

# Bienvenue! Hola! Willkommen! Benvenuto! Welkom! Boa vinda! Добро пожаловать! Үпобохή! 欢迎! 歡迎! 환영! Welcome! Bore da

#### Welcome.

Thanks to Bristol Radical History Group for organising this event.

3. Look at slavery system and some of the Bristol-based players who will feature later
4. Abolition of Slave Trade Bristol commemoration, other commemoration — apprenticeship — Danes
5. Abolition of slave ownership compensation payments
5. Weaving machines, factory act
6. Early cotton industry in Bristol – loom machine wreakers
7. Docks development, GWCW, GWR and Bristol Gas – connected investors
8. Bristol Cotton Works – the story of
9. Summation – Thanks again – Academic research
10 Discussion

- The two main topics of this evening's talk are:
  - How money paid for compensation to Bristol slave owners, merchants and bankers assisted their financing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrial revolution in Bristol
  - How Bristol industrialists and bankers continued their use of slave labour long after slaves had gained their freedom in the British colonies

#### In particular we will be looking at:

- How revolts by workers in Bristol and slaves in the West Indies and the Americas were linked
- The establishment of:
  - The Great Western Cotton Works (Barton Hill)
  - The Great Western Railway (GWR)
  - The SS Great Britain
  - The Bristol Gas Industry

We will be having a break at about 9pm

There will be an opportunity for questions, points and discussion at the end of this talk – around 9.45pm

Also, feel free to buy me a drink at the end of the evening.

### But first a little background....

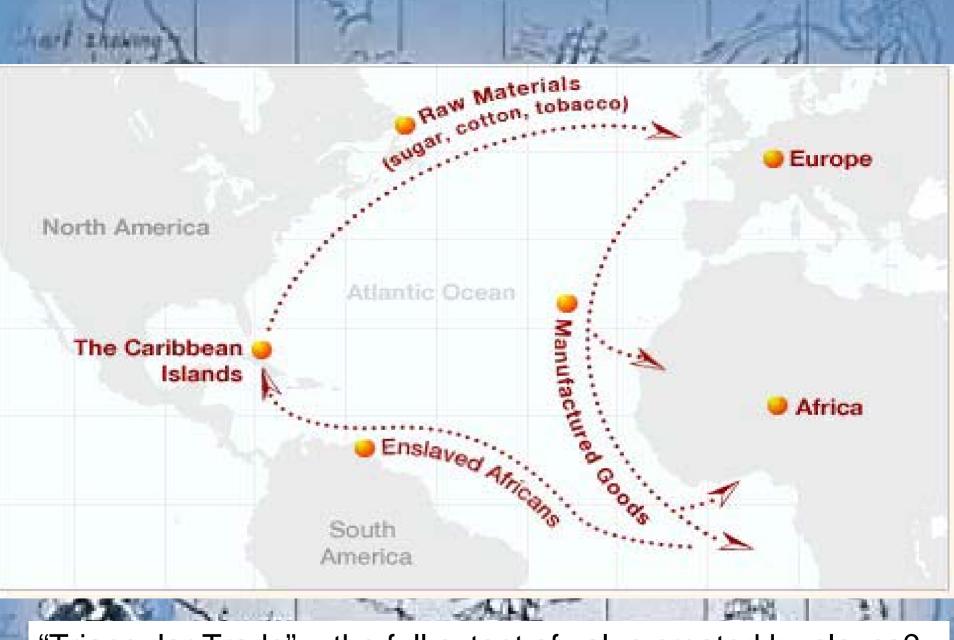
## "A slave died for each ton of sugar produced"

Henry Hobhouse, "Seeds of Change"

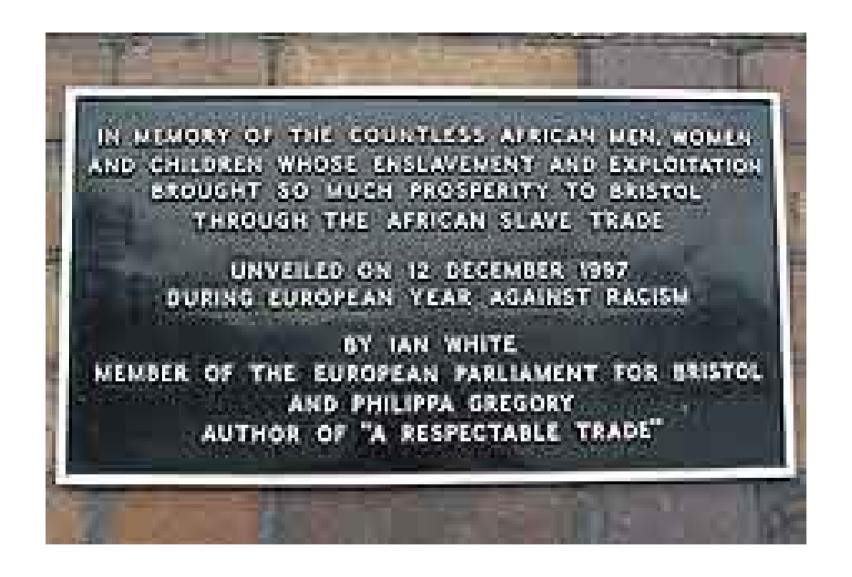
Enslavement stripped Africans of the recognition of their personal attributes....

"They will remember that we were sold but they won't remember that we were strong.

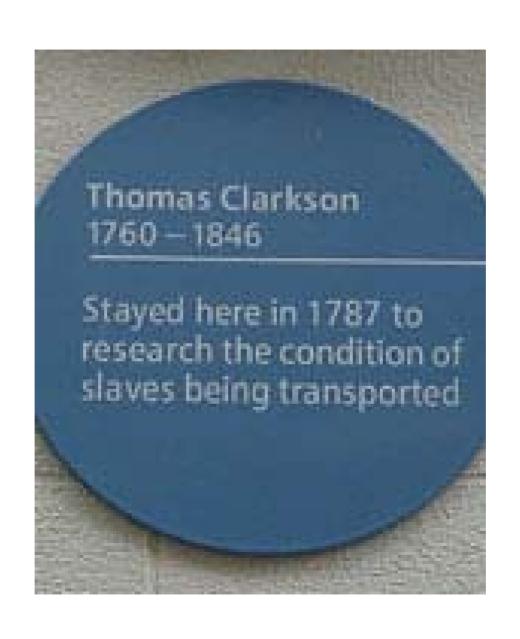
They will remember that we were bought, but not that we were brave"

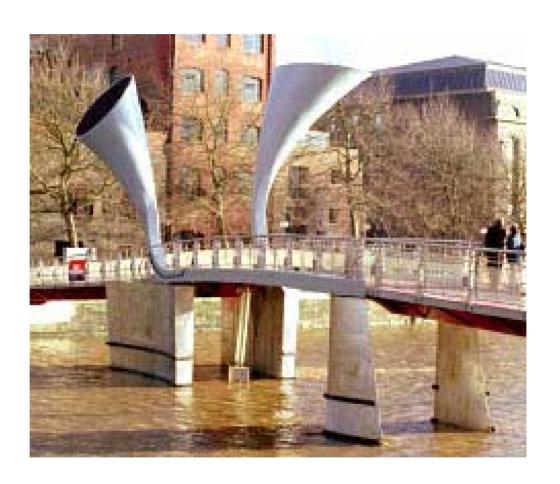


"Triangular Trade" ~ the full extent of value created by slaves?

