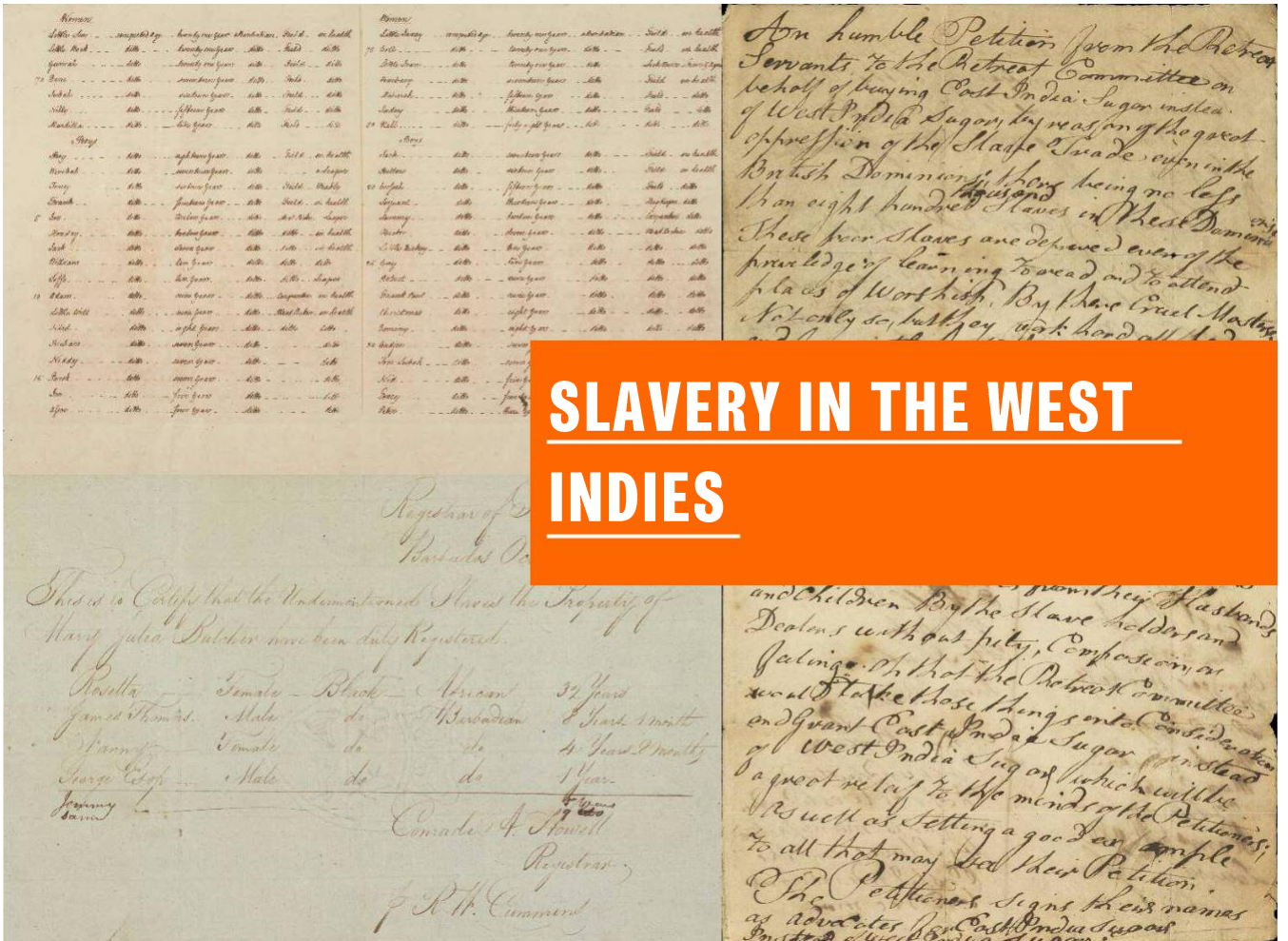


# SCHOOL RESOURCE PACK



## SLAVERY IN THE WEST INDIES

# INTRODUCTION

### AT A GLANCE

Suitable for: KS3 History

Curriculum Link:

