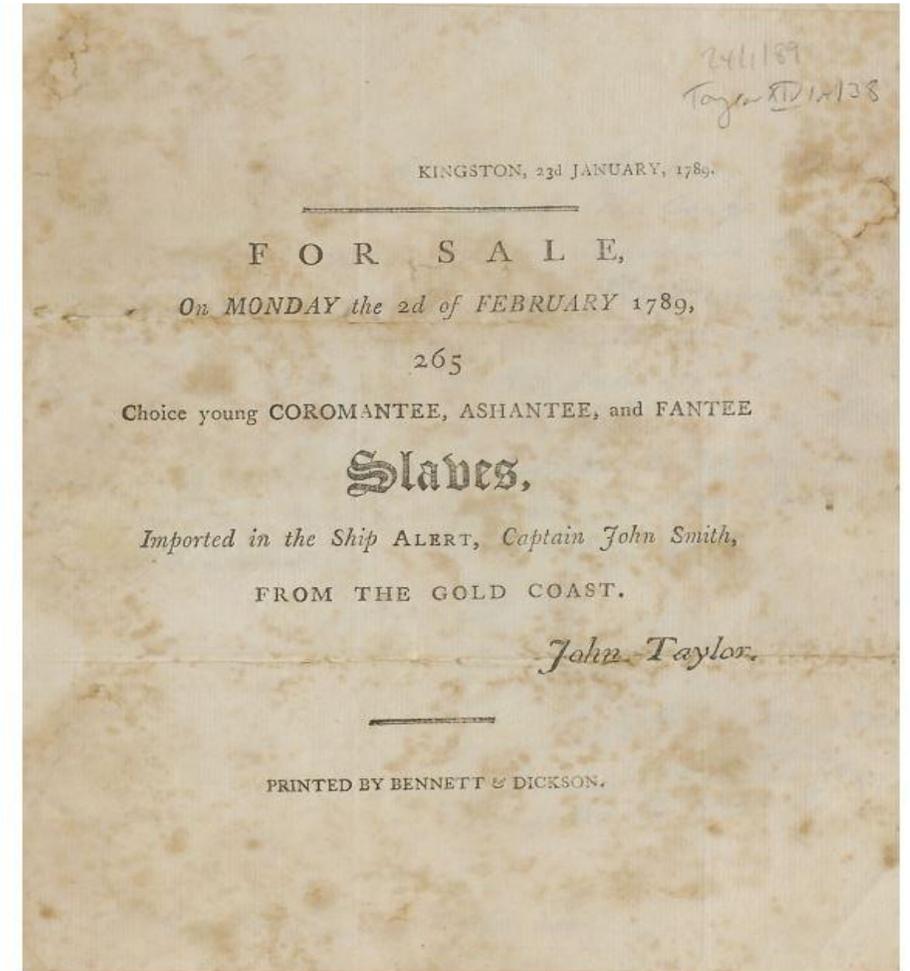


FIGURE I

A handbill advertising the sale of the *Alert's* captive Africans. Source: John Tailyour to Simon Taylor, January 24, 1789, Simon Taylor Papers, ICS 120, 14/A/42, available in Taylor and Vanneck-Arcedeckne Papers, Plantation Life in the Caribbean Series: Pt. 1, Jamaica, c. 1765–1848, Senate House Library, University of London, XIV/38. Reproduced with the permission of Senate House Library, University of London.



# Jamaican 'Guinea factor'

- Looking at the statistics of the people transported by Robert Taylor, the mortality rate is between 8 and 10%. They would have arrived in Jamaica, and other ports, where 'guinea factors' like Robert's brother John would have inspected them and readied them for sale.
- J. B. Moreton, who lived in Jamaica during the 1780s, wrote in his critical account of the colony that "the dead bodies" were "concealed in the hold until night" and then thrown into the harbour, "least any report should circulate of the cargo's being sickly".
- Slaves languished aboard the ship for an average of thirteen days after their arrival in Jamaican ports before factors offered them for sale to planters, a delay that allowed "every person in the country who wishes to purchase . . . time to come to the sale," as John Tailyour wrote in January 1789.