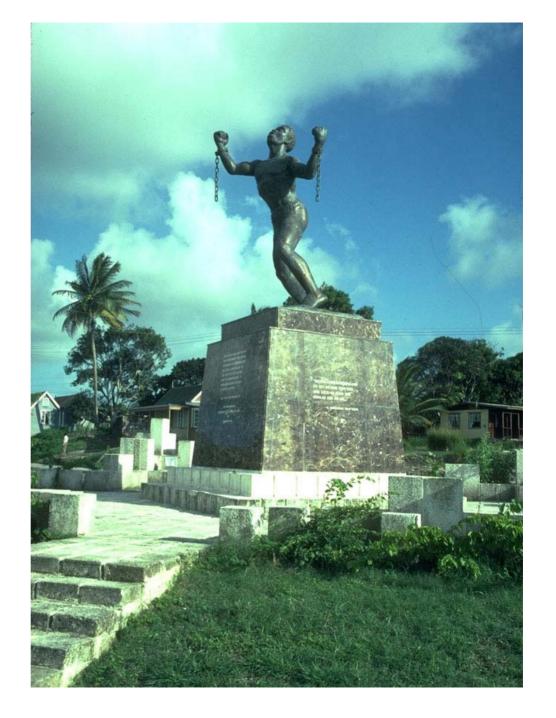


Two of the few official signs of recognition of Bristol's involvement in the slave trade and use of slave labour

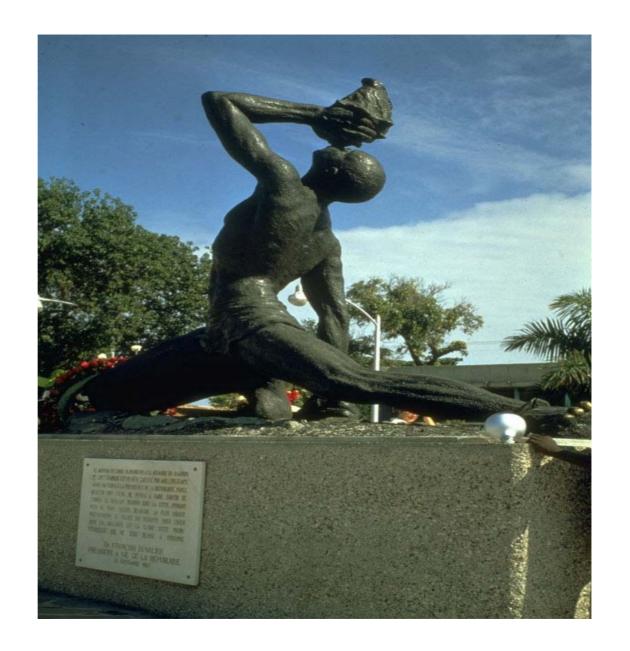


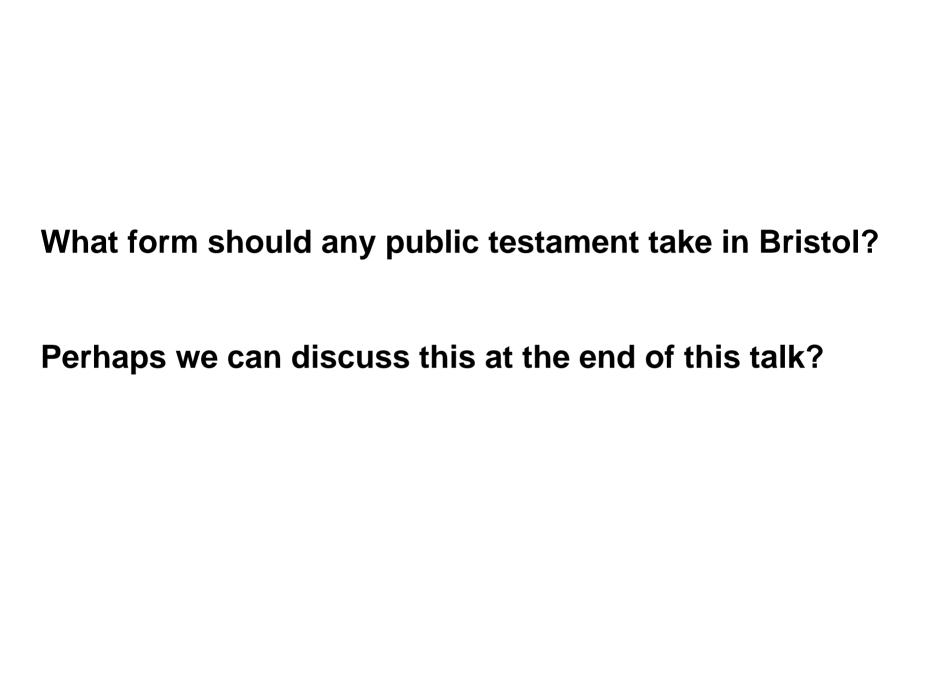


Emancipation Monument, Barbados



"Le Negre Marron" (The Black Maroon), Port-au-Prince, Haiti, (1970)







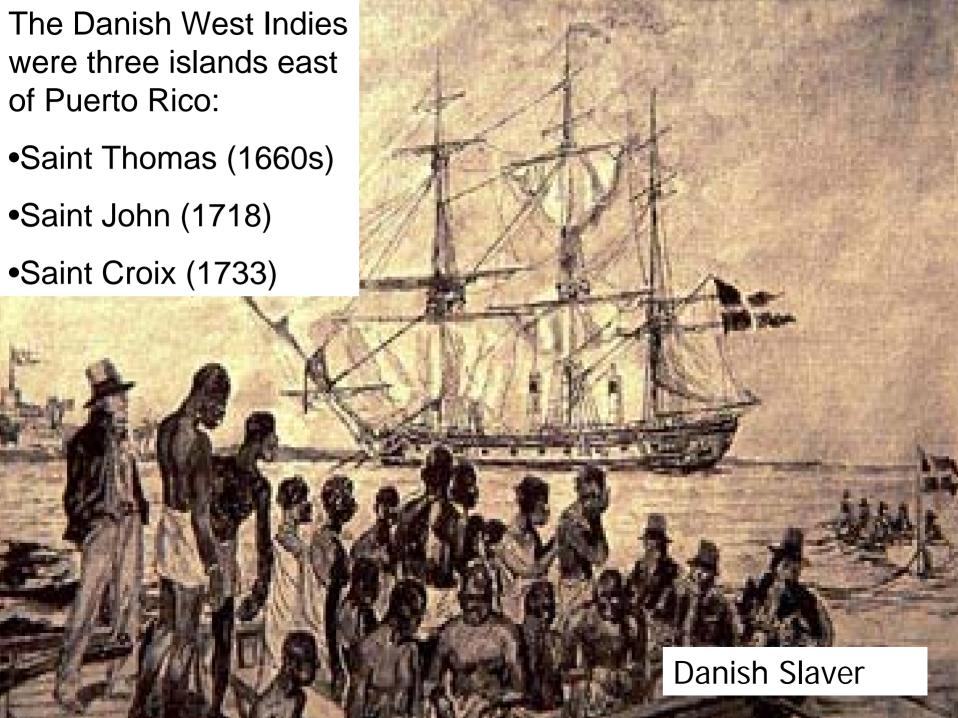
## ANNO QUADRAGEISIMO SEPTIMO GEORGII III. REGIS

CAP. XXXVI.

Whereas the Two Houses of Parliament did, by their Resolutions of the tenth and Twenty-fourth days of June One Thousand eight hundred and six, severally resolve, upon certain Grounds therein mentioned, that they would, with all practicable Expedition, take effectual Measures for the Abolition of the *African* Slave Trade.



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In January 1792, the Danish King declared the end of the Danish slave trade as of 1 January 1803.

Thus Denmark-Norway was the first European nation to abolish its export slave trade.

Slavery in the Danish West Indian colonies was abolished after a <u>rebellion</u> in 1848.

In 1917 the three Danish West Indian islands were sold to USA and renamed the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Bore Bestindisse Ders Dorfning i Tiben bestribes med Arbeider, foim, Dare fedte og opdragne, vare fra Ungbommen af vante til Arbeidet, hims melegnen og dem, under hvilke de skulle arbeide, have Bi ladet undersog, spoeledes og naar dette maatte blive mueligt. Bed denne Undersogelse er det blevet sat uden for Lvivl, at det kan blive mueligt og er fordeelagtigt for Bore Bestindisse Der at undvære Indied af nye Negre, naar Plantagerne engang ere blevne forsnede med tilstræffeligt Antal i det for Formerelsen fornedne Forsbold; naar Understetlier for de Plantage-Liere, som dertil trænge, kunne gieres muelige, og der sorges for at fremme Negrenes Ægteskaber, Oplærelse og Sædelighed.

