

READING'S SLAVE LINKS QUIZ

Answers

1. The mural (RG1 4PS) celebrates neglected hero(ines)—from **Queen Nefertiti** to **Marcus Garvey**—and includes Black role models: **Harriet Tubman**, who escaped from slavery and guided others to freedom as a conductor of the Underground Railroad from the American South, author and abolitionist **Oludah Equinoo** and **Toussaint L'Ouverture**, one of the leaders of the successful slave revolt against the French in Saint Domingue, that established independant Haiti.
2. Albion Terrace (RG1 5BL now 45 London Rd) was built between 1825-35 by a local architect Richard Billing. It was bought by **General Robert Haynes** (1769-1851) a notable planter in Barbados, owning several large family estates mainly in St John Parish, and became Lieutenant-General of the militia and Speaker of the Barbados Assembly. Under the terms of the Anti Slavery Act of 1833, in 1836 he was paid £5404 8s 4d by the British government in compensation for the lossof 243 slaves. He is buried in St Giles churchyard, Reading (RG1 2SB).
3. **Daniel Blagrove** (1603-68) was elected MP for Reading in 1640. One of the 'regicides' who signed the death warrant of King Charles I, he was rewarded with Cardiff Hall estate, Jamaica by Oliver Cromwell.

The following is an Account of the Personalty of Thomas Blagrove in the Parish of Saint James (now that part known by the Name of Trelanney) as taken in the Year 1767 For the particular Use of Contra annua.

Value of					
81	Negroe Men	£1815	"	"	
18	Negroe Boys	550	"	"	
110	Negroe Women	2070	"	"	
23	Negroe Gals	710	"	"	£3175
162					
37	Males	110	"	"	
57	Sheep Horses	26	10	"	
52	Cattle	516	"	"	652 10
	Furniture				69 5
					<u>£3496 15</u>

Accounts of Thomas Blagrove, 1767
credit: Berkshire Record Office D/EX1271/1

List of Slaves on Pembroke Estate as taken by duty in the year 1774

<i>Men</i>				<i>Women</i>			
<i>Scoffey</i>	<i>Sam</i>	<i>Amma</i>	<i>Simon</i>	<i>Bess</i>	<i>Suntos</i>	<i>Charity</i>	<i>Phibba</i>
<i>Simon</i>	<i>Cusar</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>Scoffey</i>	<i>Quashba</i>	<i>Rue</i>	<i>Nancy</i>	<i>Beck</i>
<i>Wagoe</i>	<i>Duke</i>	<i>Charles</i>	<i>Peter</i>	<i>Juno</i>	<i>Celia</i>	<i>Nanny</i>	<i>Martylle</i>
<i>Peter</i>	<i>Ambrose</i>	<i>Harry</i>	<i>Davy</i>	<i>Parthenia</i>	<i>Daphne</i>	<i>Diana</i>	<i>Dorcas</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Cuffie</i>	<i>Sambo</i>	<i>Mitshie</i>	<i>Phibba</i>	<i>Margaretha</i>	<i>Helen</i>	<i>Nabba</i>
<i>Duau</i>	<i>Quashie</i>	<i>Jackie</i>	<i>Prince</i>	<i>Katey</i>	<i>Linda</i>	<i>Fanny</i>	<i>Porchy</i>
<i>Charles</i>	<i>Hercules</i>	<i>Toby</i>	<i>Job</i>	<i>Saba</i>	<i>Diana</i>	<i>Katey</i>	<i>Mimba</i>
<i>Ned</i>	<i>Hector</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Jackey</i>	<i>Joan</i>	<i>Peggy</i>	<i>Daphne</i>	<i>Suntos</i>
<i>Dublin</i>	<i>Damon</i>	<i>Prince</i>	<i>Pompy</i>	<i>Phibba</i>	<i>Floa</i>	<i>Duon</i>	<i>Fancy</i>
<i>10 Port</i>	<i>10 Cato</i>	<i>70 Hamlet</i>	<i>10 M. Charles</i>	<i>10 Daphne</i>	<i>10 Phyllis</i>	<i>10 Nabba</i>	<i>Rose</i>
<i>Fortune</i>	<i>Sambo</i>	<i>Sancho</i>	<i>Marlbro</i>	<i>Fidelia</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>Quashba</i>	<i>Joseph</i>
<i>Promwell</i>	<i>Myron</i>	<i>Mitshie</i>	<i>Sammy</i>	<i>Salinda</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>Sally</i>	
<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Sussex</i>	<i>Tom</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Amelia</i>	<i>Maxima</i>	<i>Sarah</i>	

