

THE LANCASTER SLAVE TRADE, ABOLITION & FAIR TRADE TRAIL



HISTORICAL SLAVERY

Slavery has existed for thousands of years. In ancient times tribes would capture people from enemy tribes and use them to do their work for them.

But slavery only expanded on a large scale in the 1700s, after the beginning of the triangular transatlantic slave trade in the seventeenth century.

This was a three-way trade between the Americas, Africa and Europe. Manufactured goods such as guns were shipped from Europe to Africa.

These goods were traded for Africans who were forced into slavery and sent to the Americas

on ships. Conditions on the ships were so bad that many people died before they even reached the New World.

In the Americas the enslaved Africans were sold and with the money the traders bought tobacco, mahogany, cotton, sugar and rum, which they brought back to Britain.

Lancaster was a major port in the North West and the fourth biggest slave trading port in England. This tour will show you around the houses and buildings connected to the transatlantic slave trade and the campaigns for fair trade.



MODERN SLAVERY

Although the trading of slaves was abolished by Britain in 1807, slavery itself was not officially abolished in British colonies until 1833; enslaved Africans still worked on American plantations until 1865. This does not mean, however, that the cruelty of slavery is confined to the past.

Although no longer permissible by international law, millions of men, women and children are enslaved. For example, in West Africa, children are sold to cocoa plantation owners and beaten or tied up if they try to escape.

In Asia, families are tricked into sending their children to work in carpet workshops, where they work 14 hours a day, every day of the week. In this country hundreds of people are 'trafficked' through our borders and forced to work for no pay, with no possibility of escape. If you want to know more about modern slavery and what can be done about it, visit: www.antislavery.org If you want to ensure that no enslaved people produced the food you are eating or the products you are buying, make sure you buy fairly traded products. For further teaching resources on slavery or fair trade visit: Global Link, YMCA, New Road, Lancaster, LA1 1EZ www.globallink.org.uk

1 FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE Begin at the Friends Meeting House next to the Train Station.

Members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) have worshipped on this site since 1677. Quakers were some of the earliest opponents of the Slave Trade and Slavery. Nevertheless, individual Quakers in Lancaster were substantially involved in the West-India trade and the African slave trade. The slave trader and life-long Quaker Dodshon Foster was buried here. The unmarked site of his burial is to the right of the Meeting House by the main path. For more on Foster see his house **(7)**

2 20 CASTLE PARK Turn right past the Train Station up a narrow pathway. Turn right to go up Castle Park, keep right and look for number 20.

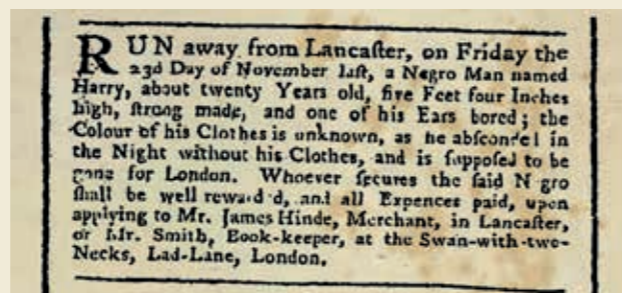
This was the home of the Satterthwaite family who, like several Quaker merchant families, were at different times owners of enslaved Africans. By 1778 the family were Anglicans and had a servant called Fanny (Frances) Elizabeth Johnson who was originally an enslaved African from St Kitts in the West Indies.

3 LANCASTER CASTLE Opposite you is Lancaster Castle which until very recently was a prison and is still a Court of Law.

Quakers were tried, tortured and imprisoned here for their religious beliefs, including George Fox and Margaret Fell, who both campaigned to improve the inhumane living conditions in the cells. Some prisoners died as a result of the poor living conditions.

4 PRIORY CHURCH Turn left and go around the Castle towards the Priory Church. You will see a sign saying 'Public Footpath - St George's Quay 300 yards'.

This Priory Church was built mainly in the fifteenth century. The tower was rebuilt in 1759 and used as a landmark for ships on the River Lune. See if you can spot the memorial inscriptions to the Lindow and Rawlinson families (outside the church) and the Hinde family (inside the church) who all made money through the slave trade and West-India trade. James Hinde's slave-servant Henry (Harry) Hinde was baptised here in 1761. He ran away in 1764 about 20 years old and a runaway advertisement was published in London with a reward for his return. Another slave runaway was an *Ibo* boy who escaped from his master the



Rev. Thomas Clarkson of Heysham in 1765: he had African markings on his face and spoke with a Lancashire dialect. If you look at the small memorial garden at the side of the Priory Church, you will find a stone marking the baptism of Fanny Johnson, enslaved to the Satterthwaite family. After her death her hand was mummified and passed down the Satterthwaite family until it was laid to rest in 1997 in the memorial garden (stone is marked F.E.J. 2nd April 1778).