# Simon Taylor's Jamaican cousins

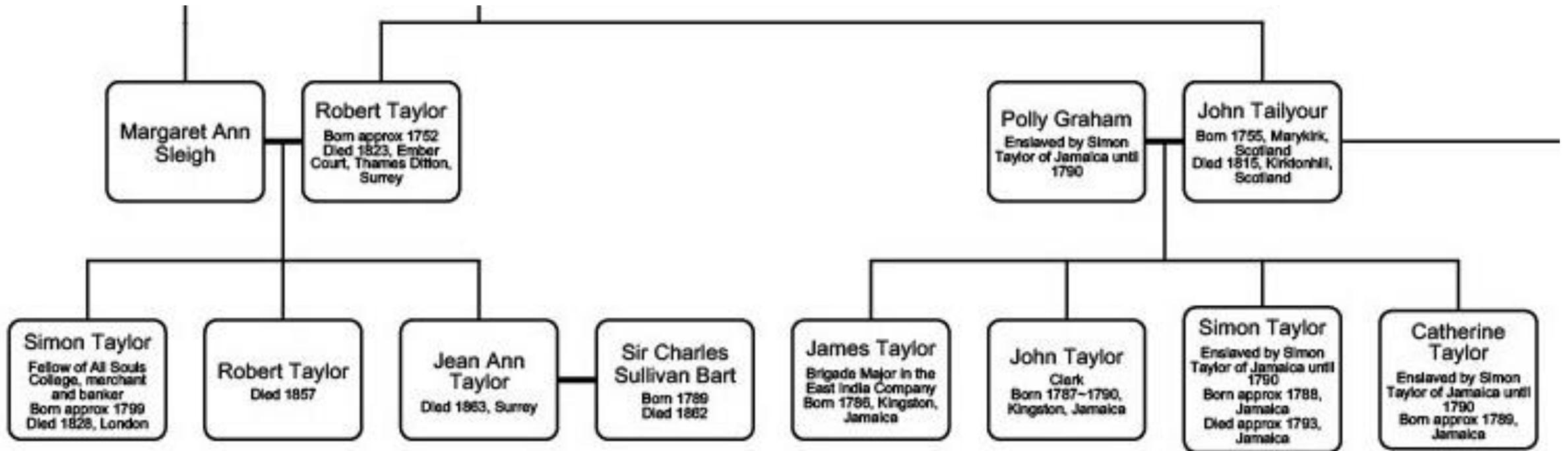
- Around 1784-85, John Tailyour entered into a relationship with Polly Graham, a mixed-raced enslaved woman, at one of his cousin's (Rt Hon. Simon Taylor's) plantations. He had at least four children with Polly, whom he acknowledged: James, Simon, John, and Catherine.
- Tailyour manumitted both Polly and her children in 1790. However, although his own children were of mixed race and had been born into enslavement, the day after requesting the manumission of his family, he opened the sale of 360 Africans who had arrived on the ship Royal Charlotte.
- He would have personally inspected the captives and then selected the best day to open the sale. This was probably not coincidental because "Jamaicans often bought new slaves to replace freed family members".
- Tailyour opposed abolition and testified before the Jamaica House of Assembly against the campaign and in his letters he saw his business as "morally legitimate".



# Simon Taylor's Jamaican Cousins

- When Simon Taylor's uncle, John, returned to the UK in 1792, he brought his children with him.
- Simon's father, Robert, took care of the education of his mixed-race niece and nephews: James, John, and Catherine (there is no record of Simon after 1793) and had then sent to boarding school in Yorkshire.
- Family letters indicate that Simon would have met his Jamaican cousin James, who was 'a great favourite of his cousins' when he visited London.
- James joined the East India Company and John became a clerk at his uncle's counting house in Billiter Square, which Simon later inherited.

# Simon Taylor's Jamaican cousins





# Jamaican Plantations

Son of Robert Taylor (senior) (d. 1823) of Ember Court [Thames Ditton, Surrey] who left to his son Simon £20,000, his counting house in Billiter Court and joint owner in trust to his coffee estates in Jamaica.

