

EDWARD MONK (1800 - 1888) of Lewes, East Sussex, England



**SLAVE OWNER & MILLIONAIRE,
Corn Merchant & Master Brewer**

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Published: June 2024

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EDWARD MONK'S FAMILY

EDWARD MONK was born in May, 1799 in Midhurst, Sussex, England to 22-year old JAMES MONK and his wife, JANE MONK. He was baptized at the local Anglican Church on May 15, 1799.

- **EDWARD MONK** was the Great Grandson of **WILLIAM MONK** (1700 - 1788) and JANE RIDLEY MONK (born SMITH) of Horley, Surrey, England.
- EDWARD MONK was also the Grandson of **JAMES RIDLEY MONK** (1745 - 1786) and JOANNA MONK (born TERRY) (1753 - 1786) of Horley, Surrey, England.

■ In 1828, 29-year old **EDWARD MONK** married 24-year old **ANN WOOD**, the daughter of Brewery Owner, THOMAS WOOD in All Saints Church, Lewes, East Sussex, England.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, Lewes, Sussex, England.

■ EDWARD MONK (1799 - 1888) and ANN MONK (born WOOD) (1804 - 1875) had 5-Children (3-Sons & 2-Daughters):

1. EMILY LANGRIDGE (born MONK) (1841 - 1892) born in LEWES, East Sussex, England; Married WILLIAM KIRBY JOHNSON LANGRIDGE of LEWIS, East Sussex, England, They had 4-Children:

- ETHEL MARY UNWIN (1862 - 1950); born in Southover Grange, LEWES, Sussex; Married Articled Law Clerk, EDWIN THOMAS UNWIN (1859 - 1942); They had 7-Children (5-Sons & 2-Daughters); Died @ Age 87-Years in Horsham, Sussex, England;
- GWENDOLINE MABEL LANGRIDGE (1865 - 1907); born in Southover Grange, LEWES, Sussex; Unmarried, No Children; Died in Simla-Calcutta, Bengal, India @ Age 42-Years;
- CECIL BALCOMBE LANGRIDGE (1866 - 1938); Married FLORENCE MARY RASTRICK (1877-1954); They had 1-Child, Son: CECIL CLAUDE BALCOMBE LANGRIDGE; Died in 1938 @ 72-years old in Tauranga, Bay of Plenty, North Island, New Zealand.
- MILDRED ESME LANGRIDGE (1868 - 1871) Died Young @ 3-Years old;

2. THOMAS JAMES MONK (1831 - 1899). born in LEWES, East Sussex, England; Inherited £6.3 Million (2024 GBP Rate) from his Father. Married ANNIE CHURCH; No Children;

3. MIDHURST MONK (1832 - 1847). born in LEWES, East Sussex, England; Died Young @ 15-Years Old;

4. EDWARD MONK (1834 - 1916). born in LEWES, East Sussex, England; Inherited £6.3 Million (2024 GBP Rate) from his Father.

5. FANNY JANE MONK (1837 - 1903) born in Ringmer, Sussex, England. Unmarried?

EDWARD MONK'S LIFE (1800 - 1888)

EDWARD MONK'S birth in 1800 coincided with a period of significant change and upheaval. The World was still feeling the reverberations of the FRENCH REVOLUTION, which had concluded just years prior, and EUROPE was embroiled in the NAPOLEONIC WARS (1803-1815). ENGLAND itself was undergoing rapid industrialization, marking the progression of the INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION that began in the late 18th Century.

This era saw a shift from agrarian economies to industrial and urban economies, leading to profound social changes.

When EDWARD MONK married ANN WOOD in 1828, they were part of a Society transitioning into the VICTORIAN ERA. The Regency Period (1811-1820), known for its distinctive cultural trends in architecture, literature, and fashion, had recently ended. By this time, Britain was expanding its Empire and experiencing relative Peace after the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

The Reform Act of 1832, which would occur shortly after their marriage, marked the beginning of a series of ELECTORAL REFORMS that gradually extended VOTING RIGHTS beyond the landed gentry.

As a CORN MERCHANT and MASTER BREWER during the mid-19th Century, EDWARD MONK participated in an economy that was increasingly Commercial and Globalized. The repeal of the CORN LAWS in 1846 signalled a move towards Free Trade, impacting agricultural prices and markets.

The repeal of the CORN LAWS in 1846 by Britain's Parliament was the signature Trade Policy event of the 19th Century. The repeal led the mid-Victorian move to FREER TRADE by Britain and helped usher in the great expansion of the Country's Overseas Commerce in the late 19th Century.

The BREWING INDUSTRY also thrived during this period, benefiting from advancements in Production Techniques and Transportation infrastructure, such as RAILWAYS, which facilitated wider distribution of goods.

EDWARD MONK lived through the entirety of QUEEN VICTORIA'S REIGN, which commenced in 1837 and witnessed the zenith of the British Empire. His death in 1888 occurred at a time when Britain was a dominant industrial power and global hegemony. The latter half of the 19th century was characterized by further expansion of SUFFRAGE, SOCIAL REFORM movements, and SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

■ EDWARD MONK'S lifetime spanned an era of extraordinary transformation in British Society, Economics, and Politics. He died in 1888 at Age 89-Years.

EDWARD MONK (1800 1888) — Profile & Legacies Summary.

BIOGRAPHY

1. BREWER of Cliffe, Lewes, Sussex. Leading RAILWAY PROMOTER in the area. DIRECTOR of the BRIGHTON LEWES and HASTINGS RAILWAY. (The Company existed from February 1844; operated trains only for a few weeks during June-July 1846; amalgamated with other Companies to form the LONDON BRIGHTON and SOUTH COAST RAILWAY, July 27, 1846.) Also a DIRECTOR of the LEWES - UCKFIELD RAILWAY. Committee Member of the the proposed LEWES - EAST GRINSTEAD RAILWAY, 1866.
2. "Mr. EDWARD MONK, well-known LEWES BREWER, died on Wednesday at the advanced age of 88 years."
3. Brother of GEORGE MONK.

SOURCES

- Gregory Mitchell, *The Impact of the Railway on Early to Mid-Victorian Lewes 1841-1868* (Unpublished. M.A., University of Brighton (CNAA), 1995), p. 23;
- Mid-Sussex Times February 28, 1888.
- See separate Profile for GEORGE MONK.
- We are grateful to PETER SELLEY for his assistance with compiling this entry.

ASSOCIATED CLAIMS (1)

CLAIM NOTES:

- Parliamentary Papers, page 80.
- T71/877: GEORGE and EDWARD MONK, Trustees of RICHARD KENT PAYNE and children, and CHARLES JONES BARNARD, Trustee of Mary Harris's children. Valuer's return was 'Proprietors of DARBYS'.
- CHARLES JONES BARNARD was the Attorney for Sir H. W. MARTIN - see Antigua Claim no. 19.
- T71/1027: Register's return by WILLIAM HENRY DOIG on behalf of the heirs of DARBY.
- T71/1027: claim by GEORGE and EDWARD MONK of Brighton (Sussex), Trustees for benefit of RICHARD KENT PAYNE and children (by Nathaniel Humphrys, their Attorney) and Charles Jones Barnard of Antigua, Trustee for Mary Harris Doig (wife of William Henry Doig).

LEGACIES SUMMARY

COMMERCIAL (2)

RAILWAY INVESTMENT

Brighton and Chichester (Portsmouth Extension) [184517]

£46,875

DETAILS

1. An inventory and valuation of enslaved persons at Windsor Estate, St Elizabeth Parish, Jamaica, 1814.
2. An inventory and valuation of enslaved persons at Williamsfield settlement, St. Elisabeth Parish, Jamaica, 1814.
3. An inventory of animals at Windsor Estate, St Elizabeth Parish, Jamaica, 1814.

RAILWAY INVESTMENT

Brighton, Lewes and Hastings (Keymer Branch) [184518]

£15,000

ANTIGUA 15 (DARBY'S ESTATE)

CLAIM DETAILS, ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS and ESTATES

15th Feb 1836 | 55 Enslaved | £800 8s 7d

Claim Notes:

Parliamentary Papers p. 80.