- Britain's transatlantic slave trade: its effects and eventual abolition

Learning Objectives:

- To gain a better understanding of the British slave trade in the West Indies
- To understand the reasons behind abolitionist movements and the actions they took

Further Resources:

- [Harewood West Indian Archive catalogue](#)
- [Harewood West Indian Archive digital images](#)
- [The Retreat Archive online](#)
- [Harewood House, home the Lascelles family](#)

Source 1, 2, 3 and 5

© Harewood House Trust Limited.  
No reproduction or publication of this document or any part of it is permitted without the prior written consent of Harewood House Trust Limited

### BACKGROUND

The first British settlers arrived in Barbados in 1625. They initially tried growing a variety of luxury goods, including indigo and ginger, but the Barbadian climate turned out to be perfect for growing sugar. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, sugar made up 93 percent of Barbados's exports.

Sugar is a labour-intensive crop, which required large plantations and a large working population to maintain them. In 1643, there were 6,400 enslaved workers in Barbados, with roughly three free men to every enslaved person. By 1724 the number of free men had remained the same, but there were now 55,206 enslaved people. Any child born to an enslaved person was automatically enslaved themselves, and children worked from the time they were very young at tasks included weeding, caring for animals, and housework.

The first organized opposition to the slave trade was established by the Quakers in 1724. York had a large Quaker population, and hence was at the forefront of the abolitionist movement. Those who were opposed to slavery pointed to the maltreatment suffered by enslaved peoples who were poorly fed, over-worked, and frequently whipped. Meanwhile, pro-slavery campaigners believed that slavery was vital to British industry, as many of Britain's factories relied on crops grown by enslaved workers. After fierce debate, the slave trade was abolished in 1807. All enslaved people within British colonies were theoretically emancipated in 1833, however many had to work as indentured workers until 1838, and were only freed after owners of enslaved people had received compensation.

Henry Lascelles (1690 – 1753) was a customs collector in Barbados. He and his brother bought plantations in Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada and Tobago. These plantations made use of slave labour. In 1787 the Lascelles family owned approximately 3,000 slaves. After the emancipation act, the Lascelles family sold off all but their Barbadian property, which they retained until 1975.