For altsaa at satte Bore Bestindisse Bestdbesser udas den Afhangenhed,

For altfan at fatte Bore Bestindiffe Bestidelser udar den Afdangengen, fvort de vare og ere i henseende til Megrev Tiffersel, og for omsider at giere

Official campaign to end British slave trade began in 1787 – inc Clarkson's reports.

Dolben's Act (1788) limited the number of slaves on ships:

- 5 slaves/3 tons up to 200 tons and 1 slave for each additional ton there after
- also a surgeon had to be on board each ship

The French Revolution (1793, and the years preceding this) and the crisis this caused for the British establishment stalled the ending of the slave trade.

## Mortality on James Rogers' Bristol slave ships even after the Dolben Act of 1788

- The Rodney, 1791, 78 of 371 Africans died
- The Rodney 1793, 61 African people died
- The Rodney 1793, 89 Africans died and 10 sold off at auction as they would have died if they'd remained on board
- The Pearl, 1792, 116 out of 472 Africans died
- The Pearl, 1792, 260 out of 400 African people died
- The Jupiter, 1798, 170 out of 390 Africans died

Many of the captives on Rogers ships were elderly women and children.

The crew of one of his ships was described as: 'A set of the Biggest Drunken Thieving Villains on Earth'

Its master as "not fit for the task".

One surgeon described as: "a drunken rascal" and another as: "too fond of the liquor to expect any good of him".

The **Baille**, anti-abolitionist, family were agents for Rogers in Grenada and St Vincent.

A partner of the Baille's in St Vincent was in Barbados when the Pearl arrived from Bonney. He refused to have anything to do with the cargo of slaves when he heard that 80 slaves had died during the disorder that had broken out when she'd arrived.

The Revolution in France, 1793, had sent shock waves through the British business sector – credit was called in as bankers and merchants tried to safeguard their own positions. Rogers finally went broke, along with many other businesses ~ thus the people had spoken.

Rogers died in 1801

#### Cotton and weaving in Bristol in the 18th centuary



The Cotton Plant (Gossypium)

In the 17th century, cotton goods were imported from India.

In 1700, the British state placed a ban on imported cotton goods to protect its wool and linen industries.

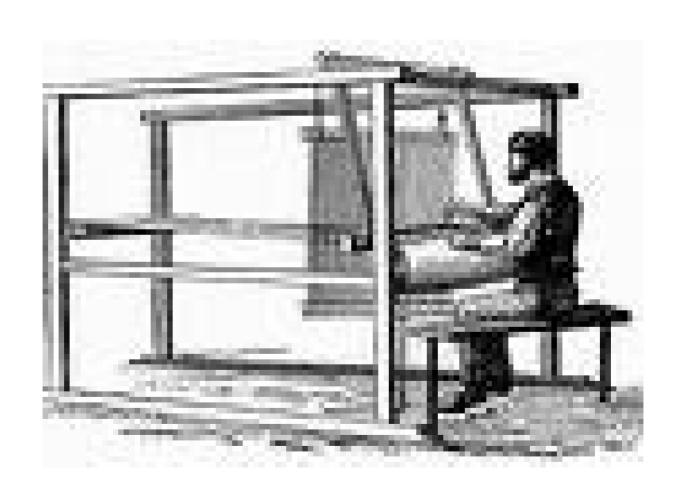
But cotton become very popular and a home-based cotton industry sprung up using colonial, slave~grown cotton.

Much cotton came from New England, so ports on the west coast of Britain, such as Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow, became important in determining the sites of the cotton industry.

Wool and linen manufacturers imposed restrictions on the import of cotton, but, as cotton had become fashionable, there was little they could do to stop the trend.

Especially as the factory system took hold....

#### The flying shuttle, invented by John Kay in 1733



#### The Spinning Jenny, invented by James Hargreaves, 1733

Hargreaves introduced the machine which could spin eight threads of cotton yarn without using a foot peddle.

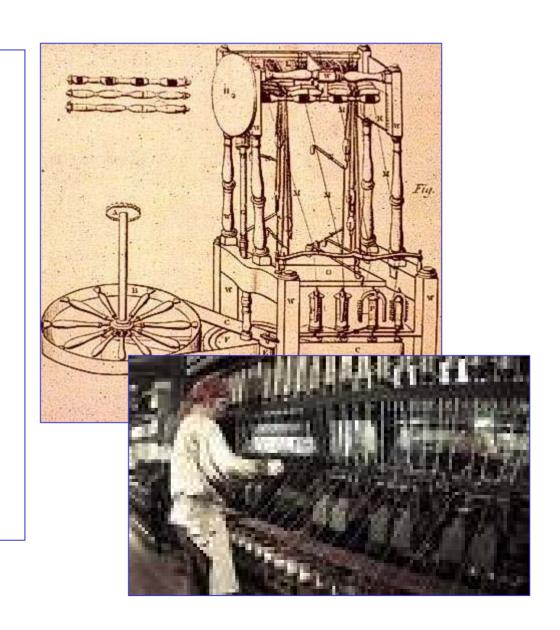
- ☐ Faster production of weaving
- ☐ Both the flying shuttle and the spinning jenny were small enough to use the at home



#### Richard Arkwright's Water Frame, 1769

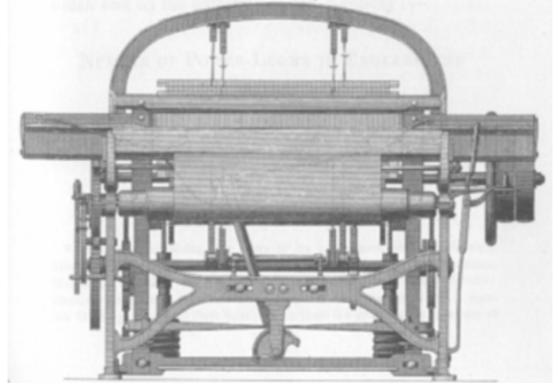
The Water Frame allowed for larger spinning machines and got power from watermills.

Split of workers at home and workers in a factory: women went to the factory and men stayed at home to produce the weaving.



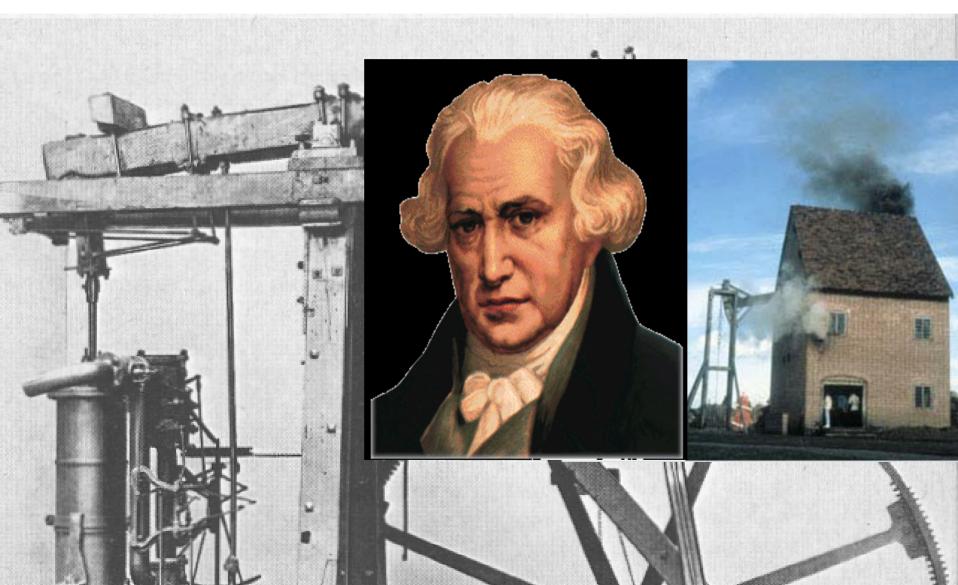
#### **Edmund Cartwright's Power Loom, 1769**

Cartwright created the first true factory at Cromford, near Derby.



- In the 1790's, weavers were well paid.
- Within 30 years many had become labourers in factories as their skill had now been taken over by machines.
- In 1813, there were 2,400 power looms in Britain.
- By 1850, there were 250,000.

#### James Watt's improved steam engine, also 1769 ~ the first step toward railways ~



#### **Bristol Weavers Revolts 1726-32**

Bristol's weavers, who were largely based outside of Lawford's Gate.