- T71/877: GEORGE and EDWARD MONK, Trustees of RICHARD KENT PAYNE and children, and CHARLES JONES BARNARD, Trustee of MARY HARRIS'S children. Valuer's return was 'PROPRIETORS OF DARBYS'.
- CHARLES JONES BARNARD was Attorney for Sir H. W. MARTIN - see ANTIGUA Claim No. 19.
- T71/1027: Register's return by WILLIAM HENRY DOIG on behalf of the heirs of DARBY.
- T71/1027: Claim by GEORGE and EDWARD MONK of Brighton (Sussex), Trustees for benefit of RICHARD KENT PAYNE and children (by Nathaniel Humphrys, their Attorney) and Charles Jones Barnard of Antigua, Trustee for MARY HARRIS DOIG (wife of WILLIAM HENRY DOIG).

Further Information

Colony
Antigua
Claim No. 15
Estate: Darby's Estate
Uncontested: Yes

Associated Individuals (4)

George Monk
Awardee (Trustee)
Edward Monk
Awardee (Trustee)
Charles Jones Barnard
Awardee (Trustee)
Richard Kent Payne
Beneficiary

Associated Claims (1)

Antigua 15 (Darby's Estate)

£800 8S 7D

Estate Information (2)

1828

[Number of enslaved people] 49 (Total)

[Name] None given

William Henry Doig renter from the heirs of Darby props.

T71/249 210-211

1832

[Number of enslaved people] 53 (Total)

[Name] None given

William Henry Doig on behalf of the heirs of Darby, clarified as Elizabeth Darby in the affidavit.

ELIZABETH DARBY (xxxx - 1808) - Profile & Legacies

BIOGRAPHY

She was the Widow of NESBIT DARBY (xxxx - 1778), dying in Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, London, England in January 1808. A daughter named DOROTHY, of Nesbit Darby, and presumably of Elizabeth Darby, married JOHN MORTON JORDAN, a Virginia Tobacco Merchant in 1762; a second daughter, named ELIZABETH married JAMES DOIG of Antigua.

Sources

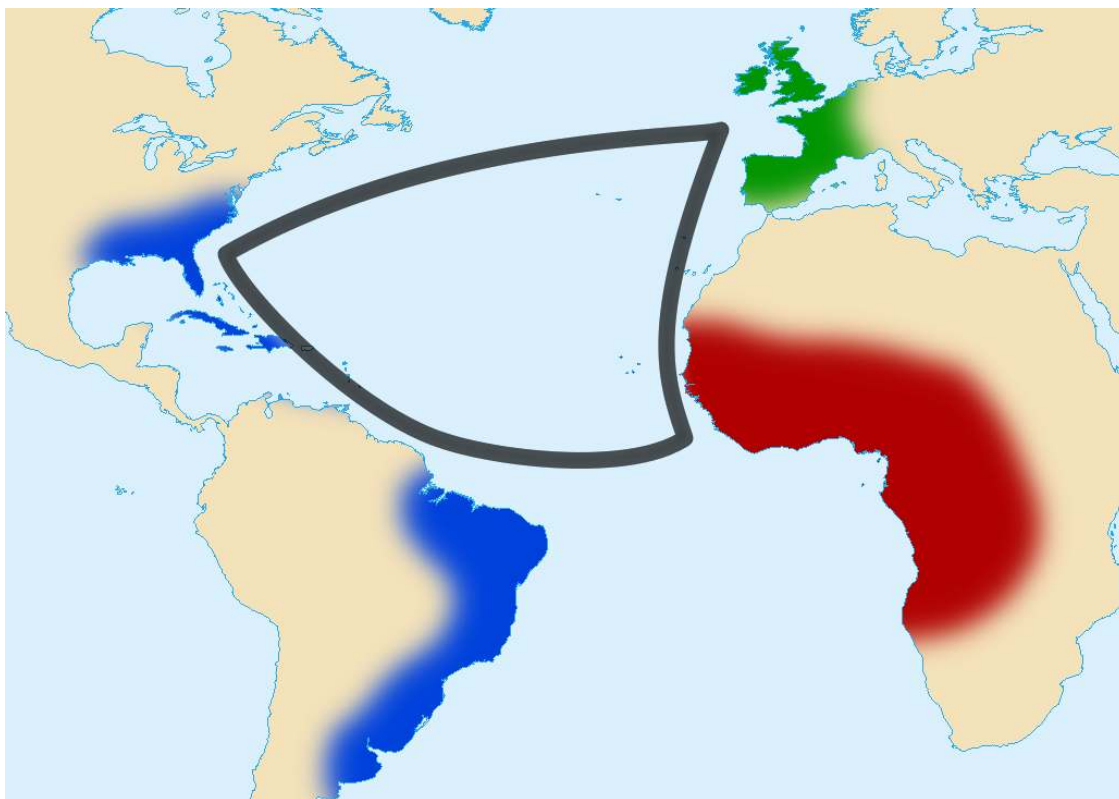
Monthly Magazine Vol. 25 Feb. 1808 p. 74; *More Monumental Inscriptions* p. 6.

The SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT of 1833

On 28 August 1833, the SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT was given Royal Assent and came into force on the following 1 August 1834. Its full Bill Title was:

'An Act for the ABOLITION OF SLAVERY throughout the BRITISH COLONIES; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves'. (Manumission, or enfranchisement, is the act of freeing slaves by their owners.

There were lots of different factors that led to the 1833 ABOLITION ACT. Slave revolts, home grown Abolition Movements, religious arguments, Government Policies and the Economy. By the time of the Act coming into force in 1833/1834, the ECONOMY wasn't as reliant on the triangular trade as it had been during its heyday in the early 1700's.



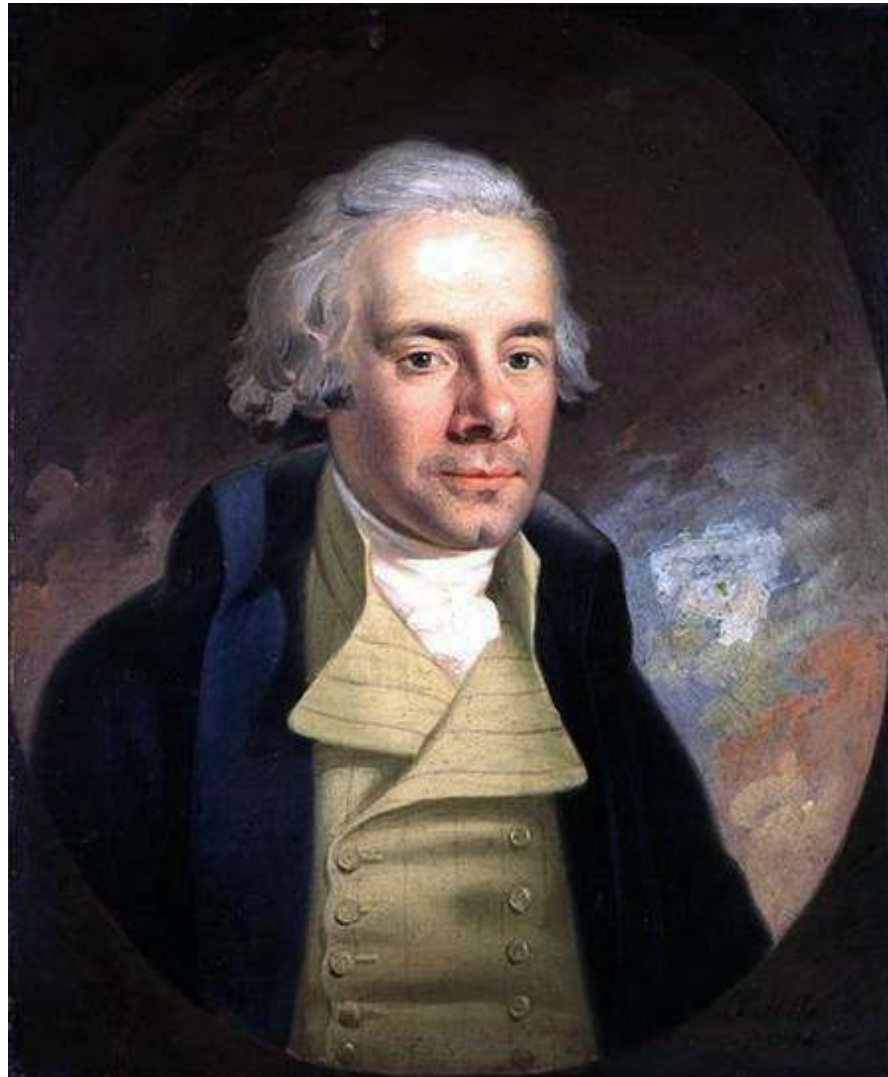
The Triangular Trade Route

Prior to the Act of 1833, the Abolition Movement began to gain momentum many years earlier in 1772 with the MANSFIELD case. This case was pivotal as it reached the Verdict that Slavery was unsupported in English Law. Any Slave that set foot in ENGLAND or SCOTLAND was legally free.