Inventory of slaves on the Pembroke estate, 1774
credit: Berkshire Record Office D/EX1271/1

The Berkshire Record Office holds many historical documents relating to local involvement to the slave trade. These include the accounts of **Thomas Blagrove** showing that his slaves on the Trelawny Estate were worth £8175 in 1767 and an inventory in his will, dating from 1774, that listed the names of his chattel slaves on the Pembroke Estate. The family built a fine Georgian house in its Calcot Park estate in 1759 (RG31 7RW).



Calcot Park, Bath Rd, Tilehurst, c 1845
Henry Fox Talbot credit: Science Museum

His son **John Blagrove the younger** (1753-1824) was born in Jamaica but like many of the West Indian élite he spent his childhood in England and was educated at Eton and Oxford. He went on the European Grand Tour and sat for the renowned Italian portrait painter Pompeo Batoni. During the Second Maroon War against the Trelawny Town maroons he was 'most actively engaged, and shared in its privations and dangers'.



Portrait of John Blagrove, 1774
Pompeo Batoni credit: National Gallery of Jamaica



Cardiff Hall, St Anns, Jamaica, 1821.
James Hakewill credit: Boston Public Library

4. **Anthony Gilbert Storer** (1782-1818) was part of a family with roots going back to the early day's of Britain's colonisation of Jamaica and owned several estates in Westmoreland. Continuing the family tradition of marrying into the Jamaican 'plantocracy' in 1806 he married **Ann Katherine Hill** (1785-1854), who was the daughter of Thomas Hill of Shropshire and Westmoreland, Jamaica. Between 1808-16 they lived in his country seat in Purley Park (RG8 8EH) that he had inherited from his distinguished, Eton and Cambridge-educated uncle **Anthony Morris Storer** (1746-99), MP for Carlisle and Morpeth.



Anthony Morris Storer MP, 1770
Sir Nathaniel Dance-Holland, RA

Parish records in Westmoreland show Anthony Gilbert Storer had two children out of wedlock with Eliza Wedderburn a free woman of colour. Henry Gilbert Storer was baptised and buried in 1816. His sister Eliza Gilbert Storer was baptised in January 1819, after her father had died of a fever in the Bahamas.

In 1824 Ann Katherine Storer was accused of the maltreatment of Philip Thompson, a black servant who was bought as a slave in Jamaica. According to Thompson's testimony, '*flogging was the usual punishment for any misdemeanour and he was often ill treated*'. She was found not guilty. In 1836 Mrs Storer was paid a total of £9,796 2s 8d in compensation for the loss of 559 slaves from her four estates in Westmoreland under the terms of the Abolition of Slavery Act.



Anthony Gilbert Storer, c 1815
Sir Martin Archer Shee credit: Museo del Prado

There is a sculpted monument to Anthony Storer in St Mary's Church, Purley-on-Thames (RG8 8BJ) that includes his widow, one son and four daughters and the inscription:

**SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
ANTHONY GILBERT STORER ESQ^R
OF PURLY PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS, AND OF
BELLE ISLE AND FROME,
IN THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA;
WHERE HE WAS MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
PARISH OF WESTMORELAND.
HE DIED AT NEW PROVIDENCE, ON THE 13TH OF JUNE 1818,
AND LIES BURIED IN A MAUSOLEUM ERECTED
ON THE ESTATE OF BELLE ISLE, BY HIS WIDOW, ANN K.
STORER, WHO HAS LIKEWISE
CAUSED THIS MONUMENT
TO BE PLACED HERE IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE
OF HIS MANY AMIABLE AND EXCELLENT QUALITIES.**

