

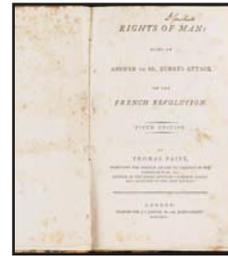
## PART 4 Sources of evidence



### John Hawkins' Coat of Arms

© The College of Arms, London

This is a drawing of the coat of arms granted to John Hawkins when he became a knight. A coat of arms is made up of symbols to represent the person whose coat of arms it is. The bound and enslaved African person on the crest represents Sir John Hawkins' success as a slave trader.



### Rights of Man by Thomas Paine

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

When radical writer Thomas Paine published his book *Rights of Man* in 1791 it caused such a stir that he had to go into hiding in Bromley. In the book he defended the recent French Revolution and urged people to rise up, rebel against oppression and stand up for what they believed in. The book provoked debate about freedom and human rights across the country.

Many people believed the way enslaved Africans were treated was a violation of human rights, and *Rights of Man* fuelled discussions about abolition. Talk about the book spread to the Caribbean and some historians argue it inspired some of the slave uprisings on the plantations, such as the Haitian revolution in the 1790s, led by Toussaint L'Ouverture.



### An exact survey of the cities of London and Westminster, the Borough of Southwark, with the country near ten miles round.

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

This map was made in 1746. The Royal Naval Dockyard can be seen near the top left corner of the map. The road marked as 'Butt Lane' is now Deptford High Street.



### The Right Honourable William Pitt Chancellor of the Exchequer (1789–1806) by George Romney (artist), John Jones (engraver & publisher)

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

William Pitt became Prime Minister in 1783, aged 24. He was friends with abolition campaigner and MP William Wilberforce and in May 1787 William Wilberforce visited him at his home, Holwood House in Keston. It was then, during a conversation under an oak tree in the grounds, that William Pitt suggested that William Wilberforce introduce a bill to Parliament to abolish the slave trade. This eventually led to the abolition of the slave trade in 1807. The tree is now known as the Wilberforce Oak and the spot is now marked with a stone bench.



### Deptford Dockyard by Joseph Farington

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

The artist was commissioned by the Navy Board to paint this image of Deptford Dockyard in the late 18th century. It gives a panoramic, plan-like view of the dockyards and Greenwich and Blackheath beyond. The ships in the foreground (front) give a sense of scale.



### Thomas Cavendish (1560–92), Sir Francis Drake (1540–96) and Sir John Hawkins (1532–95)

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

This portrait was painted in the 17th century. It was painted to celebrate "three of the great names of Elizabethan seafaring". John Hawkins and Francis Drake went on the first slave trading voyages, supported by Elizabeth I. Thomas Cavendish is not as well known as John Hawkins and Francis Drake, but he circumnavigated the world eight years after Francis Drake did.



**A view of Blackheath, depicting Montague House, Shooter's Hill and Morden College, with windmills in the foreground by John Charnock**

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

This view of Blackheath shows Lord and Mady Montagu's house, where Ignatius Sancho worked.



**View of London from Greenwich Park 1796**

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

In this view of London from Greenwich Park in the late eighteenth century, the River Thames can be seen in the distance, with boats sailing west to the docks or east toward the sea. The spire of St Alfege's church, Greenwich is in the centre and the tower of St Nicholas church, Deptford to the left. The docks are in the centre of the picture, seen behind St Alfege's spire. The dockyard store houses, wharves and ships under construction can be seen. The viewpoint of this picture is probably from the hill on the west side of Greenwich Park, next to Maze Hill. The viewpoint is looking north, towards St Paul's cathedral in the far distance.



**Map of the Atlantic World, early 18th century**

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

This early eighteenth century map shows the major trade routes across the Atlantic Ocean. It shows routes to the three main English ports involved in the slave trade: Bristol, Liverpool and London.



**Antislavery wool work picture**

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

This wool work picture was probably stitched by a woman at home. Many women supported the campaign for the abolition of slavery. Women were not allowed to vote and were not encouraged to become involved in politics, but through their work in the family home many were able to express their strong political views.