People soon began to question that, if everyone was FREE in England, why were they in BONDAGE in the Colonies?

By 1787 the COMMITTEE FOR THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE SLAVE TRADE was established by a mixture of QUAKERS and EVANGELICAL PROTESTANTS. Their numbers grew and eventually they had gained around 40 seats in the English Parliament by allying themselves with key people such as WILLIAM WILBERFORCE. They gained a victory in 1807 with the BILL OF THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE being passed.

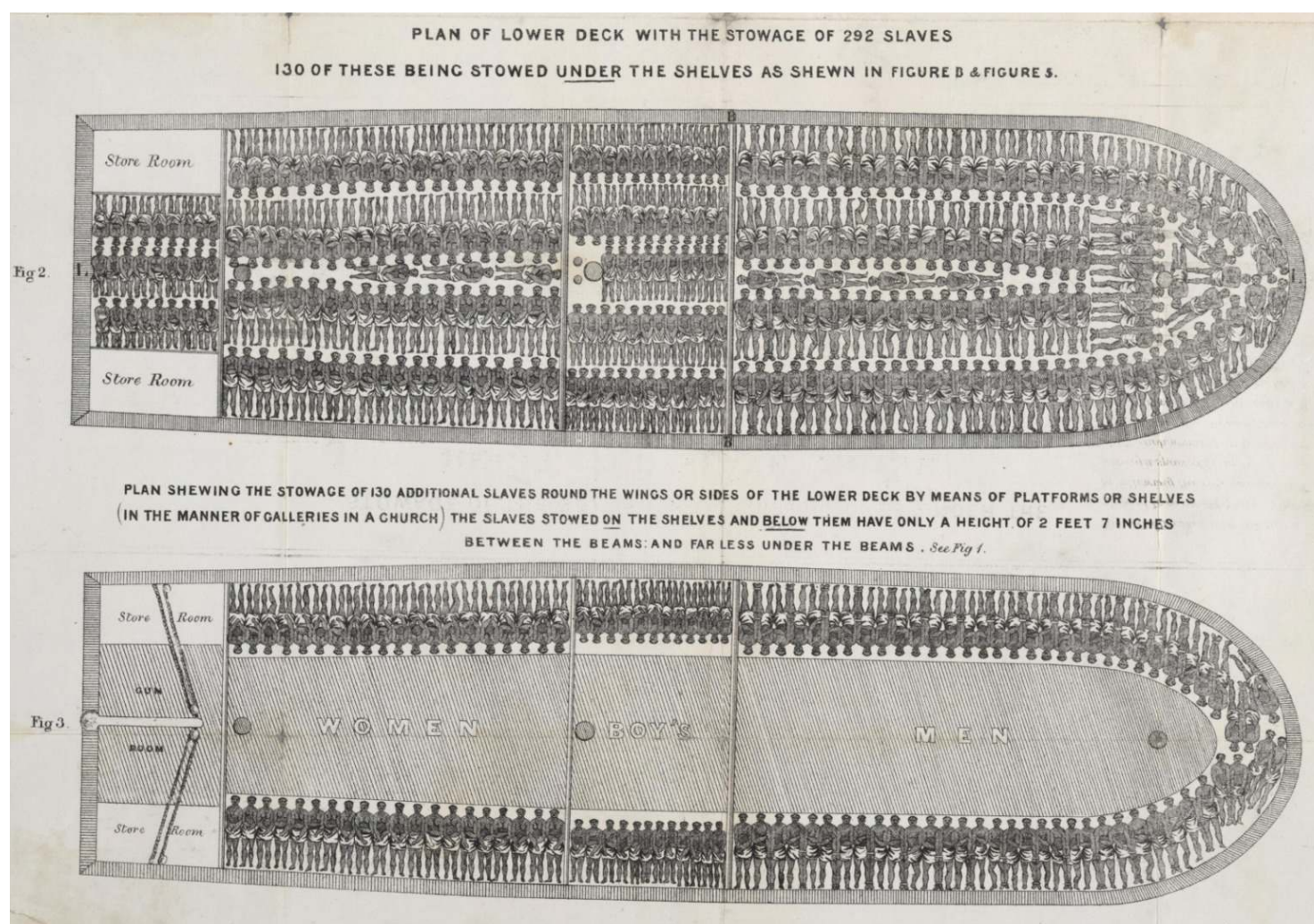
However, this Bill abolished the TRADE in slaves, but not SLAVERY itself.



William Wilberforce

With the 1807 Bill, the ROYAL NAVY'S newly formed 'WEST AFRICA SQUADRON' could seize and fine any ship's Captain £100 for each and every slave found on board his ship. The tragic consequence of these patrols meant that a number of ship's Masters actually murdered slaves by throwing them overboard into the sea rather than risk a substantial fine. However, it soon became apparent that the trade could not be effectively stopped and that it even encouraged smuggling rings leading to increasing value of slaves.

The Trade in Slaves was also becoming less cost-effective. The triangular trade usually involved two trips for each enterprise – one slave ship and one cargo ship. The slave ship would be sent from Britain to the markets on the African coast, and be docked there for some time whilst the crew waited for enough slaves to be brought to the market for purchase before eventually setting sail to the Caribbean. Secondary ships would then have to be sent directly from Britain to the Caribbean to pick up the produce. This process could sometimes take up to 2 years. Slave ships and cargo ships also had to be equipped differently for their load. A slave ship would be infused with weeks and months of human excrement, vomit, blood as well as food waste. No trader would then load perishable and valuable goods onto the same vessels. In addition, Plantation Owners encouraged 'BREEDING PROGRAMS' so slaves would reproduce, effectively gaining more slaves at no extra cost rather than purchase at Market.



The Brookes Slave Ship diagram

In 1823 the **'ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY'** was formed and included notable luminaries such as WILBERFORCE and HENRY BROUGHAM. Its goal was not only the continued suppression of the Trade but the end to Slavery itself – but gradually and not immediately. Wilberforce argued that *'It would be wrong to emancipate (the slaves). To grant freedom to them immediately would be to insure not only their masters' ruin, but their own. They must (first) be trained and educated for freedom.'*