Co-owner (with brother Robert Taylor) of:

- Mount Atlas, Jamaica (St Andrew) **150 Enslaved (in 1826)**
- Upper Lucky Valley, Jamaica (Port Royal) **223 Enslaved (in 1828).**



# Nineteenth-Century Benefactors of the College with Connections to Enslavement

- Benefactors of the college have been identified using the *Benefactors' Register* (MS 242), a manuscript recording all donations to All Souls College since the early Seventeenth Century, and the 1833 Abolition Act compensation claims
- So far, Benefactors with links to slavery have been identified from the *Register* c.1820-1870
- An individual appearing in the Parliamentary Return as having been awarded compensation was not necessarily a slave-owner. The lists also show those who were representatives of slave-owners, as executors or trustees, as well as slave-owners themselves.
- Therefore, the individuals were identified due to their close familial or immediate connections, either:
  - the individual had links with slavery (ownership of estates or businesses linked to slave trade);
  - they benefited from the slave trade and in what way
- You can see the [Sources](#) used and [Further Reading for Individuals](#) on the following slides.

*The Right Honourable the most Reverend* CHARLES MANNERS SUTTON Archbishop of Canterbury presented a copy of the *Carlyle MSS* in the *Scombeth Library*

Feb<sup>r</sup> 27 1824

*The Reverend* JOHN EDWARD TARLETON D.C.L. gave a SILVER SALAD FORK AND SPOON

*The following articles were given for the use of the COFFEE ROOM viz*

THOMAS D'OYLEY DCL a White marble chimney piece and Grate

*The Reverend* WYNDHAM KNATCHBULL D.D. *Chairs*

CLEMENT CARTWRIGHT AM. *A Carpet*

*The Reverend* FRANCIS CLERKE AM. *A Rug*

*The Reverend* RICHARD WEBSTER HUNTLEY AM and JAMES WENTWORTH BULLER LLB *Chairs*

*The Honourable* LENNOX WILLIAM BATHURST AM. *A Table*



Nineteenth-  
Century  
Benefactors  
with Significant  
Links

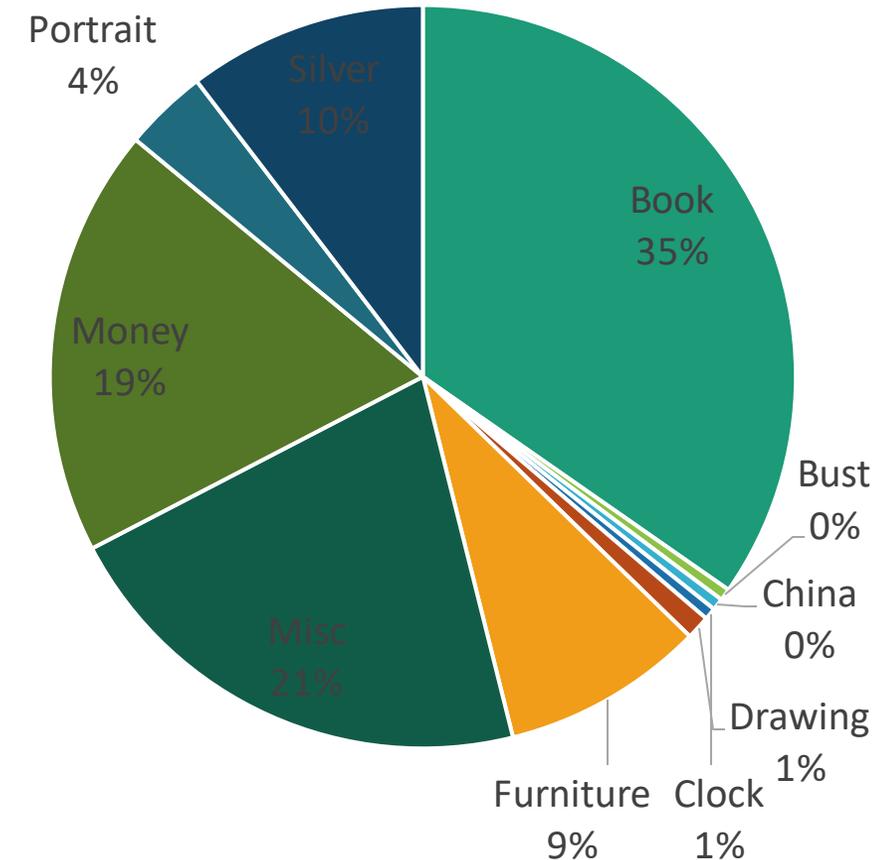
- Rev. Charles Douglas Beckford (c.1797-1884)
- Montague Bernard (1820-1882)
- William Charles Casamajor (d. 1847)
- Francis Compton (1824-1915)
- John Dawkins (1774-1844)
- Rev. Edward Henry Dawkins (1794-1859)
- The Honourable Edwin Lascelles (1799-1865)
- The Rev. John Edward Tarleton (1784-1849)
- Simon Taylor (1799-1828)