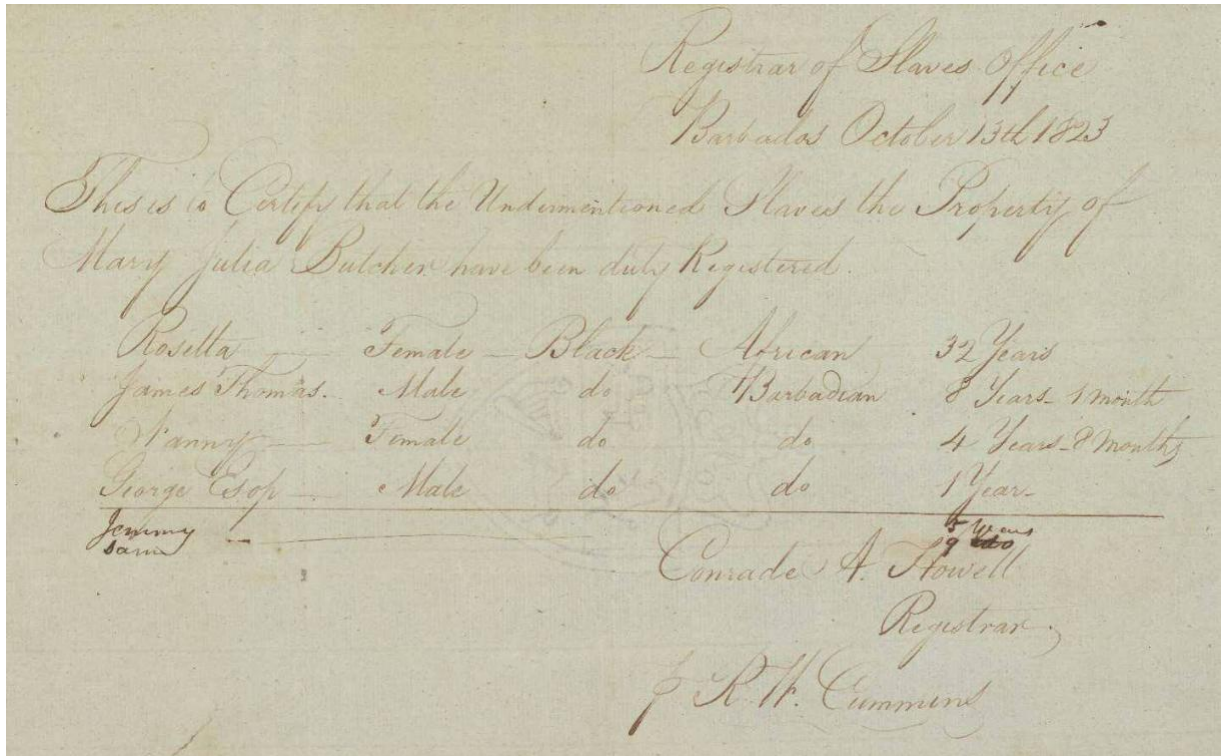
Teachers should stress to students that the vocabulary used is of its time and may not be appropriate in a modern context. More information can be found in our [Harmful Language Statement](#).

SLAVERY IN THE WEST INDIES

SOURCES

Source 1

Lascelles 3/23 – Certificate of Purchase for enslaved people









Males					
Little Sam	impaired eye	twenty one years	Abraham	Field	in health
Little Frank	ditto	twenty one years	ditto	Field	ditto
George	ditto	twenty one years	ditto	Field	ditto
70 John	ditto	seventeen years	ditto	Field	ditto
Subah	ditto	seventeen years	ditto	Field	ditto
Nelly	ditto	thirteen years	ditto	Field	ditto
Marshall	ditto	two years	ditto	Field	ditto
Boys					
Sam	ditto	eighteen years	ditto	Field	in health
Wendell	ditto	seventeen years	ditto	a-leaper	
Tommy	ditto	sixteen years	ditto	Field	Weakly
Frank	ditto	fourteen years	ditto	Field	in health
8 Joe	ditto	twelve years	ditto	Real Piker	Leaper
Rowley	ditto	twelve years	ditto	ditto	in health
Jack	ditto	eleven years	ditto	ditto	in health
William	ditto	ten years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Jeff	ditto	ten years	ditto	ditto	Leaper
10 Adam	ditto	nine years	ditto	Cooper	in health
Little Will	ditto	nine years	ditto	Real Piker	in health
Paul	ditto	eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Richard	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Neddy	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
15 Sam	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Joe	ditto	five years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Alfred	ditto	four years	ditto	ditto	ditto

Males					
Little Henry	impaired eye	twenty one years	Abraham	Field	in health
75 Will	ditto	twenty one years	ditto	Field	in health
Little Sam	ditto	twenty one years	ditto	Field	ditto
Tommy	ditto	seventeen years	ditto	Field	in health
Rowley	ditto	fifteen years	ditto	Field	ditto
Jack	ditto	thirteen years	ditto	Field	ditto
81 Will	ditto	forty eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Boys					
Jack	ditto	seventeen years	ditto	Field	in health
Wendell	ditto	seventeen years	ditto	Field	in health
20 George	ditto	fifteen years	ditto	Field	ditto
Leopold	ditto	thirteen years	ditto	Cooper	ditto
Sammy	ditto	twelve years	ditto	Cooper	ditto
Robert	ditto	eleven years	ditto	Real Piker	ditto
Little Henry	ditto	ten years	ditto	ditto	ditto
25 Guy	ditto	ten years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Robert	ditto	nine years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Frank Paul	ditto	nine years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Christmas	ditto	eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Sammy	ditto	eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
30 George	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Tom Subah	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Ned	ditto	five years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Sam	ditto	four years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Edo	ditto	three years	ditto	ditto	ditto