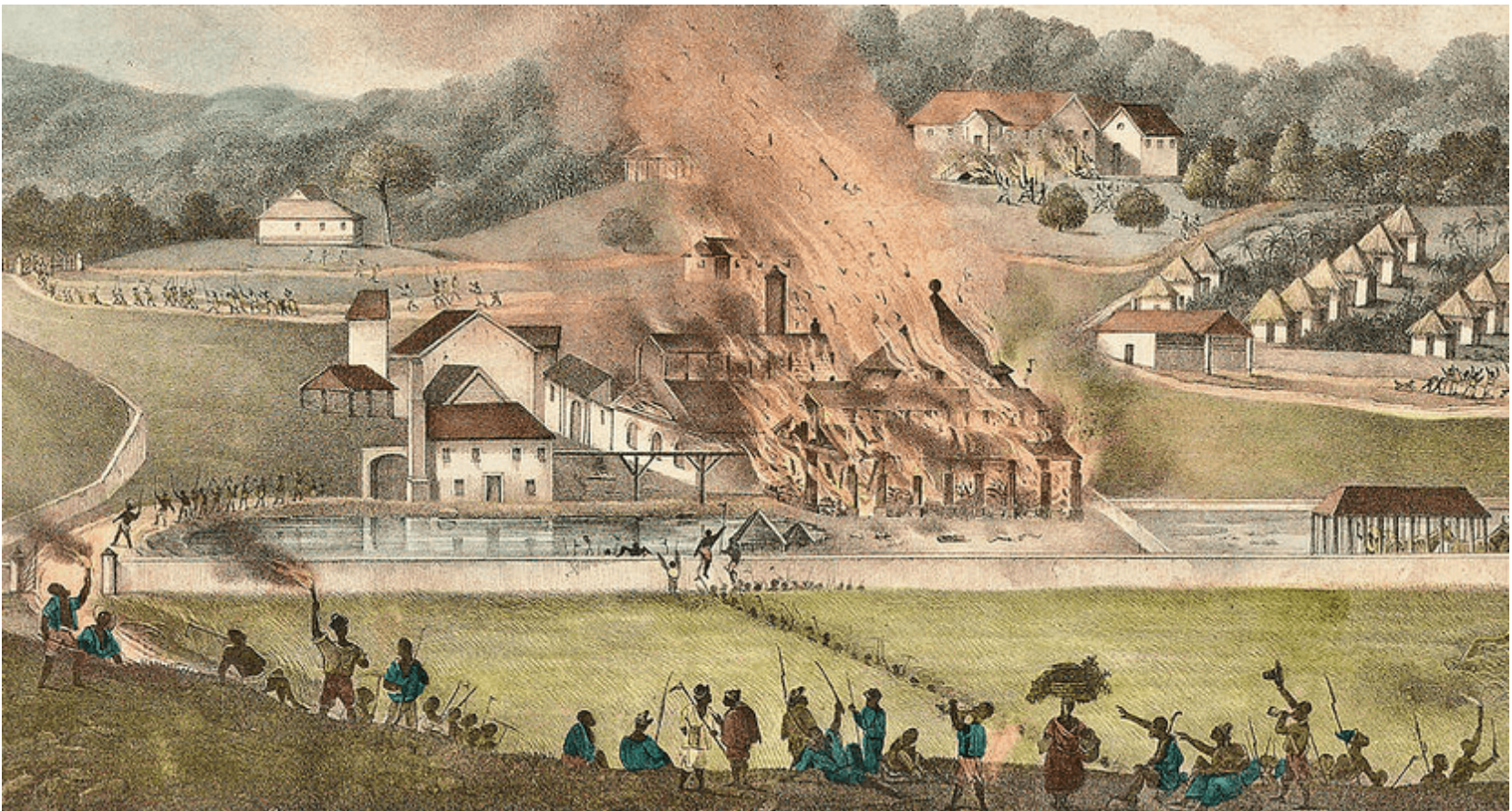
However, there were also numerous voices at the same time calling for immediate and full emancipation.



The official medallion of the Anti-Slavery Society

In 1831 there was a SLAVE REVOLT in Jamaica, known as 'THE BAPTISTS WAR'. In what was supposed to initially be a peaceful General Strike, soon escalated after Baptist Preachers (who had been following the abolition movement in the UK) received news that no emancipation had been granted to them by the British King.

Violence soon erupted with crops and plantations being burnt to the ground. The Rebellion was squashed with force by the Slave Owner Establishment and resulted in many deaths, and later, numerous executions. The damage to the Island's economy and the Plantation Finances, plus two Inquiries into the Revolt added to the case for Emancipation at home and abroad.



The destruction of the ROEHAMPTON Estate during the SLAVE REVOLT in Jamaica in 1831

By July 1833, the Act was read for the third time in Parliament and a few days before the death of WILBERFORCE. The same year, PARLIAMENT received several more Petitions calling for the end of Slavery. Finally, the Act was passed and received ROYAL ASSENT on August 1, 1833.

The Act had two major parts to it, (1) EMANCIPATION of all Slaves throughout the BRITISH COLONIAL EMPIRE except those held by the East India Company, the Island of Ceylon (modern day Sri Lanka) and Saint Helena) and (2) COMPENSATING slave owners for the loss of the slaves.

Interestingly, the Government at the time took out a loan to pay for the Slave Owner's Compensation. The loan was at the time a large proportion of (40%) of total Government Expenditure and was only paid off in full in 2015 (mainly due to the gilt system of debt rather than the amount owed). The slaves themselves received no such compensation and were made to work as apprentices and given board and lodging for another 6 years. Children under 6-years were immediately emancipated. Full emancipation for all was made legal on August 1, 1838.

In 1998, the SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT OF 1833 was repealed. Slavery is still illegal and is incorporated into The Human Rights Act 1998 and The European Convention on Human Rights which prohibits the holding of any person as a slave.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BRITAIN AND THE END OF SLAVERY

From The Guardian (circa 2024)

Until very recently, most people in Britain would have said that this Country's most significant involvement in the TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE was our heroic decision to abolish it.

In the past few years, this culturally ingrained consensus has been challenged by a renewed attention to Britain's long-lasting legacy of Slavery – and to the many families and institutions that profited from the enslavement of Africans. In the ongoing struggle to determine the meaning of this history, individuals and institutions across Britain's political spectrum are grappling with the same pivotal question: *How do we remember our past?*

For the Campaigners seeking to build a new MONUMENT in PORTSMOUTH, Hampshire, England commemorating **BRITAIN'S WEST AFRICA SQUADRON** – the Royal Navy Unit tasked with intercepting Slave Ships after Britain outlawed the trade in 1807 – the answer is simple.

NOTE: Portsmouth has been the "Home Base" of the BRITISH ROYAL NAVY since 1194 AD.

COLIN KEMP, the retired businessman who is raising £70,000 to put up a Statue of a Naval Officer freeing an enslaved African, launched his Campaign in the DAILY MAIL British Newspaper with the frank declaration: *"I think we have got very little to apologize for."*

PENNY MORDAUNT, the CONSERVATIVE MP for Portsmouth North, is among the many Tory Peers and MPs loudly backing the Memorial, which has also received a £25,000 donation from the Party's former Deputy Chair MICHAEL ASHCROFT.

"Yes, Britain had a role in the Slave Trade," Mordaunt wrote in the Daily Mail. *"But let's be clear about something else too. We ended it. Our biggest contribution to the evil trade was to end it."*

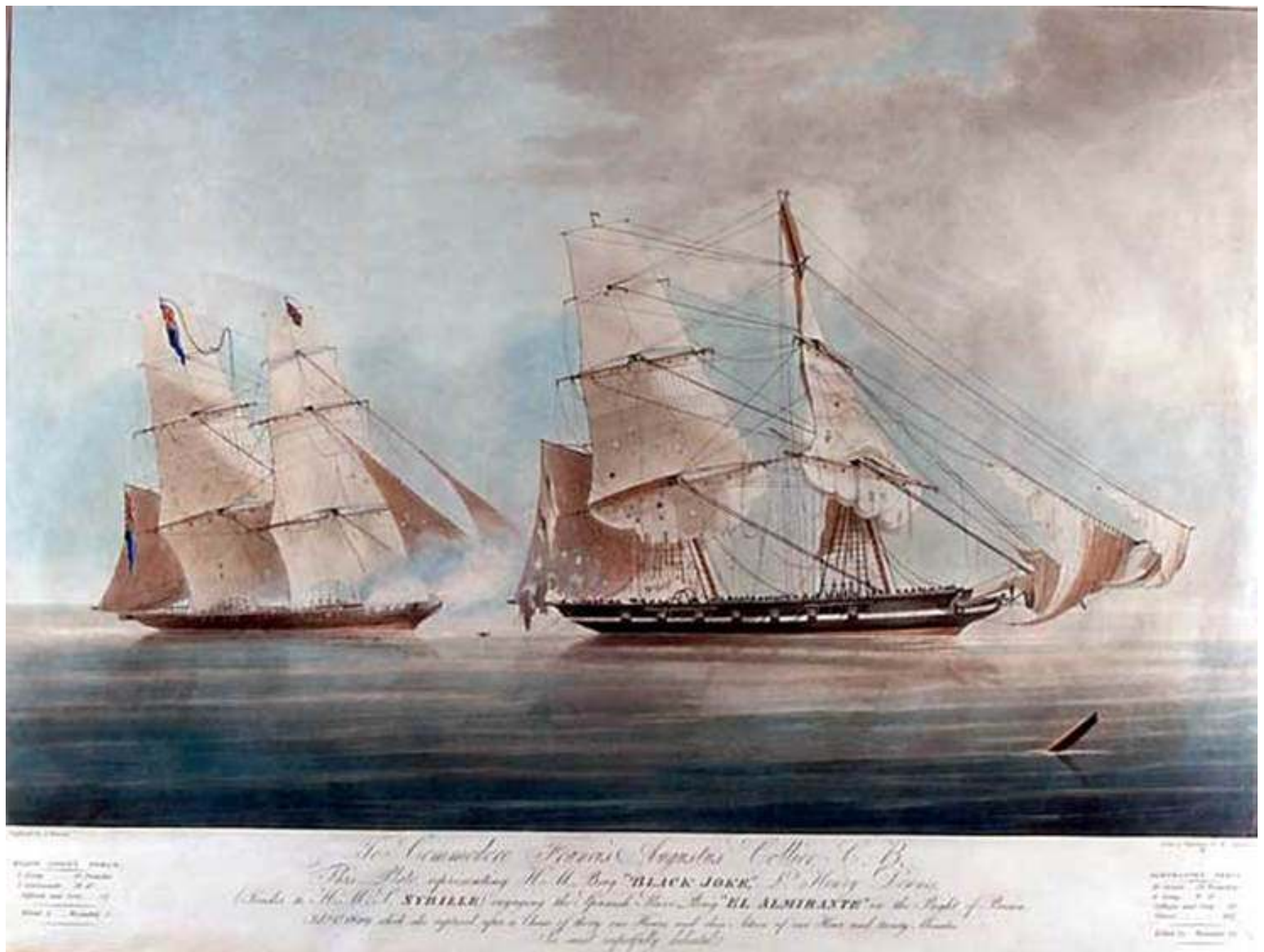
The Statue's backers see their Campaign as a **correction** to what Mordaunt calls *"anti-British, grievance-based" attempts to "rewrite our history in the bleakest way"*.