5 ST GEORGE'S QUAY Follow the footpath and signs, over the cycle path down to St George's Quay.

St George's Quay was built between 1750 and 1755, replacing the old muddy bank making it easier to load and unload goods from



the ships. Oxford a black slave-servant from Barbados is recorded as being here in 1759 in the day-book of the Lancaster merchant Henry Tindall accompanying his master's children William and Edmund Eversley who were attending schools in Kellet and Scorton. The Eversley family continued owning slaves and William's son was to receive £71 17s. from the British government in compensation for six slaves after emancipation in 1833. Slave-owners were compensated, enslaved Africans still await justice and reparations. Much money was made here. The Quay grew bigger and many warehouses were built.

6 MARITIME MUSEUM Turn left along the Quay until you reach the Maritime Museum.

This building was built in 1764 and designed by Richard Gillow, the furniture manufacturer, to service the expanding West India and slave trade. It used to be the Customs House where the ship owners paid taxes for the goods they were trading. The museum hosts a permanent exhibition on Lancaster and the slave trade.

7 DODSHON FOSTER'S HOUSE To the left of the Maritime Museum is Dodshon Foster's house and warehouse.

Dodshon Foster was a very wealthy man, and a Quaker. He owned two small ships which during five voyages carried 650 enslaved Africans. Some died on the ships.

8 SLAVE TRADE MEMORIAL

Retrace your steps along the Quay, passing the footpath you came down, and continue under the bridge. On the left is *The Captured Africans*, a sculpture commissioned by the Slave Trade Arts Memorial Project to mark Lancaster's involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It is also the end point of the first stage and the start of the second stage of the Fair Trade Way; the six-day Fair Trade heritage trail from Garstang to Keswick.



Kevin Dalton-Johnson ©

Created by Kevin Dalton-Johnson and erected in 2005 it was the first sculpted quayside memorial to victims of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in Britain. The sugar, cotton and mahogany wealth represent the goods that people brought from the Americas with the money they had made selling enslaved Africans. It also names some of the ships, captains, and how many Africans they carried.

9 GLOBAL LINK Continue past the modern flats to the end of the road. Opposite you will see the YMCA building, which used to be a warehouse. Global Link is now housed here.

The achievement of Fairtrade status for Lancaster, Morecambe and District was facilitated by Global Link, who also delivers anti-racist and fair trade awareness raising work in schools and with the wider community www.globallink.org.uk

10 ST JOHN'S CHURCH Cross the road at the pelican crossing in front of the bus station. Turn left, cross over to the car park and walk around onto Chapel Street, turn right and walk to the end.

St John's Church was built around 1754 when Lancaster was prosperous (due to the slave trade). On the side you can see a memorial stone to John Lowther. He and two other men named John owned the last Lancaster-owned slave ship called *The Johns*.

11 GRAND THEATRE, ST LEONARD'S GATE Cross the road to St Leonard's Gate and the Theatre is on the right.

This venue when it was known as the Theatre Royal, Lancaster played host to the great African American actor Ira Aldridge in 1827 and 1832. He is thought to have been the first black actor to play *Othello* on the British stage. The African American abolitionist Moses Roper spoke here between 1837 and 1848 when it was a temporary venue for Temperance meetings.

12 MOOR LANE NORTH AND SOUTH MILLS Rejoin Moor Lane (where in 1612 the Pendle 'Witches' walked to their hangings) and walk up the hill to the Mills by the canal bridge.

Lancaster was also a cotton town and expanded in the early nineteenth century with the use of slave produced cotton. The new canal (link to Lancaster completed in 1797) enabled coal to be brought directly to run the mills helping speed up the industrial revolution. Lancaster slave merchants such as James Sawrey invested in the canals in the 1790s showing a direct link between slave profits and industrial growth. These two mills were purchased by the Cheshire-based Greg family in 1825 and 1846 who had made substantial profits through slavery and in the development of the famous Quarry Bank Mill in Cheshire.

13 BENCH AT CORNER OF QUERNMORE AND WYRESDALE ROAD Continue up Moor Lane past Moor Gate up to Wyresdale Road; follow directions to Williamson Park.

This bench is one of the few signs left of the Cotton Famine (1861–1865). Lancaster was one of 29 towns in the County that handed out extra Poor Relief after the embargo of cotton by the North in an attempt to destroy the economy of the Confederate and slave-holding South during the American Civil War. The consequences for the Lancashire economy were severe with hundreds of thousands losing their jobs. Poor Relief led to work like the laying out of Williamson Park (a hundred metres up the hill). This bench (along with two others in the park) was donated by philanthropists for rest for the vagrant poor. The sacrifices of the workers was to lead to the ending of the slave economy in the American South and the defeat of the Confederacy. Abraham Lincoln acknowledged this in a letter to the workers in Lancashire in 1863 praising their 'sublime Christian heroism' and sending ships with food relief.

14 LANCASTER TOWN HALL Follow East Road downhill, past the Boys Grammar School and Cathedral, until you reach Dalton Square and the Town Hall.

This is where Lancaster, Morecambe and District Fairtrade status was declared on 5 March 2004. A voluntary Fairtrade steering group works hard to maintain this status. John Bond (1778 – 1856) of 1 Dalton Square, twice appointed as Mayor, inherited several plantations and over 700 enslaved people in British Guiana and Grenada from his slave trading uncle Thomas Bond. His inheritance included a cotton plantation in Guiana called Lancaster. He received compensation of over £40,000 from the government in the 1830s.