1726-27 Wiltshire Weavers came to Kingswood to ask the miners to give them assistance in their industrial dispute.

1728 500 workmen living in the area of Lawford's Gate destroyed and burnt about 30 looms there before proceeding to Chew Magna, Pensford and Keynsham where they attacked more looms and pulled down a house.

1729 Serious disturbances broke out amongst the weavers who lived outside Lawford's Gate. Many looms were torn out of employers' houses and were destroyed. A house was demolished and the soldiers sent to deal with the disturbance were beaten off by the weavers.

1729 continued Starving weavers gathered in Castle Ditch and marched on the house of Stephen Feacham who paid too low a rate of pay. Feacham shot eight protesters. Troops fired into the protesters using blank ammunition. Feacham was later pardoned for these murders. Two weavers were executed.

1732 Bristol's weavers did not forget Stephen Feacham. They made an effigy of him and dressed it in a shroud. They paraded this through Lawford's Gate before hanging it on a gibbet in Lamb's Fields. When the City Watch tried to cut down the guy the weavers beat to arms with a frying pan and collected money so that they could mount a permanent guard on the effigy....a good time was had by all.

Before the growth of the factory system, the textile industry was confined to the home.

Known as the 'Domestic System', families were responsible for every stage of the process turning raw cotton to fabric.

When work moved out of the home and into factories those workers who had traditionally been involved at every stage of the process, now worked in one area of production, many overseeing machines, rather than working by hand.

Thus weaving in Bristol was to become factory-based and eventually concentrated in the Great Western Cotton Works at Barton Hill ~ about more later....

It wasn't only the people of Bristol who revolted against the factory system....

#### Official decree, 12th February 1811

"Any person who breaks or destroys machinery in any mill used in the preparing or spinning of wool or cotton or other material for the use of the stocking or lace manufacture, or being lawfully convicted ....shall suffer death "

## Why did poor Bristolians revolt in 1831?

In part because not only did men and women have to work in factories – so did their kids....

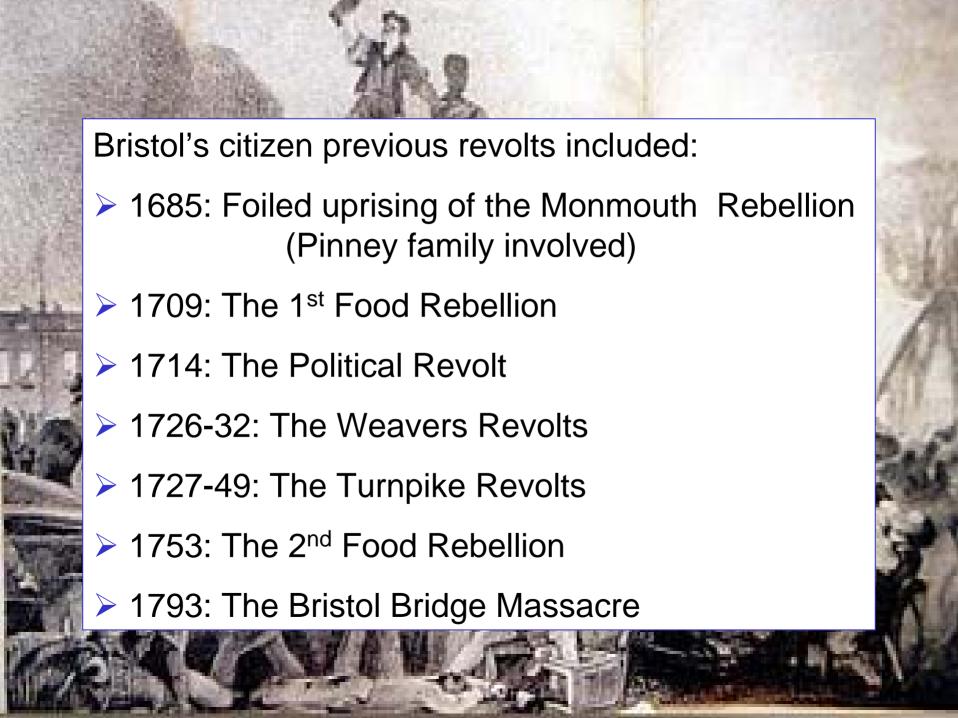
### Between 1819-1833

Children aged 9 - 16 worked a 'legal' maximum of 72 hours a week ~ that's 12 hours a day if they had Sunday off.

There was no upper limit on the hours worked by adults.

# And so ~ 1831 and all that.....





Feelings ran high in the city of Bristol over the question of slavery, especially during the violent election campaign of 1830.

The election of 1830 had two rival Whig candidates.

Edward Protheroe, whose family traded with the Caribbean, was on the side of emancipation.

James Evan **Baillie**, whose family also traded with the Caribbean and had 2,000 slaves, was against emancipation.

The racist reactionary, Baillie, won and became MP for Bristol.

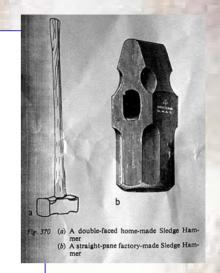
Many locals must have seen this as a major social setback and then came the Lords vote against extending the vote....

The night before the 1831 revolt, hundreds of Sledge Hammers were 'borrowed' from the <u>Acraman</u>'s Iron Foundry in Bathurst Basin.

These hammers were used to break down the doors of the four prisons in Bristol.

This fact, at the time, was used as evidence of prior planning by the "mob".

The hammers were recreated for the Bristol Radical History Week 2006 exhibition by Jasper Johns at his forge in Easton.

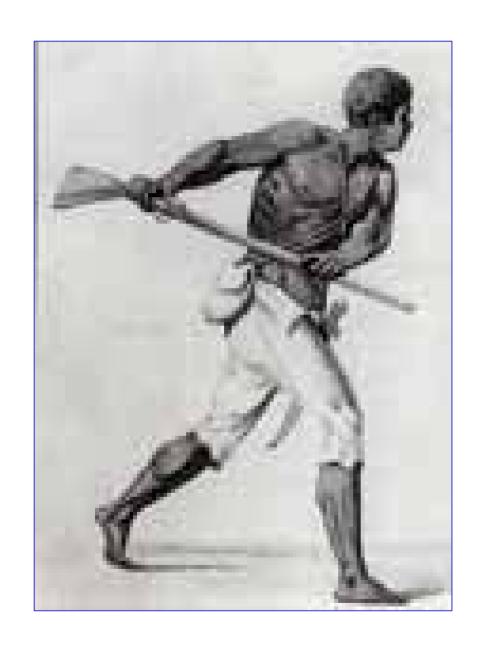




Bristol Radical History Group web site

"The King was so anxious for the safety of the Docks in case the rabble of London, in imitation of those at Bristol, should break out into acts of riot, that his Majesty wrote to the Governor of Greenwich Hospital, desiring him to send up 200 pensioners to each of those Docks and 400 pensioners were also sent at the instance of his Majesty to Chatham to relieve the marines, who have been removed near to Woolwich, in order that they may be at hand in case of a disturbance

ie metropolis."



Meanwhile in the West Indies and America ... it's also 1831....

## 1831

#### **December** - Jamaica

The Emancipation Rebellion of Western Jamaica involving 20,000 slaves. Lead by Sam Sharpe who planned a 'General Strike' against slavery. An "extensive and destructive insurrection" broke out. Estates and sugar works at were set on fire. Some 750 slaves and 14 free persons were put on trial and convicted to death or 200 - 500 lashes. When Sam Sharpe was waiting to be executed he said:

"I would rather die upon yonder gallows than live in slavery!"