5. Reading-born **General the Honorable John Broderick** (1765-1842) was the youngest son of George Brodrick, 3rd Viscount Midleton. Like many younger sons of the aristocracy who would not inherit, in 1782 he joined the British army – the élite First Regiment of Foot Guards (renamed Grenadier Guards in 1815). Following an illustrious career he was promoted to Major-General and served as Governor of Martinique (1809-12) during the British occupation. He built Sidmouth House (RG1 5BN now part of Kendrick School, 41 London Rd) in 1835 after he received £2019 4s 3d for 122 slaves on his estate in Antigua.
6. Britain captured Jamaica in 1655 and recruited independent militias to defend the island and suppress slave revolts. In 1748 these were combined by the governer into **Edward Trelawny's Regiment of Foot**



49th Regiment of Foot, 1751

David Morier credit: *Royal Collection Trust*

to protect plantation owners from the 'threat of an outbreak of negroes'. In 1751 it was rechristened the 49th (Hertfordshire) Regiment of Foot and in 1880 merged with the 66th Regiment to form the Royal Berkshire Regiment based at Brock Barracks (RG30 1HW). The iconic Maiwand Lion in Forbury Gardens (RG1 3EJ) famously commemorates the soldiers from the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment fighting for the British imperial cause in Helmand province, Afghanistan in 1880.



Reading, The Barracks, 1904 credit: Reading Museum

7. Reading Museum (RG1 1QH) has a set of shackles that are probably from Sierra Leone: 'Cut from slaves by the late Col. Sir Frederick A Cardew, K.C.M.G. Governor and Commander in Chief of Sierra Leone 1894-1900'. This was a period after slavery was abolished in Europe and the Americas but still practiced in parts of Africa. The Museum also has a pair of nips used to cut sugarloaf into smaller pieces.



8. **Admiral Arthur Forrest** (1716-70) came from a planter family with extensive interests in Jamaica and served in the Royal Navy's Jamaica Squadron. He bought Forest Lodge, Binfield in 1760 and Grove House, Emmer Green (now part of Highdown School, RG4 8LR). At the time of his death Forrest owned six sugar estates in Jamaica. In 1838, under the provisions of the Slavery Compensation Act, his grandson **Thomas Forrest** of Binfield was paid £2261 0s 2d for the loss of 113 slaves on the Bellfield Estate, Jamaica.



Grove House when it was part of The Grove Secondary School

9. In 1788 both Henley and Newbury petitioned parliament to abolish the slave trade but Reading was slow to support the campaign. In September 1788 *The Reading Mercury* ran an article arguing that the slave trade was 'absolutely necessary for Britain if she means to hold her rank among the nations'.

The Quakers and non-conformist chapels were at the forefront of the abolitionist cause. In March 1792 Reading finally presented its first independent petition:

The humble petition of the inhabitants of the borough of Reading. We, your humble petitioners, having maturely considered the African slave trade, presume to lay before you our most serious conviction, that it is a system of commerce repugnant to every principle of sound policy, justice, and humanity; and the most iniquitous that ever disgraced a civilised nation. In the full possession of civil and religious liberty, we feel it our duty, to exert our utmost endeavours, in extending these blessings to the rest of mankind. We, therefore, humbly pray your honourable house, to pass an act for abolishing a traffic, the continuance of which must ever prove disgraceful to the character of a free people.



Reading Friends Meeting House & Burial Ground (RG1 2SB)



Broad Street Independent Chapel, 1879 (RG1 2AP) [behind the printers]

10. The family papers of Richard Benyon the Younger (died 1796) include a cash book for 1775 recording monthly expenditure on the Englefield Estate (RG7 5EN). On 12 September M. Risdale was paid £19 19s 'for a black man', roughly the same amount used for the upkeep of the house each month. The Benyon family were *nabobs*—employees of the East India Company who made their fortunes by extracting the wealth of what became the 'Jewel in the Crown'.



Englefield House, Berkshire, 1832
John Constable credit: Victoria & Albert Museum