Boys					
25 Frank	impaired eye	three years	Abraham	Field	in health
Will	ditto	two years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Frank	ditto	two years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Bob	ditto	two years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Bully	ditto	two years	ditto	ditto	ditto
30 John William	ditto	six months	ditto	ditto	ditto
Girls					
Lucy	ditto	fifteen years	ditto	Field	in health
Barbara	ditto	eleven years	ditto	Real Piker	ditto
Betty Frank	ditto	ten years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Annah	ditto	ten years	ditto	ditto	ditto
8 Henry	ditto	ten years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Esther	ditto	nine years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Sam	ditto	nine years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Milly	ditto	nine years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Richard Subah	ditto	eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
10 Gabbo	ditto	eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Magpie	ditto	eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Little Subah	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Annah	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Mary Ann	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
15 Nancy Bell	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Edell	ditto	six years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Betty Nancy	ditto	six years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Annah	ditto	five years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Lilly Catherine	ditto	five years	ditto	ditto	ditto

Boys					
Tom	impaired eye	three years	Abraham	Field	in health
Jack Green	ditto	two years	ditto	ditto	ditto
James Sam	ditto	two years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Jack	ditto	two years	ditto	ditto	ditto
35 Thomas	ditto	two years and six months	ditto	ditto	ditto
46 Tom Nelson	ditto	two months	ditto	ditto	ditto
Girls					
20 Rachael	ditto	eleven years	Abraham	Real Piker	in health
Betty	ditto	eleven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Nancy	ditto	ten years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Annah	ditto	ten years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Esther	ditto	nine years	ditto	ditto	ditto
25 Wendell	ditto	nine years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Nancy	ditto	nine years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Lilly	ditto	eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Annah (Subah)	ditto	eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Barrett	ditto	eight years	ditto	ditto	ditto
30 Mary	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Esther or Annah	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Lilly Subah	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Betty Margaret (Annah)	ditto	seven years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Sammy	ditto	six years	ditto	ditto	ditto
35 Wendell	ditto	six years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Subah	ditto	six years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Henry	ditto	five years	ditto	ditto	ditto
Annah Spring	ditto	five years	ditto	ditto	ditto



Source 3

Lascelles 2/8/4 – Account of an uprising of enslaved people in Tobago

TOBAGO, Jan. 24. 1802.

The Council and Assembly were convened this day, when His Honor the President was pleased to deliver the following Speech. A joint Address was unanimously agreed to by both Houses and presented on the 15th to His Honor the Commander in Chief.

Mr President, & Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr Speaker, & Gentlemen of the Assembly,

DEEPLY interested in the welfare of this Colony, I have the heartfelt satisfaction to congratulate you on the discovery and prevention of a riot, which, although, from the best information I have been able to obtain, was not early concerted, but appears to have been confined to a small number of estates; yet, from the facility with which ignorant negroes, in a state of intoxication are led by such of them as are more artful, might have proved highly dangerous to the safety of this Colony.

By the prompt and vigorous measures used by Brigadier General Carmichael Smith, & the discovery of the conspiracy, the principal principals concerned in it, were arrested, and secured in custody; and as early as it was possible, a court was established according to Law for their trial, consisting of some of the most respectable inhabitants of the Colony, in point of abilities, experience, and interest. This Court continued in sit without intermission from the 26th December to the 9th January, and have with uncommon care and assiduity, investigated all the circumstances of this diabolical plot, and by magnitude and extent.