However, their own account of the WEST AFRICA SQUADRON history is a rose-tinted one, which neglects historical facts and does not provide a more nuanced memory of Britain's past.

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone, would become the epicentre of the Squadron's operation, with the Royal Navy creating a NAVAL STATION there in 1819. It was here many of the slaves freed by the Squadron chose to settle, rather than suffer the arduous journeys further inland to their place of origin and for fear of being recaptured. Some were recruited for the ROYAL NAVY or for the WEST INDIA REGIMENT as Apprentices.

The WEST AFRICA SQUADRON, however, faced further challenges, particularly when the Slave Traders, keen to evade capture, began using even faster ships.

In response, the Royal Navy adopted equally fast vessels, with one in particular proving to be highly successful. This ship was called HMS BLACK JOKE (a former Slave Ship), which in one year managed to capture 11-Slave Trader ships.



HMS Black Joke firing on the Spanish Slaver, El Amirante

Buried: How we choose to remember the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The Statue Campaign's Fundraising Website claims, incorrectly, that "BRITAIN was the first Country to ban Slavery, we used our own ships, men and money to enforce this ban".

In fact, DENMARK was the first European Country to ban the Slave Trade, in 1803, and HAITI was established as the world's first FREE BLACK REPUBLIC in 1804. Echoing the Campaigners, PENNY MORDAUNT claims that the WEST AFRICA SQUADRON, which was active until the 1860s, was "the main actor in physically destroying the slave trade", but this is a dramatic overstatement. However, the Squadron is credited with capturing 1,600 ships and freeing 150,000 enslaved Africans, more than 3-million people were trafficked across the Atlantic while it was active.

According to the Campaign, the statue will depict three key parts of the story of the West Africa Squadron: "the evil of slavery, the bravery of the sailors and the new life for the freed Africans".

Britain banned the slave trade in 1807, after almost 20 years of Parliamentary Debate on the matter. It took another quarter-Century for Britain to abolish Slavery across the Empire, and another five years after that for the full Emancipation of the Enslaved.

The WEST AFRICA SQUADRON was deployed from 1808 with the task of stopping British Slave-Trading ships, but this initial enforcement took on a more humanitarian bent as the Squadron began to target the ships of other Countries as well. The Campaign for a Monument is correct that significant resources were committed to this mission: over a period of 60 years, the Royal Navy spent millions of pounds on the Squadron, and 1,600 sailors lost their lives. Even this was hugely insufficient: the ships were old, slow and too few in number, and the unit is estimated to have intercepted fewer than 10% of the ships involved in the Slave Trade.

More significantly, "the new life for the freed Africans" rescued by the Squadron was hardly free. The estimated 150,000 men, women and children whose ships were captured suffered continued exploitation and degradation at the hands of the British.

After intercepting Slave Ships bound for the Americas, the WEST AFRICA SQUADRON sailed the formerly enslaved human cargo to British Colonies; namely, SIERRA LEONE and SAINT HELENA. Once docked, captured Africans were made to remain onboard ships for long periods (sometimes months) in squalid conditions while lengthy British bureaucracy ensued: this led to high rates of unnecessary deaths and disease.

Once allowed off the ships, the "LIBERATED AFRICANS" – as they were known at the time – were not repatriated to their home Countries; they were instead subject to forced hard labour under poor conditions, reminiscent of the slavery they narrowly escaped. Military conscription was the fate of "liberated" men; "liberated" children were subject to apprenticeship, where they worked for a Master

with no wage for a number of years. In Sierra Leone, there are reports of unmarried “liberated” women being forced into marriage.

The legitimate effort to remember the history of the WEST AFRICA SQUADRON should not require the repetition of falsehoods, like the myth of the “liberated Africans” or the misconception that the ROYAL NAVY “ended slavery”.

Emancipation was not simply given to the enslaved by benevolent sailors. It was fought for. This history deserves commemoration just as much as the advocacy of WILLIAM WILBERFORCE and the work of the Squadron. Britain’s decision to finally abolish Slavery in 1833 was itself influenced by the 1831 - 1832 slave revolt in JAMAICA, also known as the CHRISTMAS REBELLION, which helped shock Parliament into acting.

One year ago, in a powerful essay for the Guardian’s Cotton Capital project, Gary Younge addressed our nation’s ability to “forget” the gritty realities of our slaving past. Far from an innocent moment of amnesia, this “forgetting” is a destructive task, and a “privilege of the powerful”.

What we choose to remember of Britain’s legacy of Slavery does not seem to require adherence to historical fact, but refers instead to some axiomatic, imagined understanding about who we are as a nation. So, the pursuit of historical truth becomes an “anti-British” blasphemy, seen as an attempt to vandalize the myth that Britain’s only relationship to Slavery was to abolish it.

Acknowledging the complicated history of the WEST AFRICA SQUADRON is not an unpatriotic lament; it is part of establishing a healthier relationship with the complexities of our Past, based on a sturdier and more honest foundation. Britain’s history of Abolition can still be a proud one – as long as it is not built on mistruths.

■ The Republican supporters of TRUMPISM today in America should reflect on the use of LIES in Politics as a WEAPON to deceive American Voters into following a DESPOT, like LEMMINGS, over the MAGA cliff ... !



The role of the WEST AFRICA SQUADRON in ending the Slave Trade.

The ROYAL NAVY was the only force in the world that had the drive, willingness and firepower to curtail the Slave Trade.

After the end of the Napoleonic War, BRITAIN, who had the largest Navy in the world, negotiated with its Allies for British ships to board all foreign vessels to check if they were “engaged in slavery”.

If they found SLAVES, the ship was seized and the slaves released, many on the island of St. Helena or on the coast of Africa.

The financial cost was huge.

At its peak, the WEST AFRICA SQUADRON was using half the total budget for the ROYAL NAVY, or the equivalent of 2% of the UK's GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT. Moreover, between 1830 and 1865, almost 1,600 Royal Navy sailors from this squadron died either in action or from tropical diseases.

■ 1808. The WEST AFRICA SQUADRON was formed in 1808 after the SLAVE TRADE ACT of 1807, to patrol the coast of West Africa and disrupt the Slave Trade.

Initially the force was very small, comprising of only two ships.

■ 1815 After the end of the Napoleonic war in 1815, the West Africa Squadron was strengthened with more ships.

It also used the captured slave ships, which were generally faster, as part of the Squadron and by 1850, there were 25 ships and 2,000 Naval Officers engaged in the Squadron.

■ 1867 The Squadron operated until 1867, and over the course of its operation it seized 1,600 ships and freed around 150,000 Africans destined for slavery.

Although BRITAIN was one of the major slaving nations it was the first Country to ban slavery.

It used the power of the ROYAL NAVY in the shape of the WEST AFRICA SQUADRON to enforce that ban. So, Britain used its own men, its own ships and money and its Diplomatic power to end the Evil Trade of Slavery.