**Pin cushion**

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

This pin cushion was probably owned and used by a women, as in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries tasks such as sewing were seen as "women's work". Many women supported the campaign for the abolition of slavery. Women were not allowed to vote and were not encouraged to become involved in politics, but through their work in the family home many were able to express their strong political views.

This pin cushion shows the famous abolitionist symbol that was often accompanied by the slogan "am I not a woman and a sister?"

Many people now feel uncomfortable about this symbol. Why do you think this might be?



**William Wilberforce Esq. by James Heath after John Russell**

© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

This portrait was made in 1807, the year the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act was passed.

William Wilberforce was Member of parliament for Hull. Hull had a port but was not involved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, so he was not under any pressure to protect the slave trade. In 1787 he became Parliamentary spokesman for the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade (which was set up by Thomas Clarkson). He made repeated attempts to get the abolition of the trade made law and finally oversaw the

passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807, after years of campaigning. This legally ended Britain's part in slave trading and William Wilberforce received a standing ovation in Parliament when the act was passed. A further act in 1833 provided for the emancipation (freedom) of slaves in British colonies. Although this did not put an end to the problems of African people who had been enslaved, and did not end slavery around the world, it was the beginning of important changes.

Wilberforce's work in Parliament was very important and it made him famous. But many historians now argue that it was only made possible by the work of other abolitionists.

There are records that William Wilberforce lived at Dartmouth Grove in Blackheath in the eighteenth century, but this was William Wilberforce's uncle, confusingly also called William!

You can find out more about William Wilberforce on the Parliament and the British Slave Trade website:

<http://slavetrade.parliament.uk/slavetrade/history/enquiry/wilberforcemakesthecase.html>



#### Archaeologists working on the remains of Royal Dockyard at Deptford: Grand Store – Tudor with 19th century buttress

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

This photo shows an archaeologist working in a trench dug during an archaeological excavation at Convoy's Wharf, Deptford. In this trench the archaeologists uncovered the remains of a wall probably built in the nineteenth century (the yellowish brick wall the archaeologist is working on in the photo). This wall had been built onto a much older wall (the red brick wall behind the archaeologist in the photo). Archaeologists believe that the older wall was part of a Tudor storehouse, possibly built as part of Henry VIII's Royal Naval dockyard at Deptford.



#### Tobacco-paper for Ignatius Sancho's Best Trinidado

© The Trustees of the British Museum

This tobacco paper has been dated to around 1774-1780. It shows a native American holding a tankard and long pipe, leaning against sheaves in front of a barrel, while a slave gathers sheaves of what are thought to be tobacco leaves.



#### Archaeologists working on the remains of Royal Dockyard at Deptford: 17th century storehouse wall

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

The photo shows the remains of a wall that was probably part of a seventeenth century storehouse at the Royal Naval dockyard at Deptford. This photo was taken during an archaeological dig at Convoy's Wharf in Deptford.



#### 'The wish' tobacco-paper for Ignatius Sancho's Best Trinidado

© The Trustees of the British Museum

This tobacco paper is advertising for Ignatius Sancho's Best Trinidado tobacco, which was probably produced by slaves in America and was sold at Ignatius Sancho's grocery shop at 19 Charles Street, Westminster.



#### Archaeologists working on the remains of Royal Dockyard at Deptford: 18th century slipway

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

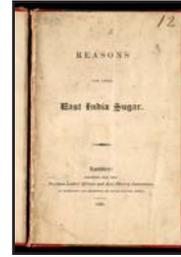
This photo shows archaeologists at work uncovering the remains of a slipway. This was a ramp used to move boats to and from the river and was probably built in the eighteenth century. This photo was taken during an archaeological dig at Convoy's Wharf in Deptford.



**Double portrait of golfer and his caddy, standing whole-length to left on golf course at Blackheath, 1790.**

© The Trustees of the British Museum

This portrait of a golfer and his caddy is thought to show the Royal Blackheath Golf Club, where many merchants involved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade met and played golf. There is no record of who the golfer in the picture was.



**Reasons For Using East India Sugar**

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This article was printed in 1828 by the Peckham Ladies African and Anti Slavery Association. It encouraged readers to boycott West Indian sugar, which was produced by enslaved people, and buy instead sugar from India that had not been produced by slave labour.