I now lay before you for your information, a copy of the Report made to me by the Court on the 9th instant, and I am persuaded you will be of opinion that the subjects pointed out in it will require your serious and early attention.

I take leave particularly to recommend Mr Houston to your attention. Infinite credit is due to him upon this occasion, and I have no doubt that you will liberally provide for his indemnification.

I feel the most pleasurable satisfaction in stating to you the uncommon zeal and ardour displayed by all the regular and colonial forces serving under Brigadier General Carmichael during the absence of Martial Law, and the alacrity with which every duty required, even after its cessation, was performed.

The conduct of the Captains of vessels too, some of whom were particularly attentive in receiving and securing prisoners on board their vessels was highly meritorious.

With a view of affording every legal assistance that might be required upon this occasion, His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General have given their constant attendance during the trials of the negroes concerned in the plot; and the Solicitor General has undertaken the laborious task of officiating as Clerk of the Court. I trust they will not escape your consideration.

Permit me to press upon you an immediate and deliberate attention to such measures as may be necessary for correcting the relaxed state of the Police of this Colony; and at the same time to consider of some regulations to prevent the indiscriminate assembling of negroes for the purpose of drumming and dancing.

I beg leave to assure you, that I will upon all occasions, and at all times, give every effect in my power to such regulations and measures as you may think necessary to be adopted for the preservation and security of this Colony.

Council Chamber, Jan. }  
24. 1802. } [REPORT.]

J. Ross

To read, January 9. 1802.

Sir,

HAVING finished the painful duties we have been engaged in since the 26th ultimo, we conceive it proper to state to your Honor the following circumstances, as they have appeared to us, in the course of our investigation. A copy of our proceedings is preparing and will be laid before you.

We have satisfaction in saying that, from all the evidence that has come before us, the only estates, where negroes were concerned in the intended insurrection, were, St. Peter's, Hope, Beulah, Friendship, and Love; and that, even on these estates, the criminal intentions of the Chiefs were kept among themselves, or at least not communicated to their adherents, but in very general terms; and they seem to have trusted, more to the influence they would have over the negroes in a state of intoxication (which generally prevails at Christmas), than to any effectual force of their own, or to their being in possession either of a power or a position adequate to such an enterprise.

There is reason to believe that a negro man, named Anthony, in Mesopotamia, and Roger, of Beulah's estate, were the principal instigators; and that most of the Chiefs were either absent, trade men, or other principal people in the estates; that they were not only in possession of the contents, but even the luxuries of life; nor has it appeared that any one even pretended to have any cause of complaint.



Two negroes in town were brought before us, suspected men, of bad character. They were accused of being accessories, and that they were to perform these parts in town; but the evidence against them was so contradictory, and so unsatisfactory, that a majority of the Court only condemned them to be banished from the Island, without any other punishment.

The discovery of the plot, under Providence, may be ascribed to Mr Houston; and the Colony, in our opinion, is highly indebted to him for it.

The conduct of the military and militia may be too well known to your Honor, and it is not much out of our province to remark on further, than that we conceived, that from our knowledge of their numbers, that the guarding of so many prisoners, added to their other duties, must have fallen heavy on them; therefore we consider the cheerful acquiescence in the masters of the English ships to receive a part of the prisoners, and guard them on board was meritorious.

We have further to acknowledge the great obligations we are under to the Solicitor General, who volunteered his services as Clerk to this Court; and, from his abilities, and professional knowledge, we have derived great assistance; and we request your Honor to recommend to the Legislature the continuation of his services. We have also to acknowledge the great obligations for the readiness with which the Attorney General attended us with his opinion, whenever we had occasion for his advice.

Before we conclude, permit me to express our earnest hope that this event will prove an example to all classes of the society; that the white inhabitants will learn from it the necessity of watching over the morals of their negroes, and prevent those nightly meetings, so prejudicial to their health, and so dangerous to the safety of the inhabitants; and that the Legislature will take immediate measures for restraining the conduct of those parts of society who, selling Rum to negroes, endanger the safety of the colony.