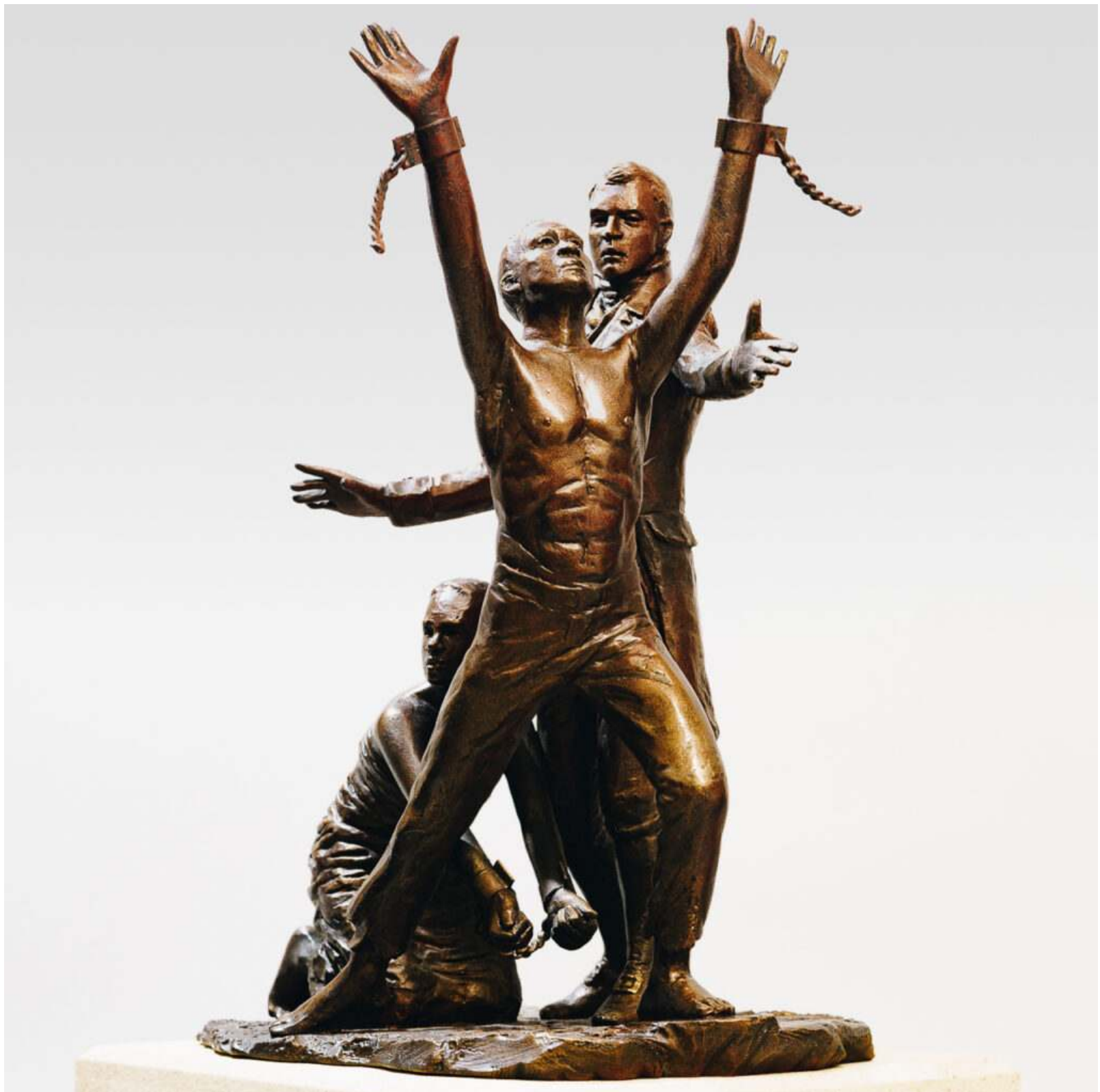
WHY BUILD A MEMORIAL?

The vision of the West Africa Squadron Memorial Fund team is for a Monument to achieve two things.

Firstly, it's purpose is to celebrate the work of the West Africa Squadron and **secondly** to move the narrative from the negative implications of Britain's past with slavery to the positive that this Country stood alone in banning this evil trade, **a full 48 years before the USA banned slavery.**

The **WEST AFRICA SQUADRON MEMORIAL FUND (WASMF)** has commissioned Vincent Gray, who designed the sculpture to Nelson and Murray in Chichester, to produce a maquette for the ultimate sculpture.

WASMF is seeking to raise funds for the production of the actual monument/statue by Crowdfunding and donations from sponsors and other interested parties.



LEWES SLAVE OWNERS (Pre-1833 ABOLITION)

When slavery in the BRITISH EMPIRE was abolished in 1833, the BRITISH GOVERNMENT paid the Slave Owners compensation for their financial loss. By this date, many of the overseas Estate Owners now lived in Britain, with their overseas Estates managed by Local Agents, and two of those Slave Owners who were compensated lived in LEWES, SUSSEX, England.

- EDWARD MONK (1799 - 1888) of Cliffe, Lewes, Sussex received £800 8s 7d for 55-slaves he had owned on DARBY'S ESTATE, ANTIGUA. EDWARD MONK was also a prominent Lewes businessman. In the 1830s he was a successful Corn, Seed and General Merchant in Cliffe.

CLIFFE, or Cliffe-by-Lewes, or St. Thomas-in-the-Cliffe, is a Parish in the Lewes District of Sussex; adjacent to the RIVER OUSE and the SOUTH COAST RAILWAY, in the eastern vicinity of Lewes. Population 1,568. Houses, 290. The property is subdivided. The Patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Church is All Saints, Anglican Church and there is a Workhouse.

- By 1851, 52-year old EDWARD MONK had moved to St. ANNE'S HOUSE, 111 High Street, Lewes. He later became the owner of the BEAR BREWERY, he was also a prominent LIBERAL and a major promoter of the Railways serving Lewes.



St. ANNE'S HOUSE, 111 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, England.

- ANNA KANE, who works in St. ANNE'S HOUSE (on the left hand side as you head up the hill towards St Anne's Church), raised a query on the LEWES PAST Facebook page in November 2018 about the history of St. ANNE'S HOUSE. Several people remembered it as the house where Judges were accommodated when they came to Lewes, including STEVE CARRIGAN, whose parents ran the house for them. He added that, after that use ceased, this house and another one were sold by auction in 1976 for £50,000.

As is often the case, the most informative responses were from LEWES PAST moderator MICK SYMES, who stated that it had been the home of the Victorian Corn Merchant and Brewer EDWARD MONK; and that after St. ANNE'S HOUSE was declared redundant it had been purchased by Councillor ELISABETH HOWARD, who sold the house and its associated Cottages separately; and that MICK SYMES, himself had installed a sauna there when its use changed from residential to a HEALTH & BEAUTY SCHOOL.

Today St. ANNE'S HOUSE is the base for several COMMUNICATIONS and FINANCIAL SERVICES businesses.

[St. ANNE'S HOUSE and its railings are listed as Grade II by Historic England.](#)

- The listing identified the house as early-18th Century, noting the date "1719" on a surviving rainwater head. It was described as a 6-BAY BRICK HOUSE with slightly irregular bays. The left hand bay had been rebuilt in a different brick and without a ground floor window. There was a Plinth, with Cornice Bands over the ground and first floors and a Coped Panelled Parapet that was plain over the rebuilt bay. It had a plain, tiled Hipped Roof, with tall Brick Chimney stacks in the end walls. There were 2 Storeys, plus Attics with Dormers. The Porch had detached Ionic Columns. The full listing described considerable interior detail, noting the early 18th Century Staircase and panelling.
- The first 'Port of Call' for anyone who wishes to know more, is COLIN BRENT'S "LEWES HOUSE HISTORIES" file, deposited with THE KEEP. This provides detailed lists of Owners and Occupiers back into the reign of QUEEN ELIZABETH I, when the house had a large plot reaching back to the road to Southover – Rotten Row. The histories are those of the sites rather than the buildings on them, but in this case the house went through a number of rapid changes of ownership in the early 18th Century until in 1719 it was sold by the EARL of ABERGAVENNY (who had owned it for only about a year) to JOHN APSLEY for the modest sum of £315. As the initials "JA" accompany the rainwater head date of 1719, he may very well have rebuilt the house after this purchase.

If there are any significant survivals of an earlier house, they are most likely to be found in the roof. This was a high-status house in the 17th Century, when the Owners and Occupiers included a Goldsmith and a number of Gentry and Clergy.