**Blue glass sugar bowl**

© The Trustees of the British Museum

This sugar bowl has been inscribed with the words: EAST INDIA SUGAR not made by SLAVES. In the eighteenth century people all over Britain stopped buying sugar as a protest against the treatment of African people forced to work at slaves on sugar plantations. Instead people bought sugar from India that was not made with slave labour. The sugar boycotts were led by women, who could not vote but still played an important part in the campaign for the abolition of slavery.



**An account of slaves and stock at Greenwich Park, 1828**

© City of London, London Metropolitan Archives

Although the abolition of the slave trade act was passed in 1807, it wasn't until the Slavery Abolition Act was passed in 1833 that owning slaves was made illegal in Britain and the colonies. This "Account of Slaves and Stock at Greenwich Park" is a list of land and property owned by a property-owner living at Greenwich Park. The slaves are listed alongside cattle, as if these people were no more important than livestock.

For a transcript of the document visit the London Metropolitan Archives website:

[http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/corporation/lma\\_learning/schoolmate/Bal/sm\\_bal\\_stories\\_detail.asp?ID=235](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/corporation/lma_learning/schoolmate/Bal/sm_bal_stories_detail.asp?ID=235)



**A Map Of Deptford, 1623.**

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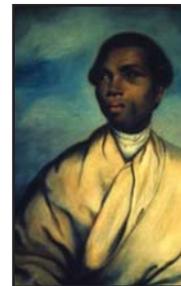
This is a map of the dockyard and town of Deptford in 1623, with additions by John Evelyn, including a drawing of John Evelyn's house, Sayes Court.



**Frontispiece The Interesting Narrative of the Life of O. Equiano**

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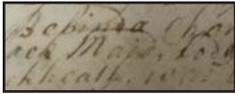
This is the front page of the book Olaudah Equiano wrote of the story of his life as a slave, kidnapped in Africa by slave traders. When he came to Britain he arrived at Deptford and it is thought that he learnt to read while staying at Maze Hill. His book was used as evidence in the campaign to abolish the slave trade and Olaudah Equiano toured Britain to promote his book and promote the campaign.



**Portrait of a Man, said to be Francis Barber**

© Dr Johnson's House

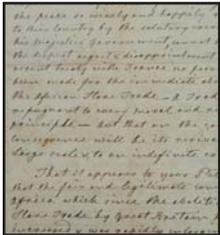
Francis Barber was born a slave in Jamaica in the eighteenth century. He was later freed and went to work as a servant and secretary to Dr Samuel Johnson.



### Belinda Charlton's baptism, recorded in the parish register.

© Local History and Archives Centre, Lewisham

This is part of the page of the parish register that records the baptism of Belinda Charlton 'a black maid lodging at Blackheath' at St Margaret's Lee on 13th June 1725.

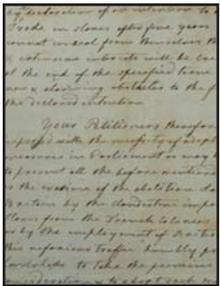


### The Lee Petition 1814 (page 1)

© Local History and Archives Centre, Lewisham

The Lee Petition was part of a campaign organized by a group of Quakers, the Friends of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, to make France abolish their slave trade. (The British slave trade, though not slavery itself, had been abolished in 1807). Forty people, men and women, signed the petition.

As a result of the Friends of the Abolition of the Slave Trade's campaign, between June 29 and 30 July 1814 864 petitions with a total of 755,000 signatures were sent to the House of Commons. Lee was one place that submitted a petition.



### The Lee Petition 1814 (page 2)

© Local History and Archives Centre, Lewisham

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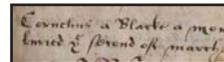


### The Lee Petition 1814 (page 3)

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### Entry in the parish records for 1593 recording the burial of 'Cornelius a Blackamoor'

© Local History and Archives Centre, Lewisham

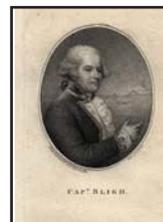
This is the earliest known record of a black person who lived in Lewisham. Cornelius was buried on 2nd March 1593 at St Margaret's church in Lee. Black people were often referred to as blackamoors at that time.



