



Centre for the Study of the

# Legacies of British Slave-ownership

[www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs)

## Newsletter October 2017

### Historical benefits to universities

The University of Glasgow has [appointed Stephen Mullen](#) to a year-long post researching the connections between the University and slavery, including the sources of bequests made to the University.

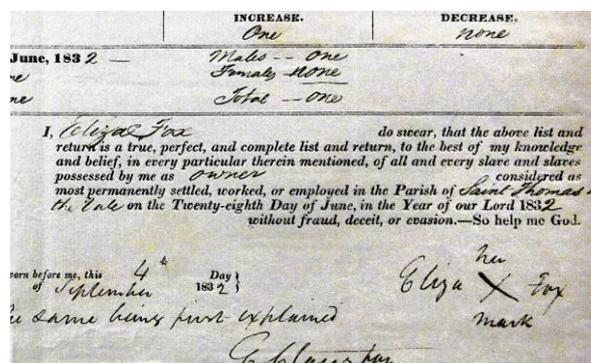
Glasgow's role as a port for slave-grown tobacco and sugar is well-known. The University itself has an extensive database, [The University of Glasgow Story](#), with biographical details of alumni, some of whom feature in the LBS database. Glasgow is the first British university to directly address the role of slave-derived wealth in its development, following similar moves in the US. Most notably Brown University in Rhode Island in 2003 issued a [full report](#) on its historical relationship to slavery and organised public programmes to reflect on the meaning of this history in the present.

Stephen Mullen has also been working on the [Runaway Slaves in Britain](#) project which will publish a database of formerly enslaved people who escaped from bondage in Georgian Britain, with much of the data gleaned from newspaper adverts for the return of 'runaways'. The project's website includes the [St Lauretia](#) programme where a hypothetical island has been created in Minecraft, providing users with a 3D platform to explore the physical structures of three distinct slave plantations. The site includes information sheets and help with getting started with Minecraft.

### Edward and Eliza

Mary Mills's three-volume work *Edward and Eliza* is available for free download on the University of Cambridge Repository: [volume 1](#); [volume 2](#); and [volume 3](#). The central story is of Mary's ancestors [Edward Clouston](#) and [Eliza Fox](#).

Edward was born in Orkney in 1787. He arrived in Jamaica in the early 1800s where he worked as an overseer, becoming an attorney or estate manager and acquiring enslaved people of his own. Eliza Fox was born into slavery on Sandy Gut estate in St Thomas-in-the-Vale in the early 1790s. She had three children with Edward and he paid for her to be manumitted in 1827. Their partnership could not be said to be unusual but the meticulously researched story itself, of the lives of the individuals against the back-drop of nineteenth-century Jamaica, with Mary's own tale of discovery, hundreds of images and an array of original sources, is extraordinary.



Eliza Fox's 1832 slave return was the first document Mary found linking Edward and Eliza. This is a detail from the return which Eliza swore before Edward Clouston. Source: National Archives, Kew, T71/32 p. 125



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### 'Who built modern Britain?'

**Glasgow, 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Nick Draper will be giving a lunch-time talk at the Gallery of Modern Art, Royal Exchange Square in Glasgow at 1pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Entitled 'Who built modern Britain?', Nick's talk is part of an extensive programme organised by the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights Scotland. See [here](#) for details of all CRER Scotland events in Glasgow this month.

### 'The Slave-owners of Bloomsbury'

**London, 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Our exhibition of slave-owning connections in the area around UCL will be [on display](#) in the foyer of Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square in London from 11am to 5pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October as part of the annual [Bloomsbury Festival](#).

The exhibition, along with similar panels for Manchester, the Midlands, Croydon, Wandsworth, Devon and Scotland can be [downloaded](#) from our website.

### The Fearless Benjamin Lay

**London, 26<sup>th</sup> October**

Marcus Rediker will be talking about his new book, *The Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quaker dwarf who became the first revolutionary abolitionist* at the Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, Malet Street, London on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. Benjamin Lay, a Quaker sailor with dwarfism who was born in 1682, moved to Barbados in 1718 where he developed passionate anti-slavery beliefs. Later moving to Pennsylvania, he became a very vocal and shocking abolitionist campaigner.

The evening will include a talk, an opportunity to ask questions and a wine reception. The event is free and there is no need to book.



Benjamin Lay (1681-1759), Quaker abolitionist, by William Williams (1790)



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### WHBBH, 26<sup>th</sup> October

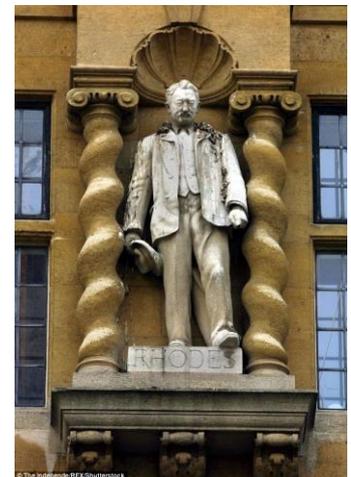
The seventh '[What's happening in Black British history?](#)' will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at the Senate Room, Senate House, Malet Street, London, from 10am to 7pm. Convened by Miranda Kaufmann and Michael Ohajura, the keynote speaker will be David Olusoga. The sessions are: Broadcasting Black British history; What Do Young People See Happening in Black British History?; and Imagination and Reality: Africans in Sixteenth Century Britain.

Details of Miranda Kaufmann's book tour for her recently released book *Black Tudors: the untold story* can be found [here](#).

### 'Statues must Fall! Erasing history or righting wrongs?' London, 29<sup>th</sup> October

Nick Draper will be taking part in a panel in the [Battle of Ideas 2017](#), a weekend-long event to be held at the Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London, on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October. The '[Statues must fall!](#)' panel discussion is in Cinema 2 from 10am to 11.30am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>. [Tickets](#) are available for specific days rather than individual events, with a special rate for school students.

The way we remember contentious histories has been hotly debated recently in the wake of the campaign to remove the statue of Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville, Virginia. The [renaming of Colston Hall](#) in Bristol sparked controversy in Britain earlier this year. According to Nick, 'It's a wider process that's unfolding in the US, and is probably true in France to a degree. Anywhere there is the significant imprint of slavery, and maybe the wider imprint of colonialism, then this will happen more and more. We've had, in the end, a public culture that has been relatively unreflective of the post-colonial moment, and that's no longer a tenable position.'



The statue of Cecil Rhodes in Oriel College, Oxford, focus of the 'Rhodes must Fall' campaign

### Bluecoat 300 Liverpool, 24<sup>th</sup> November

Catherine Hall will be the keynote speaker at a [weekend conference](#) held to evaluate the presence of slavery and the Black Atlantic in the history of [Bluecoat](#) at the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November.