- JOHN APSLEY was a native of Ticehurst, but descended from a prominent WEST SUSSEX family. He was a younger son, but his brother died without heirs, so he inherited substantial Estates. He was appointed a MAGISTRATE, and in 1742 a TRUSTEE for the new LEWES PESTHOUSE. He owned and occupied this house himself for over 50 years, adding to the property, until his death at the age of 83 in 1770. His death and elaborate funeral were reported in the January 29 & February 5, 1770 SUSSEX WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

JOHN APSLEY bequeathed his house to his only child, his married daughter **CORDELIA DALRYMPLE**, who lived elsewhere. She retained ownership until her own death, but in 1803 it was sold for £2,300 by her only son **JOHN APSLEY DALRYMPLE** shortly after he inherited it. The difference in value between the 1719 and 1803 prices reflects the upgrading of the property.

- The 1803 Purchaser was **JOSIAH SMITH**, an Attorney who had already lived in the house as the Dalrymples' tenant for over 30 years. He continued to live at St. ANNE'S HOUSE until his death at the age of 90 in 1827. He is first recorded as a Lewes Attorney as a young man, a decade before he moved to this house, and records in THE KEEP show him engaged in all the expected activities of a Country Attorney.
- **JOSIAH SMITH** managed the affairs of his own family, and those of the BRIDGERS of Coombe. He also acted as Steward for the Manors of the EARL OF CHICHESTER. He was a Commissioner for Affidavits and Treasurer to the Proprietors of the RIVER OUSE NAVIGATION. He was a Trustee of the LEWES GRAMMAR SCHOOL and in 1789 appointed to the Committee to find a suitable location for a new Town Market. He also specialized in Ecclesiastical Law and was first Deputy-Registrar and then Registrar to the Archdeaconry of Lewes, a role he continued into his late eighties.

After purchasing St. ANNE'S HOUSE, **JOSIAH SMITH** also accumulated a number of other properties nearby that were leased to tenants. He lent money to the LEWES MARKET COMMISSIONERS, and to the PARISH of ST. ANNE to enable them to purchase the hospital. In 1821 he was one of the Commissioners for widening the road from Lewes to Brighton.

JOSIAH SMITH subscribed to Paul Dunvan's 'History Of Lewes And Brighthelmstone' and, in his old age, to Thomas Walker Horsfield's 'History And Antiquities Of Lewes' and Gideon Mantell's publications on the fossils of the South Downs.

- Surprisingly, given his profession, **JOSIAH SMITH** died intestate, leaving a vast Estate, estimated at £80,000 (or £2,730,000 in 2023 GBP).

It was remarked on in the local newspapers that **JOSIAH SMITH'S** Servants were thus entitled to nothing. **JOSIAH'S** male heir was his great-nephew, **WILLIAM SMITH** of Uckfield. **WILLIAM SMITH** moved to Lewes after his inheritance, and lived at St. ANNE'S HOUSE for only a few years before selling it.

- The next purchaser of St. ANNE'S HOUSE in 1831 was a wealthy Gentleman, **ROBERT GEAR**, who came from London, but seems to have been already resident at ST. ANNE'S HOUSE when he purchased it. He moved to LEWES to take up residence here with his second wife and their two daughters. He also maintained a leasehold house in OXFORD SQUARE, LONDON, and he had an extensive portfolio of property in Brighton, Hastings and Kent.

ROBERT GEAR'S first wife, by whom he had at least one other daughter, was a relative of the Spanish wife of the French **EMPEROR NAPOLEON III**. He joined the local Bench as soon as he arrived in Lewes, and is noted as a active Magistrate, appointed at Quarter Sessions as Visitor to both the LEWES HOUSE OF CORRECTION and the LUNATIC ASYLUM in RINGMER Village.

- In 1835 ROBERT GEAR was a member of the PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE of the proposed **SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY** established to promote Railways between London and Brighton, with branches to Lewes and Newhaven, and in Kent – this promotion failed in its objectives, and is not the organisation that successfully brought railways to the SUSSEX area a few years later.

ROBERT GEAR had two daughters by his second wife, SARAH and MARY GEORGIANA, both were born in LAMBETH, South London, England in 1819 and 1820 respectively. SARAH died in 1841, aged 21, and has a memorial in St. Anne's Church.

- When her younger sister, MARY GEORGIANA, married a CAPTAIN in the ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY in 1846, St. ANNE'S HOUSE was amongst the property settled on her.
- ROBERT GEAR died in 1858 and his second wife in 1867, but they do not appear in the LEWES RECORD after the 1846 settlement. St. ANNE'S HOUSE was then let to a Tenant. The house and the family's other Lewes property remained in the possession of the Trustees to the 1846 Family Settlement until at least 1890.
- By 1851, the Occupier of St. ANNE'S HOUSE was **EDWARD MONK**, a 51-year old Corn Merchant who had been born in MIDHURST, Sussex, England. In March 1828 he had married **ANN WOOD**, daughter of the Brewer, THOMAS WOOD, at **ALL SAINTS CHURCH**, in Lewes, Sussex.
- On the death of THOMAS WOOD, his son-in-law, EDWARD MONK inherited a third share in the chain of Public Houses and Beer Houses belonging to the BEAR BREWERY. The property was shared with his brothers-in-law **GEORGE WOOD** and **ALFRED WOOD**, who managed the Brewery.
- **EDWARD MONK** was noted as a **GROCER** in LEWES as early as 1826. He lived at PARK GATE, RINGMER, in 1837-1838 and in LEWES St. MICHAEL in 1841.

In 1840 he was described as a **SEED MERCHANT** and owned WAREHOUSES and a WHARF in the Cliffe. He was a promoter of the local Railways and of the LEWES RACES in the 1840s and 1850s, entering his own racehorses on occasion. In 1857 he was very actively promoting imported PERUVIAN GUANO (accumulated seabird and bat droppings) as an agricultural fertilizer.

- In 1858 **EDWARD MONK** took over the **BEAR BREWERY**, Cliffe, and its chain of Licensed Premises from his two brothers-in-law; he had provided them with a £20,000 mortgage two years previously. The **BEAR BREWERY**, Bear Yard, Cliffe High Street, Lewes was located behind the **BEAR HOTEL** (which no longer exists)..



The **BEAR BREWERY** is now owned by **HARVEY'S BREWERY TAP**.

- In 1881 **EDWARD MONK** was living here with his elder son and daughter-in-law, still described at the age of 81 as a "Merchant and Brewer employing 16 men". There were detailed reports of his 1888 death in the *Sussex Advertiser*, *Sussex Express* and *East Sussex News*. He was an esteemed schoolfellow at Midhurst Grammar School of the anti-corn law Campaigner and Free Trader, **RICHARD COBDEN**. He was also a staunch Liberal, a railway promoter and a supporter of the Southdown Hunt and the Brookside Harriers.
- In 1888, **EDWARD MONK** died in Lewes, Sussex, England at the age of 89-years. His probated Will Probated Will on March 17, 1888 at Lewis Registry is estimated at £12.57 Million (converted to 2024 GB POUNDS). The Beneficiaries were his 2-Sons, 57-year old **THOMAS MONK (1831-1899)** and 54-year old **EDWARD MONK (1834-1916)**.

- In 1898, the BEAR BREWERY was acquired by SOUTHDOWN & EAST GRINSTEAD BREWERIES LTD with 53 houses. The brewery has since been demolished.



- In 1951, St. ANNE'S HOUSE, was purchased by EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL to provide lodgings for the Judges sitting at Lewes Crown and County Courts.

- The BEAR INN, in the Cliffe, Lewis, East Sussex, England.

The BEAR INN, right by Cliffe Bridge, where Argos now stands, was the main Inn in the Cliffe, where the principal formal events of the Cliffe, and of the Hundred of Ringmer, were held. The records of TAMPLIN'S BREWERY describe the addition of a "new-erected brewhouse", behind the Inn, in a deed of 1787. This bundle of old deeds of the Bear Inn show the following owners:

1730	Ambrose Galloway, Merchant & Lessee of MARESFIELD IRON FORGE
1740	Ruth Spence
1766	John Rickman of Cliffe, brewer
1787	Richard Peters Rickman (son of John Rickman)
1801	John Rickman (son of Richard Peters Rickman)
1817	Thomas Wood & Thomas Roff Tamplin of Lewes, brewers
1828	Thomas Wood (Executors of Thomas Roff Tamplin sold his share to TW)

A long dynasty of AMBROSE GALLOWAYS were Lewes Merchants and Quakers. RUTH SPENCE, spinster, belonged to the Spence family of Malling House but lived in Bath, and was bequeathed property by Ambrose Galloway's sister ELIZABETH.