That the coloured people will see their own safety can only exist in the protection they will always be sure of receiving from the white inhabitants, while they conduct themselves as good subjects, and that they will know, from what has happened on this occasion, and from the total destruction of all their colour in St. Domingo by the negroes, that their interests are inseparable from that of the other free inhabitants.

The negroes must be sensible that the comforts they possess, and security in their properties they enjoy, are advantages, more solid and lasting, than any to be derived from these mistaken ideas of Liberty and equality, which fatal experience has at last taught all classes to appreciate.

We have the honor to be,

SIR, &c. &c.

(Signed)

J. Campbell,  
John Balfour,  
C. W. Johnson,  
Geo. Morrison,  
R. Robertson.

His Honor the President, &c. &c. &c.

ADDRESS.

THE President and Members of the Council, and the Speakers and Members of the Assembly beg leave to express their best thanks for the Speech you were pleased yesterday to address to them.

They most sincerely join in the satisfaction you express at the discovery and prevention of a Plot, which, in its consequences, might have proved so dangerous to the safety of the Colony.

They feel highly sensible of the zeal and ability of His Excellency General CAMMISAR in securing the principal Ringleaders.

They approve of the conduct and moderation with which the Court established for the trial of the Prisoners seem to have been conducted; for the Plot having fortunately been discovered, the punishment of the Chiefs, for the sake of example, was, what was alone absolutely necessary.

They will take into their early consideration the services rendered by Mr. Houston and the Attorney and Solicitor General; as also such measures as may be considered necessary for extending the relaxed State of the Police, and preventing those evils which the late events have brought to their knowledge.

They have much satisfaction in the approbation you express of the conduct of the Regular and Colonial Forces serving under His Excellency General Cammishar during Martial Law, and also of the conduct of the Masters of the English and American vessels.