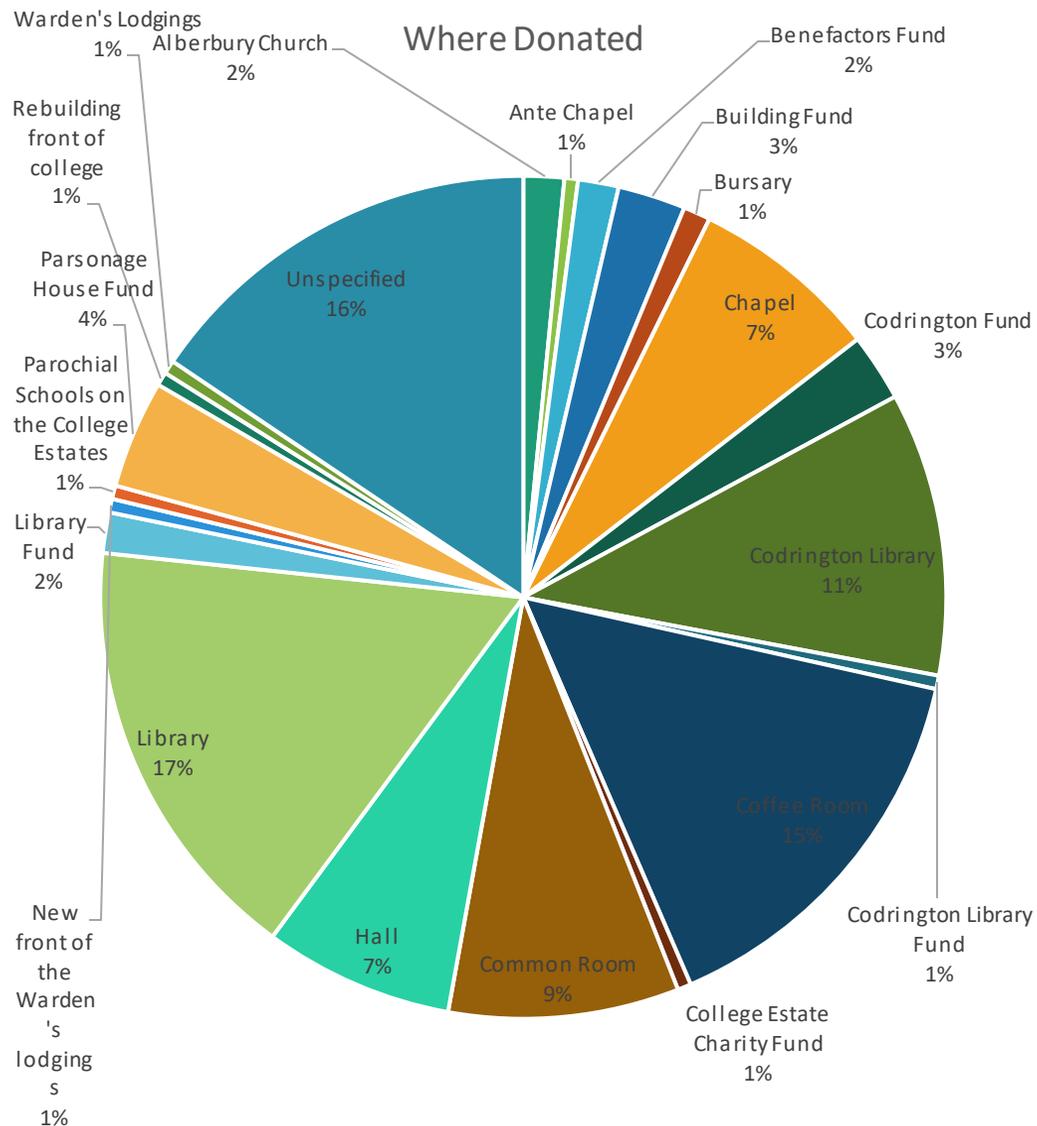


# Their donations

- From the Benefactors' Register, the total money donated by benefactors with connections to enslavement is **£858 6s 8d from 1828 to 1865** – this does not include silverware and furniture
- This is around **16% of the money donated** to the college from 1820-1870.
- The largest donor was **The Hon. Edwin Lascelles**, whose family's wealth derived from enslavement and who retained ownership of West Indian plantations into the twentieth century.
- The next two biggest donors are [Simon Taylor](#) and the [Reverend John Edward Tarleton](#), both of their families derived their wealth from the transatlantic slave trade in London and Liverpool (respectively).
- The sum of the purchasing power these donations in 2017 would be £54,113.97 using the National Archives Currency converter: 1270–2017

Types of Donations





# Where the donations were for....

Most of the donations were for the library. Sometimes this is ambiguous as donations are listed as to the 'library' or the 'Codrington library'.

15% were for the Coffee Room, which seems to have had a refurbishment around 1824, with various furnishings, paint and paper, candlesticks, and a clock donated.

Four of the most significant individuals with links to enslavement made donations to the coffee room; namely, John Dawkins, Hon. Edwin Lascelles, Simon Taylor, and Edward Tarleton.

# Sources

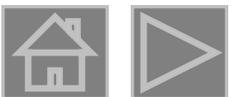
These links will not go to the websites from this screen, however you can use them for reference.

## Legacies of Slavery

- UCL The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>