JOHN RICKMAN (1715-1789), his son RICHARD PETERS RICKMAN (1745-1801), his son JOHN RICKMAN (1774-1859) and his son RICHARD PETERS RICKMAN (1805-1876) were all leading members of the LEWES QUAKER COMMUNITY. In 1817 the second JOHN RICKMAN sold the BEAR INN and its brewery, and retired to his new-built WELLINGHAM HOUSE in the Village of Ringmer, where he described himself as an "agriculturalist". However, many other records show that he was in practice a leading provider of MORTGAGE FUNDING to the people of LEWES and the surrounding District at that time.

The Religious Society of Friends, also referred to as the QUAKER MOVEMENT, was founded in England in the 17th Century by GEORGE FOX. He and other early Quakers, or Friends, were persecuted for their beliefs, which included the idea that the presence of God exists in every person. Quakers rejected ELABORATE RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES, didn't have official CLERGY and believed in Spiritual Equality for men and women. Quaker Missionaries first arrived in America in the mid-1650s. Quakers, who practice pacifism, played a key role in both the abolitionist and women's rights movements.

- THOMAS ROFF TAMPLIN died in 1827, but the WOOD family retained the BEAR BREWERY until 1856. PIGOT'S 1839 DIRECTORY lists GEORGE & ALFRED WOOD, BEAR BREWERY, HIGH STREET, CLIFFE, as one of six Lewes breweries at that date. THOMAS GEERING in *Our Parish* (1884) p.119 refers to THE GEORGE, HAILSHAM, East Sussex, England as having been well-managed when owned by the handsome Lewes brewer GEORGE WOOD.
- From 1858-1896 the BEAR BREWERY was owned by EDWARD MONK AND SONS, though Monk, had a financial interest in the business as early as 1840, when he was a "Seedsman".
- There is a surviving Photograph Album of the Monk family and their relations, including photographs of the MONK FAMILY brewery, Bear Yard, Lewes, in the EAST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE.



This Edwardian postcard shows an oblique view of the **BEAR INN** a few years before it burnt down in 1918. The mock-Tudor frontage was presumably a relatively recent addition.

On the Lewes side of the bridge stands MARTIN'S GARAGE, now the Riverside Centre. A descendant confirms that this remarkable structure was built as a SHOE FACTORY by shoemaker ALBION RUSSELL of Chiddingfold, who moved to the County Town.

A Journeyman Shoemaker from Hastings, **GEORGE BROMLEY**, came to work for him at Lewes, married Russell's daughter ELIZABETH, and took over the management of Albion Russell's shop in EASTBOURNE, East Sussex, which then traded under the name **RUSSELL & BROMLEY**.

It was their son, **FREDERICK R. BROMLEY**, who opened numerous luxury shops trading under the RUSSELL & BROMLEY name across the South East of England, and eventually in KNIGHTSBRIDGE and OXFORD STREET in West Central London.

ELIZABETH BROMLEY (nee RUSSELL) lived until 1937, long enough to see the business develop from a single shop owned by her father to a National Enterprise.

With sought-after product, **RUSSELL & BROMLEY** has remained synonymous with expert craftsmanship and fashion-led design since 1880. Specializing in luxury shoes and handbags for men and women, the brand continue to be the definitive choice for the well-dressed.



The BEAR INN was Flooded in 1734, 1768, 1772, and 1773.

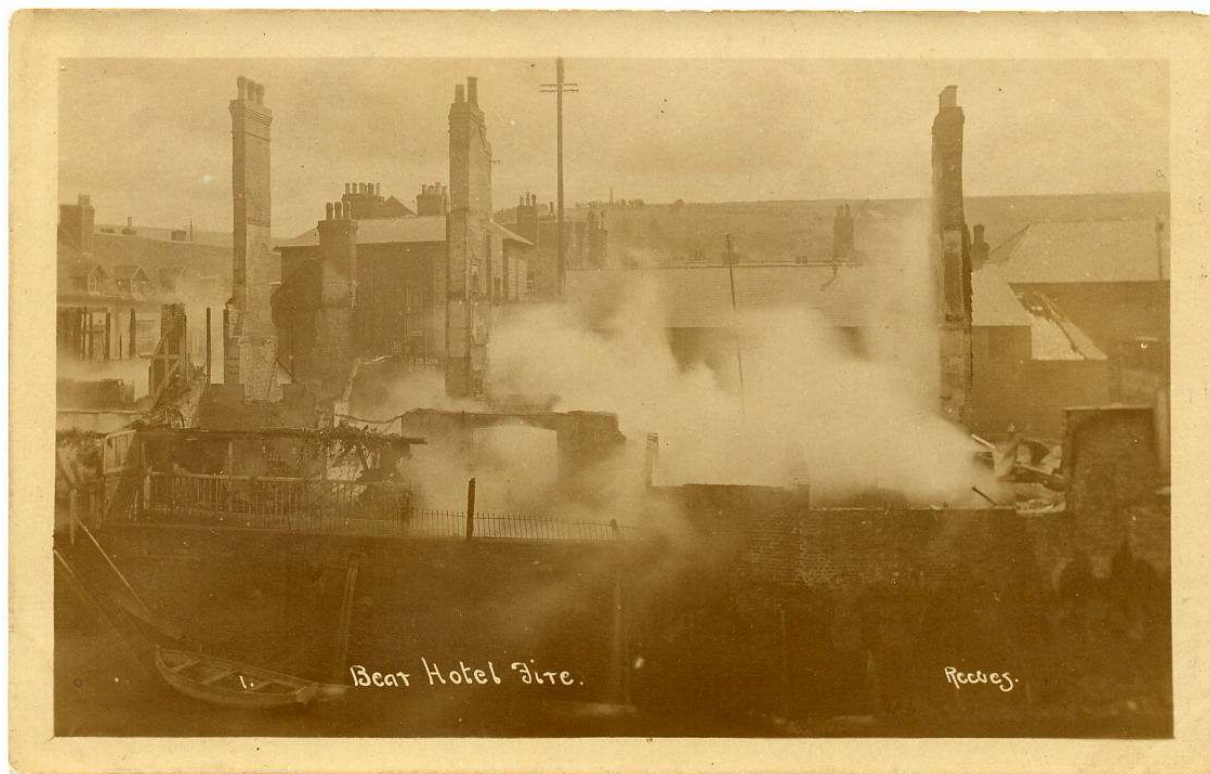
Wet weather ruined the 1768 harvest, and on September 21st., water flowed into the **COFFEE HOUSE** on the Lewes side of Cliffe Bridge. The flooding persisted until December 3rd., when there was a flood that flowed into every lower room of the **BEAR INN**, on the Cliffe side of the bridge, and “*almost half way up the iron ring that hangs on the warehouse on the north-east corner of the bridge*”. The floodwater was supposed to be as high as had ever been recorded.

The January 15, 1772 *Sussex Weekly Advertiser* reported a very large flood occasioned by a great quantity of rain that had fallen the previous day. THOMAS WOOLLGAR is quoted as saying: “*I remember that the flood was so high that a boat swam around the Bear Inn adjoining the bridge*”.

There was more heavy rain in November 1773, when flood water again came up over the ring and staple on the north-east corner of the bridge and up to the tenth brick below the coping stone at the corner of the BEAR INN.

These were not the only examples of extreme 18th Century weather. There was a great storm causing much local destruction on January 8th, 1734; an earthquake on October 25th. in the same year; a severe frost, with only occasional thaws and many falls of snow, between December 23, 1739 and April 21, 1740; in January 1776 the RIVER OUSE was iced over; and Serjeant Kempe's bull and a horse in a Malling blacksmith's stables were killed by lightning in a thunderstorm on May 25, 1784.

The BEAR INN Fire in 1918.



This Reeves postcard showing the aftermath of the 1918 FIRE at the BEAR INN in the Cliffe, taken from across the River and giving a better impression of the scale of the establishment, was recently offered for sale on E-bay. After competitive bidding, it sold for over £40.