ISLAND	YEAR	WHITE INHABITANTS		FREE BLACK INHABITANTS	SLAVES
Jamaica	1787	23,000	(1:11)	4,093	256,000
Antigua	1774	2,590	(1:6)	-	37,808
Montserrat	1774	1,300	(1:8)	-	10,000
Nevis	1774	1,000	(1:10)	-	10,000
St. Christopher's	1774	1,900	(1:12)	-	23,462
Virgin Islands	1774	1,200	(1:8)	-	9,000
Barbados	1786	16,167	(1:4)	838	62,115
Granada	1785	996	(1:24)	1,115	23,926
St. Vincent's	1787	1,450	(1:8)	1,138	11,853
Dominica	1788	1,236	(1:12)	445	14,967
Bahamas	1773	2,052	(1:1)	77	2,241
Bermudas	1783	5,462	(1:1)	-	4,919

**1790 ALMANAC:** Data compiled by order of the Committee of the Privy Council, on the Slave Trade from accounts transmitted by the Governors of the respective Islands, with the year in which the last returns were made.

So, there it is, a background of heavy duty insurrection, both at home and on the plantations.

Bristol's and other slave owners, merchants and bankers started to think:

"How can we get out of the use of slave labour and, at the same time, make sure we cash in on any deal we arrange with the British state?"

1834 "Be it enacted, that all and every, persons who .... shall be holden in slavery within any such British colony as aforesaid, shall, upon and from and after the said first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, become and be to all intents and purposes free, and discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and shall be absolutely and forever manumitted."

#### Easton Pit, Felix Road, Easton BS5

#### 1830

The pit was owned by Davidson & Waters. While Leonard, Betts & Boult owned a nearby pit.

Later the two firms united and then traded as Leonard, Boult & Co.

The Leonard family were large land owners or tenants who in 1842 were holding 72 acres of land in the district. They were buying mining rights on all available land.

#### 1870s

This was the period of maximum production from the Bristol Coalfields after which there was a steady decline.

# Compensation to owners

Paid in London – this had been insisted upon by the WI Interest to keep the money under their direct control.

Heavily indebted planters often received nothing

the Merchant-creditors kept any money due to them. Merchant-creditors were therefore ideally positioned to control the invest and speculate with their funds.

Getting possession of the compensation money was the 'great object' of all creditors.

They were planning, all the while, to get hold of the money and use established and modified institutions to channel the money where they thought fit.

Britain already had a National Debt of £8,000million.

The Reformed Parliament elected on a policy of abolishing slave trade and not putting up taxes.

£20million = 4% tax increase, across the board. Such a policy was political suicide = 40% of the gross revenue for the period over which it was paid = revolution.

Negotiations with British financiers stated in July 1835.

Talks were held with financiers inc Rothschild's and the Barings to raise the full £20million. Govt proposed 13 instalments starting August 1835 to September 1836. For every £100 put up by the bankers the Government offered government stocks and annuities of 3% interest.

Bankers were asked to make their sealed bids. Only Rothchilds put in a bid. Rothchilds then had to negotiate money on the international market.

Claims were settled at a rate of 1,600/week (i.e 44,000 claims).

Small claims were paid quickly. But to detriment of economy of the islands.

30,000 people had an average of 3 slaves each – they found it difficult to claim in London. Small scale slave owners were easy prey to those who bought, sometimes by payment in kind or in payment of debts, their compensation rights at a knock down price.

## Compensation – paid to owners

Colony	Average value slave £	Number slaves regd.	Relative value £	Proportion colony £
Bermuda	27	4,203	115,527	50,584
Bahamas	30	9,705	290,574	128,340
Jamaica	44	311,692	13,951,139	6,161,927
Honduras	120	1,920	230,844	101,958
Virgin Islands	31	5,192	165,143	72,940
Antigua	32	29,537	964,198	425,866
Montserrat	36	6,355	234,166	103,558
Nevis	39	8,722	341,893	151,007
St. Christopher	36	20,660	750,840	331,630
Dominica	43	14,384	624,715	275,923
Barbados	47	82,807	3,897,277	1,721,345
Grenada	59	23,536	1,395,685	616,444
St. Vincent's	58	22,997	1,341,492	592,508
Tobago	46	11,621	629,942	234,064
S. Lucia	57	13,348	759,891	335,628
Trinidad	105	22,359	2,352,656	1,089,119
British Guiana	114	84,915	9,729,047	4,297,117
Cape Good Hope	74	38,427	2,824,224	1,247,401
Mauritius	69	68,613	4,783,184	2,112,633
Total		780,993	45,281,739	£20,000,000

The Bristol slaver-merchants the Daubneys, Brights, Vaughans, Caves and Protheroes all of who were part of the anti-abolition movement were well placed in the Bristol Banking establishment to take good advantage of their ransom payments.

Bristol total was around £500,000 (over £25million today)

James Evan Baillie and family - £110,000 (about £5,500,000 today).

Thomas & John Daniel – 3,953 slaves on 6 islands - £117,383

Charles Pinney put his compensation money (over £36,000, equivalent today to almost £2,000,000) into canals, railways and the Great Western Cotton works. Very little was invested in the Caribbean plantations to make them more efficient and productive. Whilst the slave traders received money as compensation from the British government, the freed slaves received no compensation.

The loss of protection for the sugar trade = rapid decline of Bristol's WI trade and in 1871 no ship left for Jamaica and WI tonnage of goods accounted for less than 2% of imports into Bristol.

**1695** onwards – lobby to have cotton spinning by children in Bristol's workhouses

Spurred by decline in woollen industry & slave trade

MV petitioned Parliament to lift restrictions on cotton imports – they mentioned importance of cotton for the purchase of 'Negroes

- 1754 Thomas Wiseham's bleaching fields, between Lawford's Gate and Stapleton Road, by the River Frome.
- 1788 mention of a Cotton Mill opposite Hotwells. Also works in Keynsham and Bitton.
- 1794 The Cotton Manufactory, Temple St using steam engines, looms, etc
- **1816** Ann Street outside Lawford's Gate, cotton works by the Frome

April 30<sup>th</sup> 1836 prospectus for a new cotton company (Bristol Cotton Company) was published – with a proposed capital of £2,500,000

Selling points were ~ female and child labour available. Coal. Waterways.

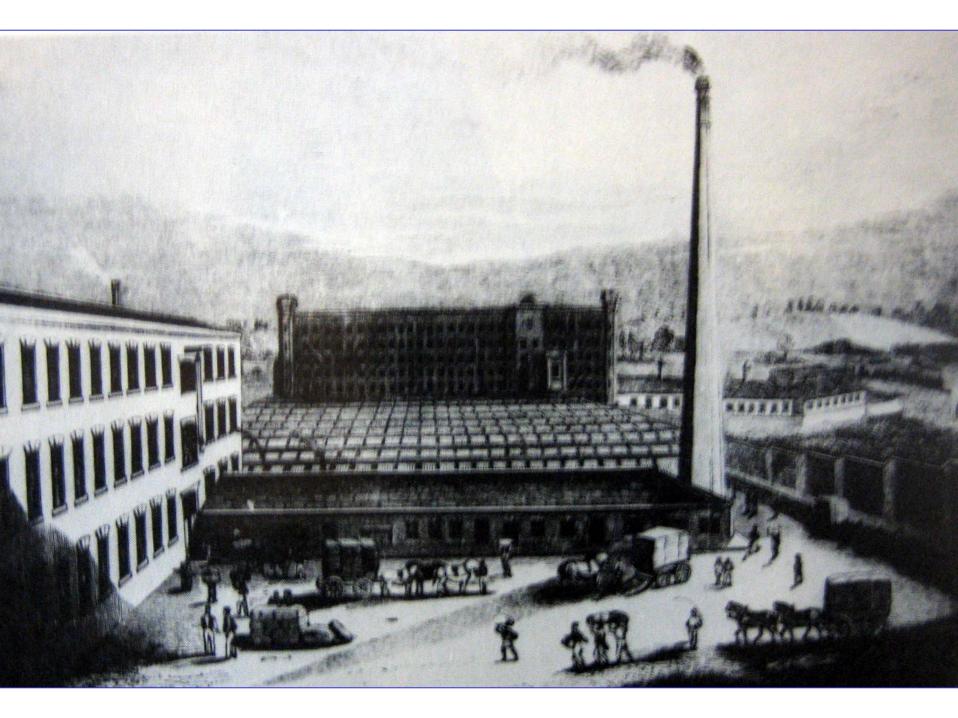
# On May 21<sup>st</sup> 1836 two more prospectuses were issued:

The Bristol & Bitton Cotton Twist
 Manufactory with a capital of £300,000

- Bristol Cotton Twist and Power Loom Cloth Company with a capital of £200,000 and a provisional committee of wealthy Bristolians April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1837 10 wealthy Bristolians entered into a partnership with J.B. Clarke from Manchester, under the firm of Clarke, Acramans, Maze & Co.