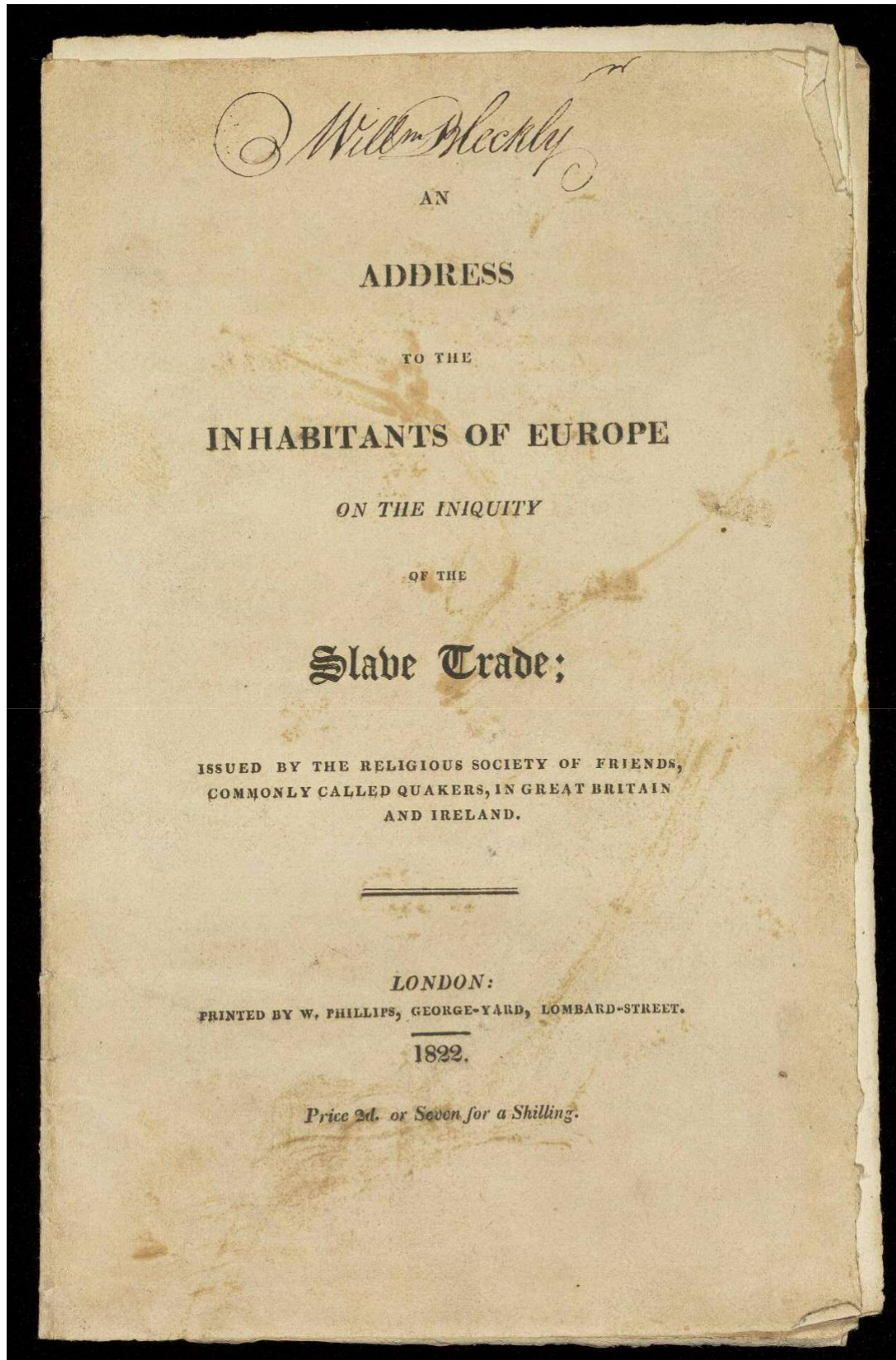
Your assurance that you will at all times, and on all occasions, give every effect in your power to such regulations and measures as may be thought necessary, is highly gratifying to them; and they beg leave to assure your Honor, that they will be the immediate object of their future consideration.

JAMES CAMPBELL, President of the Council.  
ROBERT PATTERSON, Speaker of the Assembly.

Scarborough, Jan. 15. 1802.

**Source 4**

*Retreat 8/9/3 – 'An Address on the Iniquity of the Slave Trade' (extract)*





ties and nations, we are all bound one unto another by the ties of love, of brotherly kindness, and compassion. But the nations of Europe are united by an additional bond. To them has been granted a blessing, which has not hitherto been enjoyed by the greater part of the natives of Africa: this blessing, this invaluable treasure is the Bible, in which is contained the record of the Gospel of Christ.

Permit us then, as fellow-professors of the Christian name, to remind you of the complicated iniquity of the Slave Trade. Possessed of a superior force, which he has acquired by a greater knowledge of the dreadful arts of naval and military warfare, the Slave trader visits the coasts of unoffending Africa. He employs his agents to tear her inhabitants from their country, their families, and their friends; to burn their villages, and ravage their fields; to spread terror and desolation through their peaceful dwellings. He foments wars between neighbouring chieftains, in order to supply himself with their subjects, the victims of his avarice. Having thus either stolen or bought his fellow-men, who are equally with himself entitled to their liberty, and of which he possesses no right whatever to deprive them, he hurries them to the vessel that may be waiting in some adjoining creek, to receive the objects of his cruelty; or he chains them with iron fetters, or loads them with heavy yokes, and drives them like the beasts of the field to the shores. There



Source 5

*Lascelles Poster 51 – A satirical anti-slavery poster*

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 insulted 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 Leeds Mercury-Office, by Edward Bulmer.