### John Benbow after Sir Godfrey Kneller.

© © National Portrait Gallery

This portrait of Vice Admiral John Benbow was made in 1701, one year before he died from a wound received in battle with the French in the Caribbean. He was buried in Jamaica. He was a naval officer who lived in Deptford and fought to defend British colonies in the Caribbean.



### William Bligh by John Condé, after John Russell

© National Portrait Gallery

William Bligh (1754-1817) was an admiral and explorer who sailed from Deptford aboard the Bounty. He introduced the breadfruit plant from Tahiti to the Caribbean, to be grown as cheap food for slaves.



**Thomas Clarkson by Carl Frederik von Breda oil on canvas, 1788**

© National Portrait Gallery

Thomas Clarkson was a frequent visitor to Hatcham House in New Cross Gate. He was an abolition campaigner, who set up the Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in 1787 with Granville Sharp. He travelled around England's ports, including Deptford, to promote the abolition campaign and investigate slave ships.

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**James Ramsay by Carl Frederik von Breda 1789**

© National Portrait Gallery

Reverend James Ramsay was the vicar of St Peter's and St Paul's church in Teston, Kent. He had been on slave ships and lived for a while in the Caribbean, so he had first-hand experience of the horrors of the slave trade. With his servant Nestor he worked for the abolition campaign, preparing evidence for the Parliamentary Committee of Enquiry.

You can read his article, *Objections to the Abolition of the slave Trade with answers on the Recovered Histories website* [www.recoveredhistories.org](http://www.recoveredhistories.org)

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**Toussaint L'Ouverture by François Séraphin Delpech, after Nicolas-Eustache Maurin lithograph, early 19th century**

© National Portrait Gallery

Toussaint L'Ouverture led the slave revolt, starting in 1791, that transformed the French colony of St Domingue into the independent country of Haiti, with Toussaint L'Ouverture as governor. This showed enslaved people throughout the Caribbean that they could fight for freedom and win. In 1793, during a war with France, Britain tried to capture St Domingue and failed. This showed the British officers that enslaved people were determined to fight for their freedom.

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**Ignatius Sancho by Francesco Bartolozzi, after Thomas Gainsborough, engraving, published 1802 (1768)**

© National Portrait Gallery

Ignatius Sancho was born on a slave ship and lived and worked in Greenwich. Eventually he opened a grocery shop in Westminster, selling, among other products, sugar and tobacco produced by slaves. His book of the *Letters of Ignatius Sancho, An African* was published in 1782, two years after his death. It became a best seller and was used as evidence to support the campaign to end slavery.

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**Thomas Paine by Laurent Dabos 1791**

© National Portrait Gallery

Writer Thomas Paine published his book *Rights of Man* in 1791, provoking debate across Britain about human rights and the slave trade.

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**Granville Sharp by George Dance, 1794**

© National Portrait Gallery

Granville Sharp was a founding member of the Abolition Committee. He campaigned with Thomas Clarkson and Olaudah Equiano and is said to have been a regular visitor at Hatcham House in New Cross Gate.

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**Samuel Pepys by John Hayls oil on canvas, 1666**

© National Portrait Gallery

From 1665 to 1673 Samuel Pepys visited Deptford frequently in his role as Surveyor-General of the Victualling for the Royal Navy. The Red House stores, where Royal Navy ships were victualled (stocked with food, clothes and other provisions) was where the Pepys Estate now stands.

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**John Wesley by William Hamilton 1788**

© National Portrait Gallery

John Wesley was a preacher who founded the Methodist Church. He toured the country preaching sermons, and records in Lewisham archive show that he stayed at a house known as the Limes on the site of 155 - 171 Lewisham High Street in the eighteenth century. He is thought to have preached at a chapel on Deptford High Street.

Towards the end of his life, John Wesley gave sermons on the immorality of the slave trade. He read Olaudah Equiano's book, *The Interesting Narrative* while on his deathbed and it is said to be the last secular (non-religious) book that he read.

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**John Evelyn by Hendrick Van der Borch 1641**

© National Portrait Gallery. From a Private Collection.

John Evelyn, treasurer of the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, lived at Sayes Court in Deptford from 1652 to 1694. In 1697 Peter the Great, the Czar of Russia, stayed at Sayes Court while he visited the Royal Dockyard to learn the latest shipbuilding techniques that were being used there.

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