- Exeter College Legacies of Slavery Project <https://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/about/history/legacies-of-slavery-project/>
- Slave Voyagers <https://www.slavevoyages.org/>
- People of the Atlantic Slave Trade <https://www.slavevoyages.org/past/database>
- A list of landholders, and the quantity of land occupied in Jamaica, about the year 1750, <http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/Samples2/1754lead.htm>

## Biography

- *ODNB – Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* <https://www.oxforddnb.com/>
- Alumni Oxonienses, 1715-1886 (1888)
- Burrows, Montagu, *Worthies of All Souls: four centuries of English history, illustrated from the college archives* (London: Macmillan, 1874)
- Dod, Robert Phipps, *The Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage of Great Britain and Ireland for ...: Including All the Titled Classes* (London: Whittaker, 1862)
- Screech, M. A., *Monumental inscriptions in All Souls College, Oxford* (Oxford: All Souls College, 1997)



# Further Reading Slavery for Individuals Mentioned

Many of these texts can be found in the Hist.AA collection in the library

## Beckford

- William Beckford, Jr, *Remarks Upon the Situation of Negroes in Jamaica: Impartially Made from a Local Experience of Nearly Thirteen Years in that Island* (London, 1788)

## Dawkins

- Dawkins, J. S. (2018) *The Dawkins Family in Jamaica and England, 1664-1833*. Doctoral thesis (Ph.D), UCL (University College London).
- Website by James Dawkins (above) recording his research <http://www.dawkins-family.co.uk/>
- Sheridan, R. B., 'The Wealth of Jamaica in the Eighteenth Century', *The Economic History Review*, 1965, 18(2), pp. 292-311.