The prospectus stated that land would be obtained for a 'reasonable figure' and where 'the wealthy inhabitants would be exposed to no inconvenience or annoyance,...'

The land was 'the last inclosure within the borough'.



#### **Great Weston Cotton Works, Barton Hill,1837 owners:**

- Charles Pinney
- Robert Bright
- Peter Aiken
- Thomas & John Daniel
- Acramans
- Peter Maze

In 1845-50, the company became known as 'Maze, Ames, Bush & Co'

Owners of the Great Weston Cotton Works, Barton Hill, Bristol

Charles Pinney ~ director (money to church1827)(Miles, Cave, Baillie & CO – Bank –Now RBS)

**Robert Bright** 

Peter Aiken ~ director (money to church)

**Thomas & John Daniel** – 3,953 slaves on 6 islands = compensation of £117,383 (Daniel in Cotton works) In Bristol cathedral's north cloister are monuments to Thomas Daniel, a Bristol merchant who made his wealth in Barbados. Thomas Daniel was one of the biggest sugar merchants. He was so rich and powerful he was known as 'the King of Bristol'. Lived in Berkley Square?

**Acramans** (seems to have left quite soon? Probably still looking for his hammers!)

Peter Maze ~ MV ~ brunel ~ the Taff Vale Railway Company's Act (6 Wm. IV, cap. lxxxii) received the Royal Assent on 21 June 1836. By this Act the original capital was fixed at £300,000 in £100 shares; the first directors of the Company were Josiah John Guest, M.P., Walter Coffin, Edward Herbert Lee, Thomas Revell Guest, Thomas Richard Guppy, Thomas Powell, Christopher James, Thomas Carlisle, Henry Rudhall, William Killigrew Wait, William Jonas Watson, and Peter Maze. (Messrs. Guppy and Maze were members of the original Great Western directorate.) 1833, Peter Maze jun. was Sheriff of Bristol.

J. B. Clarke, from Manchester, head of the Cotton Factory

From 1845-50, called Maze, Ames, Bush & Co

Ames, (Bright in bank)

Henry Bush

Local street names – Maze St., Bush St., Aitkin St and Pinney Terrace.

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The Brights were an wealthy Bristol merchant family with extensive interests in the slave trade and plantations in the Caribbean. Barton Hill & GWR

Between 1746 and 1769, Henry Bright and Co was responsible for 21 slaving voyages out of Bristol.

Bright family lived at 29 Queen Sq, (right).

The founding partners of the Bristol Bank were Richard Bright, Levi Ames, John Cave, Joseph Harford, George Daubeny



The Brights later inter~married with Tyndale and Gibbs famlies

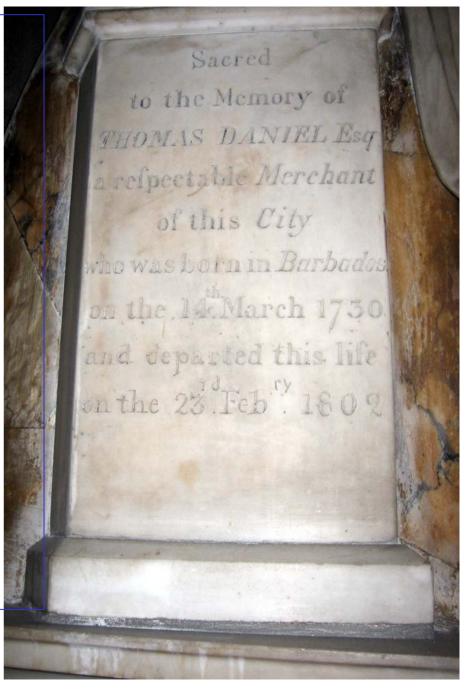
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Thomas & John Daniel -3,953 slaves on 6 islands = compensation of £117,383

James Evan Baillie - <£62,000

Sacred to the Memory of THOMAS DANIEL Esq a respectable Merchant of this City who was born in Barbados on the 14th March 1730 and he departed this life on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1802





Daniel Family Memorial, Bristol Cathedral

#### Azariah Pinney 1661-1720

He was banished from England in 1685 because he was involved in a rebellion. He left England with £15 and sailed to the Island of Nevis in the West Indies. He was a businessman and bought land. Using slaves he turned this land into a sugar plantation. When he died he left his sons £23,000.

John Pinney 1 1686-1720 He died young but had married a rich young woman who owned a plantation next to his father's.

#### John Frederick Pinney 1718-1762

He only visited Nevis twice. He left managers in charge and lived the life of a country gentleman in England.

He lived well, on the money made for him by his slaves working on his plantation. When he died he left £16,000.

#### **John Pinney II 1740-1818**

He was a cousin of John Frederick who had never married. He went to Nevis in 1764 ~ estate 273acres.1765-70 40 slaves out of 250 died – overwork, sickness, suicide – bought 100 more but sold some again – esp those who were trying to escape

He expressed concerns about the 'rights and wrongs' of owning slaves but convinced himself that owning slaves was acceptable. In a letter dated 1765 he wrote:

"Since my arrival I've purchased 9 Negro slaves in St Kitts and can assure you I was shocked at the first appearance of human flesh for sale. But surely God ordained 'em for the use and benefit of us' otherwise his Divine Will would have been made manifest to us by some particular sign or token"

For twenty years he stayed in the West Indies. He left Nevis in 1783 and came home to Bristol worth about £70,000.

In 1783 he wrote to his business partner, James Tobin: "The people have seem[ed] devoted to our destruction, they entertain the most horrid degrees of our cruelties – it now pervades all ranks of people – they think slavery ought not to be permitted in any part of the British Dominion: it is incompatible with the Spirit of Our constitution. I assure you: expect to see all our sugar colonies under the dominion of some wiser European power.'

Tobin had already returned to Bristol in 1784, was a member of the Merchant Venturers and was an active anti-abolitionist at local and national levels.

In Bristol, Pinney set up in business as a sugar merchant. He made even more money than he had as a plantation owner. He owned grand houses in the country and had a smart new town house built - 'The Georgian House' - now owned by Bristol Museum.

Received compensation of between £29,069-36,396. When he died he left £340,000 (around £17million today)



John Pinney.

Plantation owner on the island of Nevis, and a sugar merchant based in Bristol after 1784.

A List of Megrocs Purchased by Minney)
since his first Arrival in Nevis Secon 23.164.
which are this day Tanuary the first 1769 living. When Regroes Names. Of whom Derchased of his Ages Deaths or other Courrences. 13 80 Romeo : -254 258 Rarriott 1 Joanna lones Never of Christophers. John Rayer In Novis January 2 Judy 1 Smith Buillies State topher Charly: --Rarlescombes. James Smith 12 died Mar 3. 1769 by eating Dist. Smithy Baillies Charlotte. Sto Christophen Died ling! : 1769 by eating Bist J.S. Marchall Billen: in Greates



### **Charles Pinney**

His slaves were marked by burning or 'branding' to show that he was their owner.

Necklocks and wooden blocks, called 'clogs', were used as punishment.

Slaves who ran away frequently were sent off the island.

There was a jail, possibly at the plantation itself, and an overseer with a reputation for cruelty was employed on the estate.

In 1800 Pinney ordered his manager not to allow 'a Negro to be corrected in the presence of Tom Wedgwood, son of Josiah Wedgwood who campaigned against slavery, or so near for him to hear the whip ... point out the comforts the Negroes enjoy beyond the poor in this country (England) ... show him the property they possess ... by this means he will leave the island possessed with favourable sentiments'.



Pinney's House,

7 Great George Street, off Park Street

Now the Georgian House Museum

Charles took over the business and inherited a share of his father's fortune.

He increased that fortune by his own business dealings.

Before John Pinney's death in 1818, he gave his Bristol house to Charles (left).

When John Pinney died his assets were valued at £340,000 (about £17 million today).

Charles went on to become Mayor of Bristol in 1831 and was in office during the Bristol Citizens Revolt.