Source 6

Retreat 8/9/5 - A petition by Retreat staff

An humble Petition from the Retreat  
Servants to the Retreat Committee on  
behalf of buying East India Sugar instead  
of West India Sugar, by reason of the great  
oppression of the Slave Trade even in the  
British Dominions; there being no less  
than eight hundred <sup>thousand</sup> Slaves in West <sup>India</sup> Dominions.  
These poor Slaves are deprived even of the  
privilege of learning to read and to attend  
places of worship. By their cruel Masters,  
not only so, but they work hard all the day  
and frequently by the night and with  
scanty subsistence and killed off like  
old Horses, and are sold as beasts in the  
Markets both men and Women, and their  
hard Task Masters standing over them with a  
whip and flog them at their pleasure.  
Husbands are torn from their wives and  
Children and Wives from their Husbands  
and Children by the Slave holders and  
Dealers without pity, Compassion or  
feeling. Oh that the Retreat Committee  
would take those things into consideration  
and grant East India Sugar instead  
of West India Sugar which will be  
a great relief to the minds of the Petitioners,  
as well as setting a good example  
to all that may see their Petition.  
The Petitioners sign their names  
as advocates for East India Sugar  
instead of West India Sugar.



I John Richardson has drawn up  
this Petition on behalf of the Retreat  
Servants who are advocates for  
East India Sugar instead of West India  
Sugar.

Therefore John Richardson  
signs his Name among the Servants  
the Petitioners to the Retreat Committee  
for East India Sugar instead of  
West India Sugar.

John Richardson  
John Mansbrough  
Edward Graham  
Whitaker Junr  
John Ray  
George Binns  
W. J. Hart  
Olin H. Stead  
Frances Wickett  
R. Hall  
A. Burgess  
Hank Puckrin  
Mary Procter  
Hannah Taylor  
Hannah Hall  
Louisa Taylor  
Rich. Gage

Retreat 1st Month 16th  
1827

Elizabeth Keimere  
Ann Reed  
Elizabeth White  
Ann Sawdington  
E. Hall  
E. Battenby  
H. Strother

Tom Battenby

Ann Brewer

It is understood  
that the West India  
Sugar is manufactured  
by Slaves and the  
East India Sugar  
by Free men



The Cruel Oppression of the Slave  
Trade Now lies near the hearts of thou<sup>sands</sup>  
May all that have talents use them  
For the Abolishing of this most  
abominable and Detestable Trade  
That the Lord may become more  
and more glorified in the Earth  
That all men may be free and come  
into the liberty of the Sons of God.  
and all Slaveholders swept from the  
face of the Earth or come to repentance

## SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- 1) Which of these sources are in favour of the continuation of the slave trade? Which are opposed to it?
- 2) Sources 1 and 2 show the scale of the slave trade. What can we learn about the lives of enslaved people from these documents? What do you note about their names and ages?
- 3) Source 3 is the account of an uprising of enslaved people as told by the owners of the enslaved. Do you think it paints an accurate picture of what happened? What kind of language does it use to describe the enslaved workers?
- 4) Source 4 is part of a document drawn up by a group of Quakers. Why are they against the slave trade? What kinds of words do they use to try and convince people that slavery is wrong? Again, do you feel this is an accurate representation of the situation?
- 5) Source 5 was a political poster portrayed in and around York by both abolitionists and Mr. Lascelles's political opponents. What does it tell us about public opinion of the slave trade? How might Mr. Lascelles's ownership of enslaved people have impacted on his political standing?
- 6) Source 6 is a petition drawn up by workers at the Retreat Hospital. What is it asking for? Do you think actions like this were helpful in ending the slave trade?
- 7) Why do you think Quakers were so prominent in the abolitionist movement? Who else might have been opposed to slavery?
- 8) Who might have been in favour of slavery? What do you think their reasons were for supporting it?
- 9) Which of these sources do you think would have been most successful at changing public perception and ending the slave trade?
- 10) Nowadays, slavery is not accepted in the western world. Do you think archives like these are useful in telling the story of enslaved people, or are they limited? What do you think should happen to memorials and statues of slave owners? Why or why not?