

## My family connections with slavery and anti-slavery

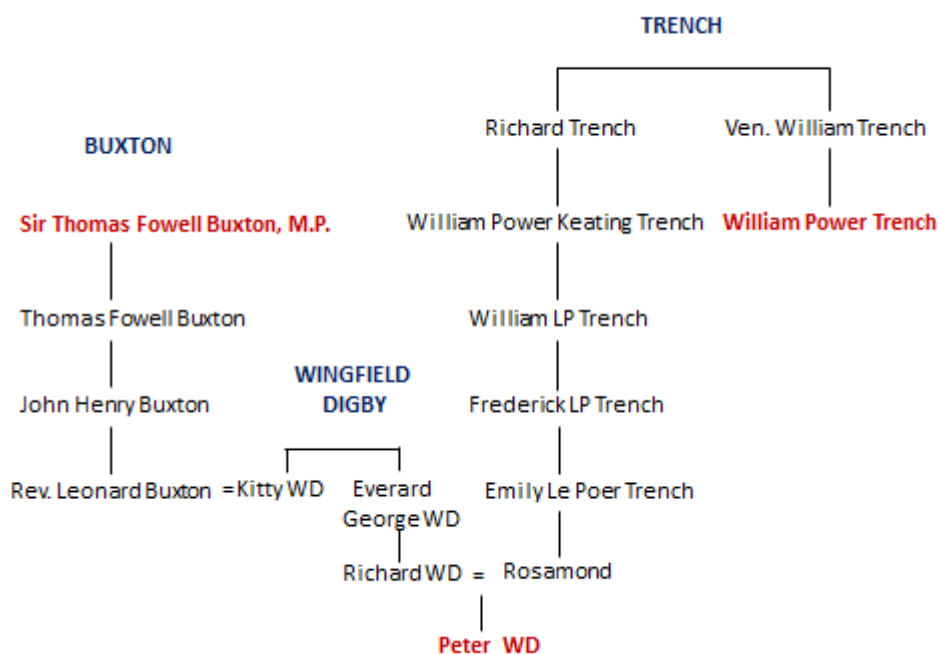
Peter Wingfield-Digby<sup>1</sup>

I want to introduce a personal note into the proceedings. I started out by thinking that slave owners on the one hand – and anti-slavery campaigners on the other – Involved other people, and that it was nothing to do with me. But since I look after the family tree for my extended family, it did not take me long to realise that I actually have a foot in both camps.

On my mother's side, a first cousin five times removed is a William Power Trench, who ran a plantation in Macknie, Jamaica, on the border of Clarendon and St Ann in Middlesex County. Jill tells me she thinks this was probably a coffee plantation. When compensation payments were made, Trench and his wife received more than £3,000, in respect of over 150 persons who were enslaved. So there is my slavery connection.

So now we come to my father's side of the family tree. In my paper today I mentioned Thomas Fowell Buxton, who had taken over from William Wilberforce as leader in parliament of the anti-slavery movement. My great aunt Kitty was married to the Reverend Leonard Buxton. He was in fact a great grandson of this very same Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, MP.

So there we have it, slave ownership on my mother's side, and anti-slavery campaigners on my father's side.



<sup>1</sup> pwdigby at btinternet.com. This short note was presented at the Workshop on Slavery, Slave-ownership and Devon and Cornwall, held at the Exeter Community Centre on 14 November 2015, as part of the University College London project on the Legacies of British Slave-Ownership.