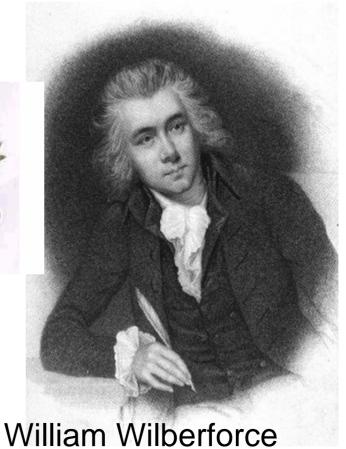


Charles Pinney moved from Great George Street to Camp House, Clifton (now known as Engineers House, above)

# **Charles Pinney**



Lent to Bristol Museum and Art Galle



The Barton Hill Cotton Worker's Strike lasted a very "wearisome" month, but the organisers managed to enlist the support of the dockers who refused to handle Barton Hill cotton, as did the dockers of Liverpool.

Eventually the employers conceded to most of the workers' demands.

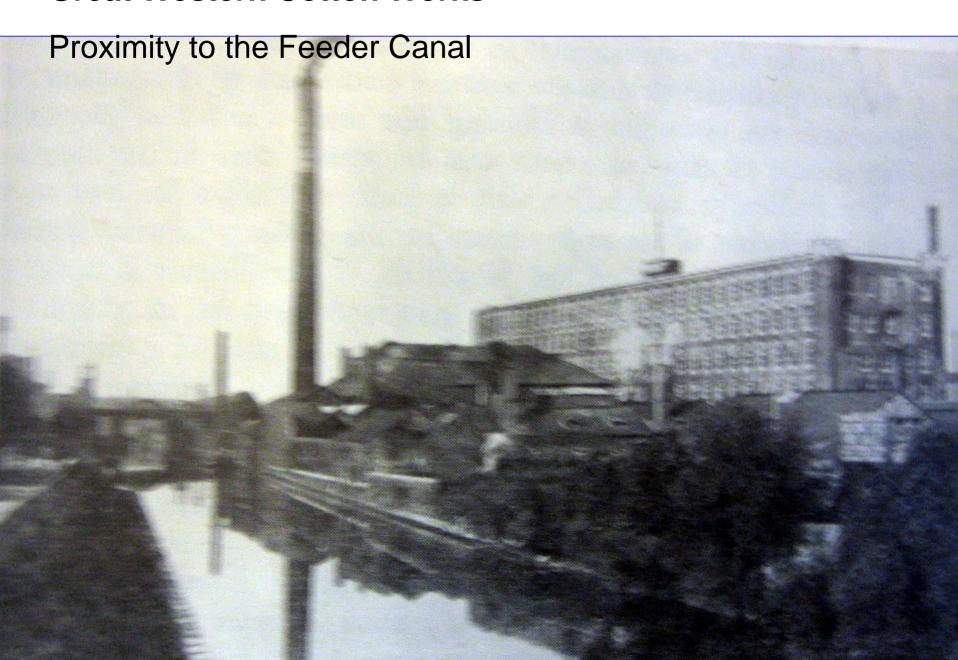
The strike had been organised by Miriam Daniell and Helena Born. They had both left their well-heeled homes and lifestyles to devote themselves to fighting poverty and to the labour movement, moving to St Phillips to live among Bristol's poorest, across the canal from the cotton works.



## **Great Western Cotton Works, (Loxton Sketch c1900)**

Similar view to photo on the previous slide









St Luke's Church, Barton Hill

# Cotton production in Barton Hill Started 1837 Ended 1926

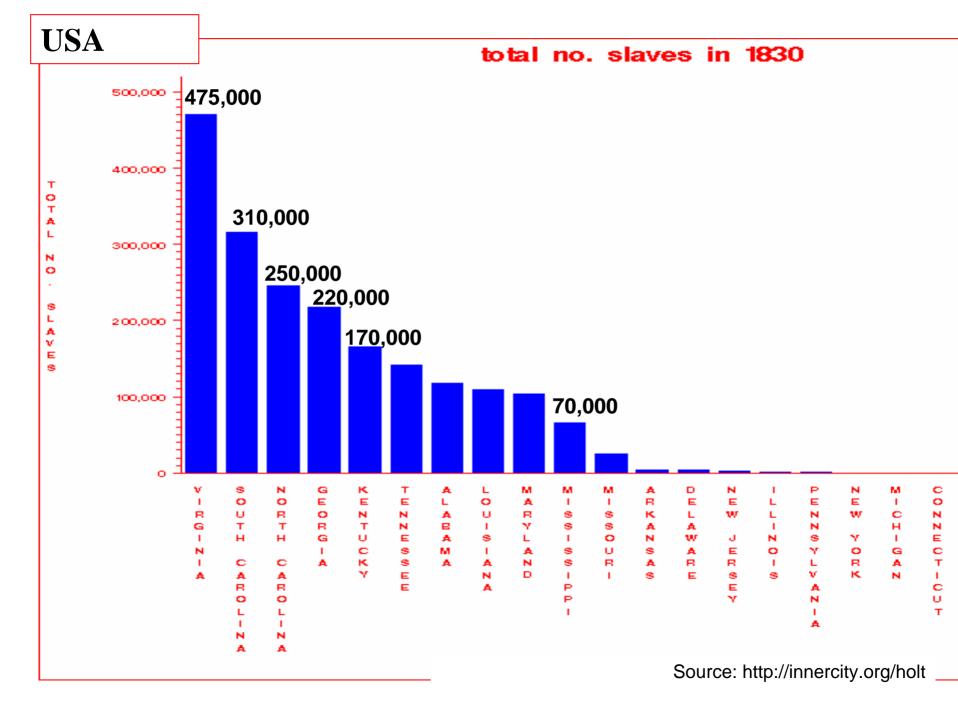
# Cotton Plant (Gossypium)



**King Cotton ~ Track 1** 



Mississippi Delta



South Carolina was the largest exporter of cotton to Britain and Europe until overtaken by Alabama and Mississippi.

The invention of the spinning jenny in England and the cotton gin in New England enabled cotton to replace wool as the staple for clothes. Cotton clothes were cheaper.

The major source of cotton for this burgeoning industry was the Deep South.

Cotton harvesting required stoop labour performed by slaves.

Virginia was not a major cotton producer, but became the major exporter of slaves to other states.

For the American South cotton revived and strengthened slavery.

The generation of the American Revolution was succeeded by a southern generation that largely defended slavery.

The Mississippi Delta was cleared of woodland and this is where the cotton was grown and with it a demand for slave labour.

When Mississippi entered the American Union in 1817 there were 70,000 people living there, including 30,000 who were black [43%].

By 1860 the population was 791,000 [11 x population increase] of whom 435,000 were black/slaves [55%]

Pre Civil War (1861-65) slaves worked on plantations that stretched from Virginia in the east through Mississippi and into Texas in the West.

On bigger plantations slaves were supervised by 'drivers'.

Tasks were allocated to slaves. If slaves failed to deliver they were usually awarded with a lashing.

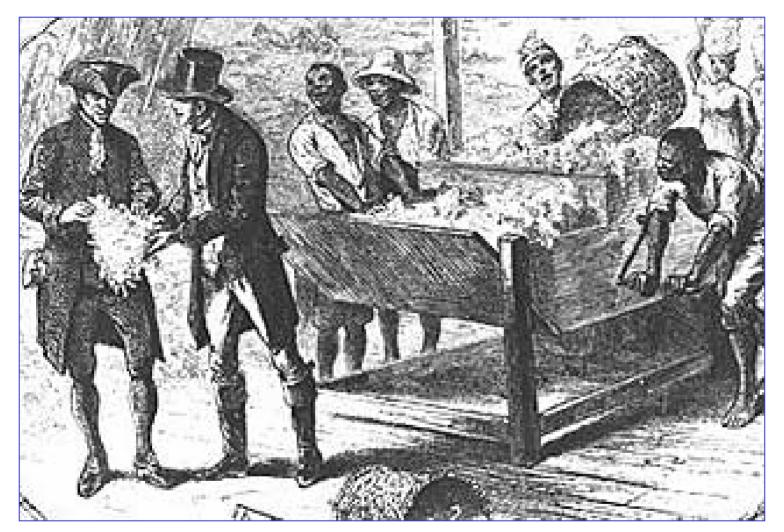
No one was spared the lash including women, sick, old, the elderly and children ~ sometimes slaves were beaten to death.

