

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04005-2 - Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain

Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Legacies of British Slave-Ownership

This book re-examines the relationship between Britain and colonial slavery in a crucial period in the birth of modern Britain. Drawing on a comprehensive analysis of British slave-owners and mortgagees who received compensation from the state for the end of slavery, and tracing their trajectories in British life, the volume explores the commercial, political, cultural, social, intellectual, physical and imperial legacies of slave-ownership. It transcends conventional divisions in history-writing to provide an integrated account of one powerful way in which the Empire came home to Victorian Britain, and to reassess narratives of West Indian 'decline'. It will be of value to scholars not only of British economic and social history, but also of the histories of the Atlantic world, of the Caribbean and of slavery, as well as to those concerned with the evolution of ideas of race and difference and with the relationship between past and present.

CATHERINE HALL is Professor of History at University College London.

NICHOLAS DRAPER is Co-director of the Structure and Significance of British Caribbean Slave-Ownership 1763–1833 project in the Department of History at University College London.

KEITH MCCLELLAND is Co-director of the Structure and Significance of British Caribbean Slave-Ownership 1763–1833 project in the Department of History at University College London.

KATIE DONINGTON is a Research Fellow in the Department of History at University College London.

RACHEL LANG is an Administrator in the Department of History at University College London.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04005-2 - Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain

Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04005-2 - Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain

Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Legacies of British Slave-Ownership

*Colonial Slavery and the Formation of
Victorian Britain*

Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland,
Katie Donington and Rachel Lang



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-04005-2 - Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain
Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University’s mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107040052
© Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang 2014

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
Hall, Catherine, 1946–

Legacies of British slave-ownership : colonial slavery and the formation of Victorian Britain / Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang.

pages cm
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 978-1-107-04005-2 (hard back)
1. Slaveholders—Great Britain—History—19th century.
2. Slavery—Great Britain—History—19th century. 3. Slavery—Great Britain—Colonies—History—19th century. 4. Great Britain—Colonies—History—19th century. 5. Great Britain—History—19th century. I. Title.
HT1161.H35 2014
306.3’620941090034—dc23
2014012761

ISBN 978-1-107-04005-2 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-04005-2 - Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation
of Victorian Britain
Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	viii
1 Introduction	1
2 Possessing people: absentee slave-owners within British society	34
3 Helping to make Britain great: the commercial legacies of slave-ownership in Britain	78
4 Redefining the West India interest: politics and the legacies of slave-ownership	127
5 Reconfiguring race: the stories the slave-owners told	163
6 Transforming capital: slavery, family, commerce and the making of the Hibbert family	203
Conclusion	250
<i>Appendix 1: Making history in a prosopography</i>	253
<i>Appendix 2: Glossary of claimant categories</i>	281
<i>Appendix 3: A note on the database</i>	284
<i>Appendix 4: List of MPs 1832–80 who appear in the compensation records</i>	288
<i>Appendix 5: MPs and their connections: an indicative list</i>	294
<i>Bibliography</i>	298
<i>Index</i>	318

Illustrations

4.1	Number of West Indian MPs, 1833–80.	page 131
5.1	William Blake after John Gabriel Stedman, <i>A Suriname Planter in His Morning Dress</i> , engraving, 1793. (Source: © British Library)	165
5.2	George Cruikshank after Captain Frederick Marryat, <i>Puzzled which to choose!! Or the King of Tombuctoo offering one of his daughters in marriage to Capt. —</i> , hand-coloured etching, 1818. (Source: © British Library)	167
5.3	‘Coolie family’ in <i>At Last: A Christmas in the West Indies</i> , Charles Kingsley (1905). (Source: © British Library)	191
5.4	‘Coolie and negro’ in <i>At Last: A Christmas in the West Indies</i> , Charles Kingsley (1905). (Source: © British Library)	193
6.1	Details from the Hibbert family tree.	209
6.2	St Paul’s Church, Clapham. (Photograph reproduced with kind permission of Kevin Fisher)	217
6.3	<i>Chalfont House, Buckinghamshire</i> , by Thomas Girtin, watercolour with pen in brown ink over graphite on thick, moderately textured, brown, wove mount paper, c. 1796. (Source: © Yale Centre for British Art)	220
6.4	Munden House, Hertfordshire. (© Copyright Brian Smith and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons Licence)	222
6.5	Hibbert Almshouse, Wandsworth Road, London. (Photograph reproduced with kind permission of Kevin Fisher)	229

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-04005-2 - Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation
of Victorian Britain
Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

	List of illustrations	vii
6.6	The London Institution, 1819. (Source: © London Metropolitan Archives)	233
6.7	<i>George Hibbert</i> , by Sir Thomas Lawrence, oil on canvas, 1811. (Source: © Museum of London)	242

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04005-2 - Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain

Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

This book is one of the fruits of the Legacies of British Slave-ownership project at University College London, and we wish to acknowledge both the funding provided by the Economic and Social Research Council and the support of the Department of History at UCL in hosting the project over its three-year life.

By its nature, the project has been a collaborative venture. Several hundred local, regional and family historians have contributed information and material to us. We cannot thank each of them individually here, but have sought to acknowledge each contributor in the relevant entry or entries in the database (www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs), which captures the raw material of the project. Here we would simply like to record our respect for the rigour of their work and our gratitude for the generosity of so many independent researchers in sharing their findings so freely with us.

Many scholars have helped to shape our work, and as always singling out individuals risks omitting many who contributed to the intellectual formation of the project or to its execution. Nevertheless, we would like to pay tribute especially to Mark Harvey of the University of Essex for the intensity and consistency of his intellectual engagement with us, to Bill Rubinstein (formerly of the University of Aberystwyth) for sharing his unpublished data on the wealth of those dying in the nineteenth century with us, to Verene Shepherd (University of the West Indies, Mona) for her commitment to connecting the project with initiatives in the Caribbean and through UNESCO, and to Margot Finn (University College London) for her reading of, and response to, this volume in manuscript.

One of the features of the project has been the extent to which we have sought to make our work available outside the academe, and in these efforts we have been greatly assisted by a number of independent historians and community representatives. Among many others, we have in particular benefited from the sustained interest in and support of our work in England by Sean Creighton and Arthur Torrington.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-04005-2 - Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain

Catherine Hall, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington and Rachel Lang
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

ix

We would also like to thank the members of our advisory panel for their individual and collective support: Dr Caroline Bressey (Department of Geography, University College London); Professor P. J. Cain (Research Professor in History, University of Sheffield); Dr Madge Dresser (Associate Professor in History, University of the West of England, Bristol); Professor Mark Harvey (Professor of Sociology and Director of the Centre for Research in Economic Sociology and Innovation, University of Essex); Professor Julian Hoppit (Astor Professor of British History, University College London); Professor R. J. Morris (Professor of Economic and Social History, University of Edinburgh); and Professor David Richardson (Director of the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation and Professor of Economic History, University of Hull).

A number of very able young scholars and researchers were involved in the work of the project in temporary positions, and in this context we would like especially to thank Ben Mechen and John Stevens.

Chapter 6 has been enriched by access to diaries and private papers of the Hibbert family kindly made available by Mr Nick Hibbert Steele.

Michael Watson of Cambridge University Press has been a valued partner to us in bringing our work forward, both in this volume and elsewhere. Dr Susan Forsyth met the challenge of compiling the index for the – at times – densely empirical text.

The book has been published with the help of a grant from the late Miss Isobel Thornley's bequest to the University of London.