# Further Reading for Individuals Mentioned

Many of these texts can be found in the Hist.AA collection in the library

## Lascelles

- Lascelles Slavery Archive  
<https://www.york.ac.uk/projects/harewoodslavery/about.html>
- Kirsten McKenzie, 'My Voice is sold, & I must be a Slave': Abolition Rhetoric, British Liberty and the Yorkshire Elections of 1806 and 1807, *History Workshop Journal*, Volume 64, Issue 1, Autumn 2007, Pages 48–73,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/hwj/dbm045>
- Smith, S.D., *Slavery, Family and Gentry Capitalism in the British Atlantic: The World of the Lascelles, 1648-1834* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)

# Further Reading for Individuals Mentioned

Many of these texts can be found in the Hist.AA collection in the library

## Tarleton

- David Beck Ryden, ““One of the Finest and Most Fruitful Spots in America”: An Analysis of Eighteenth-Century Carriacou’, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, XLIII:4 (Spring, 2013), pp. 539-570. -- includes census records, with Thomas Tarleton as one of the most prominent slave owners, and a map of the estates.
- Captain Macarty, *An Appeal to the Candour and Justice of the People of England, in Behalf of the West India Merchants and Planters* (London, 1792)
- David Pope, ‘The Wealth and Social Aspirations of Liverpool’s Slave Merchants of the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century’ in Richardson, D., Schwarz, S. and Tibbles, A. (eds) *Liverpool and Transatlantic Slavery* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2007), pp. 164-226.
- Kenneth Morgan, ‘Liverpool Ascendant: British Merchants and the Slave Trade on the Upper Guinea Coast, 1701-1808’, in Lovejoy and Schwarz (eds), *Slavery, Abolition and the Transition to Colonialism* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2015), pp. 27-48. – includes a table showing the number of vessels owned by the Tarletons and number of slaves transported.



# Further Reading for Individuals Mentioned

Many of these texts can be found in the Hist.AA collection in the library

## Taylor

- Daniel Livesay, *Children of uncertain fortune: mixed-race Jamaicans in Britain and the Atlantic family, 1733-1833* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2018) <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/permalink/f/n28kah/oxfaleph021212272>
- Christopher Petley, *White Fury: a Jamaican Slaveholder and the Age of Revolution* (Oxford: OUP, 2018) <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/permalink/f/89vilt/oxfaleph021337303>
- Tailyour family papers (1743-2003, bulk 1780-1840). Clements Library, University of Michigan. 2002, 2012. M-4207, M-4208, M-4936, M-4938. <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clementsead/umich-wcl-M-4207tai?view>
- Taylor, Simon, 1740-1813, Jamaican Sugar Planter, Taylor family of Jamaica (1770-1835), 1770-1835 [predominantly 1770-1819]. Institute of Commonwealth Studies Library, University of London. GB 101 ICS 120 <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb101-ics120>

# Sources for Images

Sources for the images used in this presentation have been recorded to the best of our ability.

- Description of a slave ship (British Library, 1881.d.8 (46))
- Richard Brompton, *The Family of Henry Dawkins* (1773, National Trust, Penrhyn Castle)
- Maurice-Quentin de La Tour, *Portrait of Henry Dawkins* (probably c. 1750, National Gallery, London. NG5118).
- Moggerhanger House: Humfrey Repton, 'plate no VI' in *Repton Red Book* (1792, Historic England. FF86/00167)
- Shephard, Thomas [engraving after], *West India Import Dock Poplar* (c.1830, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich)
- 'Chelsfield Rectory, the seat of Rev John Edward Tarleton' [engraving] from *An Epitome of County History*, vol. 1 County of Kent, by Christopher Greenwood (London, 1838)
- J. T. Serres, etching 'To Genl. Tarleton & Col. Gascoyne, Representatives for Liverpool this View of that Town is by their Permission Dedicated by their most Humble Servt. Jno. Thos. Serres' (1797, British Library. Maps K.Top.18.76.e.)
- Map of Carriacou from David Beck Ryden, "'One of the Finest and Most Fruitful Spots in America": An Analysis of Eighteenth-Century Carriacou', *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, XLIII:4 (Spring, 2013), pp. 539-570.
- Reynolds, Joshua, *Colonel Tarleton* (1782, National Gallery. NG5985)
- Daniel Gardner, *Mrs. Justinian Casamajor and Eight of her Children* (1779, Yale Centre for British Art)





About the benefactors



Atlantic Slave Traders



Plantation Owners

Nineteenth-Century  
Benefactors of the College  
and the Legacies of  
Enslavement

Main  
Menu