15 ODDFELLOWS HALL, 5–7 BROCK STREET Cross the road to Brock Street at the main traffic lights. Straight ahead 20 metres.

After slavery was abolished in Britain and the Empire in 1833 many African American speakers visited to campaign for similar emancipation in the United States to build an 'Anti-Slavery Wall' of solidarity across the Atlantic. James Watkins spoke here twice in late April 1852 and twice in August 1854. James C. Thompson also spoke here on 21 October 1861.

16 ST THOMAS' CHURCH Cross over the road and follow the one-way system for 30 metres, then turn right onto Marton Street. On your left, at the back of St Thomas' Church, you will see the sign for Craft Aid.

Craft Aid opened in 1985 and was the first shop in Lancaster to sell only fairly traded goods. From the time that the Fairtrade Mark was introduced in 1994 it has stocked products with this Fairtrade certification as well as many fair trade craft items.

17 OXFAM AND SINGLE STEP Follow Marton Street to the T-junction and turn right onto Penny Street. Almost immediately on your left you will see an alley that leads to the workers' cooperative Single Step, which was quick to put Fairtrade certified products on sale as they became available. Continue until you reach George Street. Just ahead you will see the Oxfam shop on your left, which was one of the first outlets nationally to sell fairly traded products.

18 NUMBER 1 QUEEN STREET Turn left onto Spring Garden Street until you reach the one-way system again. Cross at the pelican crossing onto Queen Street and look for number one.

This grand Georgian house was owned by a wealthy man called William Lindow. He traded enslaved Africans between the different islands in the West Indies. Living at this house as a servant was a man called John Chance who had been enslaved.

19 CITY MUSEUM Go back down King Street, past the Assembly Rooms on your left. Turn right at the traffic lights at Waterstones onto Market Street to Market Square.

The City Museum was once the Town Hall, where many of the wealthy slave traders were made freemen of the city, or received other honours. Thomas Hinde, who was captain of a slave ship, became Mayor here. Thomas's brother was master of the runaway slave/servant Harry Hinde (see 4).

20 THE SUN HOTEL (Formerly the Sun Inn) Walk around the back of the Museum and turn right down New Street. At the end of New Street turn left and you will find The Sun Inn.

This was a coaching inn in the 1700s, where merchants and captains would meet up to trade and make all sorts of deals. One slave ship we know of that was sold here was called *The Africa*.

21 GILLOW'S WAREHOUSE Continue to the end of Church Street and cross the one-way system. Bear left up Castle Hill where you will see a doorway with the Gillows' Warehouse sign over the door and plaque.

This famous Lancaster furniture manufacturing family had shares in the slaving vessel *The Gambia* in the 1750s. Their trade was directly implicated in slavery with enslaved Africans harvesting the mahogany and trading occurring such as that of the merchant James Sawrey whose slave ship *Fenton* was packed with 541 planks of mahogany on its return from Jamaica in 1785.

22 ROBERT GILLOW PUB Rejoin China Street till you reach the first right turn, the pub is opposite the Royal Kings Arms.

This pub named after the founder of the furniture firm, Robert Gillow (1704–1772) has no record of his dealings in slave-produced goods or of his investments in a Transatlantic slave voyage. Do you think we should lobby for there to be a leaflet explaining this in the pub so that his status as local business hero can be challenged?

The FIG TREE – International Fair Trade Centre EDUCATION & CHOCOLATE



The FIG Tree is the world's first international Fair Trade Centre. Originally located in nearby Garstang. It focuses on three interrelated local heritage themes:

- Fair Trade and Fair Trade Towns with Garstang being the world first Fair Trade Town
- The British Transatlantic Slave Trade and its abolition with nearby Lancaster being the fourth largest slave trade port in Britain
- The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), which was founded in '1652 country' that lies to the north of Garstang and Lancaster

The FIG Tree provides educational outreach and learning facilities for all ages, produces and sells bean to bar chocolate using beans sourced from the Fairtrade cooperative Kuapa Kokoo, Ghana and oversees the Fair Trade Way; the world's first long-distance fair trade heritage trail that links Fairtrade Towns between Garstang and Keswick.

For further information contact:
Bruce Crowther, Director: 07526 713255
Website: www.fairtradecentre.org
Fair Trade Way Website: www.fairtradeway.org.uk

THANK YOU

The Friends of Lancaster Maritime Museum funded the initial trail with an Awards for All Lottery grant.

This town trail has been edited and updated by Global Link to include Fairtrade and Quaker heritage sites.

The updated trail was initiated and funded by The FIG Tree in Garstang as part of their Heritage Lottery Funded Fairtrade, Slave Trade and Quaker Project. www.fairtradecentre.org

With thanks for additional research to Drahoslava Machova, Melinda Elder, Hannah Rose Murray and Imogen Tyler.



This revised trail is based on original research by Professor Alan Rice for his regular guided Slave Trade Trails.
For information on these contact: arice@uclan.ac.uk

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Designed by Lancaster City Museums