After the Civil War the South was forced to abandon slavery – but it did not relinquish the plantation economy.

Black people provided their labour through a system of tenant farming – they were allowed to farm the fields of the white landowners in return for a share of the crop – this was called 'share cropping'.

The landowners owned the tools, provided clothing and owned the stores where black workers bought their supplies.

Some plantation owners had their own currency (script). In Texas labour often came from prison gangs (predominantly black).



**A US Cotton Gin** 

The Gin was invented in 1793 ~ eight years later the first bale of cotton arrived in Britain



Hager Cotton Gin, Smyrna, Tennessee 1915



Local street names – Maze St., Bush St., Aitkin St and Pinney Terrace.

Probably the power loom cotton weaving sheds (Named 'MAZE House', 2007)

The sheds contained up to 1,600 looms.



Some history of the Barton Hill works & workers:

Some of the original Barton Hill workers migrated from Lancashire

1837 - The SS Great Western steamship was launched – to develop trade with US – on its first trip brought back cotton in its cargo. For the new mills.



- 1840 Mill employed 923 people including 609girls, 113 boys
- 1840-Report of bales of cotton arriving on the ship, Oconee [a cotton growing area, river and lake in Georgia] Cotton was also brought from Liverpool.
- 1842 The foundation stone of St Luke's
  Church was laid by the Mayor and
  member of Parliament for Bristol, Mr.
  P.W.S. Miles on the 24th May 1842
  ~procession inc Merchant Venturers
  and Freemasons banner.

- Bristol cotton was exported to N Italy, Malta, Greece, Gibraltar Bombay, Lima [Peru], China. Also for domestic market.
- 1883 1,000 hands of whom 75% are women (Work in Bristol)
- 1845 Children who missed a day's work were imprisoned and local people organised to get this changed.
- **1849** Mention of 2,000 workers and the cotton-shed had a capacity of 10,000 12,000 bales.
- 1849 Barton Hill hit by cholera epidemic and 31 people killed. Poverty report the following year said that 'the houses [just 12 years old] [were] in very poor condition and had no back windows.
- **1861-65** Southern US ports were blockaded, factory eventually closed, and in 1863: 117 burials in St Luke's Church (70 children under 5 buried compared to 78 people buried in 1860)



**Canon's Marsh Gasworks, Bristol** 

Photographer: not known, August 1970



Canon's Marsh Gasworks, Bristol, (1972)

The Bristol Gas Light Company was established in 1816 and used this site as its headquarters until 1936.

**Photographer:** R F Braybrook



### **Canon's Marsh Gasworks**

Photographer: R F Braybrook 1972



Bristol Gas Company, Colston Street, Bristol, 1936 now the home of the City Information Office.

Photographer: H Felton, 1936



Image from: www.cotch.net

## **Clifton Suspension Bridge:**

Construction stopped for 5 years after 1831 Revolt in Bristol.



The bridge was finished in 1864

Photo Taken: 1864 Photographer: unknown



**Train shed at Temple Meads Station c.1840-1846** 

The Bright, Cave, Gibbs and Harford families were all on the Bristol Committee of the GWR

GWR's bankers included Mssers Elton, Baillie, Ames & Co

#### **GWR**

1832 - First meeting had reps from MV, Bcorp, B Dock Co, B Ch of Comm, B&G r'way

Board & officers of GWR - 1834

Robert Bright (dep chair, 259 shares) ~ WI family, compensation money - merchant ~also in cotton wks

John Cave - B Corporation ~ banker

**Charles Bowles Fripp** 

George Gibbs ~ 50 shares – MV (Snr partner of Gibbs, Bright & Co of Bristol & Liverpool.

Thomas Richard Guppy – sugar refiner, son of prominent merchant – 243 shares = 1,458,000 ~ contributed to design of SSGB and SS Great Western ~ instigator of bringing toether partners in the Great Western Stemship Co bristol-america linkage ~ friend of Brunel (as was Sir Christopher Claxton, GW Steamship Co, ex-slaving agent in Antigua – est Bristol family with plantations around St kitts – campaigned for continuation of slavery 1831 – rasist petition in 1830 saying black people were unfit for emancipation 'a barbarous race'.)

John Harford – also in B&Glos r'way

William Singer Jacques ~ Chamber of Commerce

George Jones – also in B&Glos r'way

James Lean

Peter Maze ~ cotton - MV

John Vining

Nicholas Roch - influential - B Dock Co

W Tothill, Secretary

(Charles Saunders sec to London Committee- merchant in Mauritius)

Bankers in Bristol:

Miles Harford & Co

Elton, Baillie, Ames & Co

Stuckey & Co

Had to raise £2.5m by selling £100 shares (<£6,000) – had to make a deposit of £5 per share and balance paid off in 12 instalments.

25 Oct 1835 1,443 investors with 22,911 shares.

London - 6,209, Bristol 5,112 shares.

People involved in 'commerce, trade and manufacture were 1/3 of investors another 1/3 of 'independent means'. 'educated persons = 9%. Residents of Clifton = 766shares, Bath = 766



## LEONARD, BOULT & Cº

(LATE EASTON COAL COMPANY,)

#### BASTON COLLERY,

#### BRISTOL.

Orders received through the Post Office promptly executed; but when Gentlemen wish the Coal delivered before eleven o'clock, they are requested to give a clear day's notice to that effect.

#### PRICES AT THE PIT.

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					5.	d.
Block (all larg	e)	-	- I	er Ton	13	0
House Coal	-	-	-	"	12	0
Half and Half	-	-	-	"	10	0
Housekeeper's	Smal	<b>i</b> -	-	"	7	0
Steam Small	-	-	-	,,	5	6
Cartage.						
To Clifton	-	-	-		2	6
— Kingsdown	-	-	-		2	0

- Lower parts of the City -

Probably the power loom cotton weaving sheds (1998)

The sheds contained up to 1600 looms.



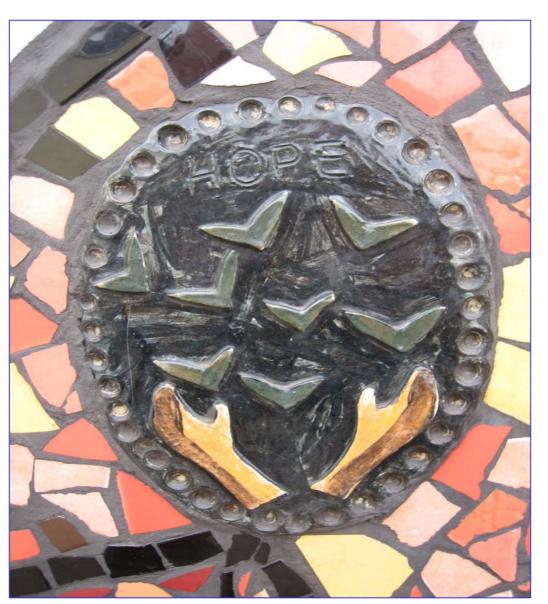
Photographer: L Furbank, 1989

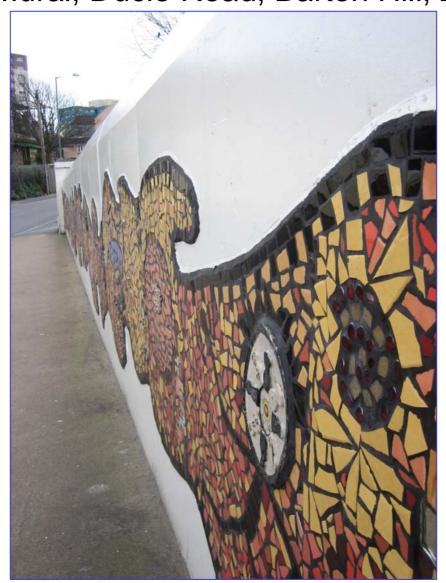
Probably the power loom cotton weaving sheds (2007)

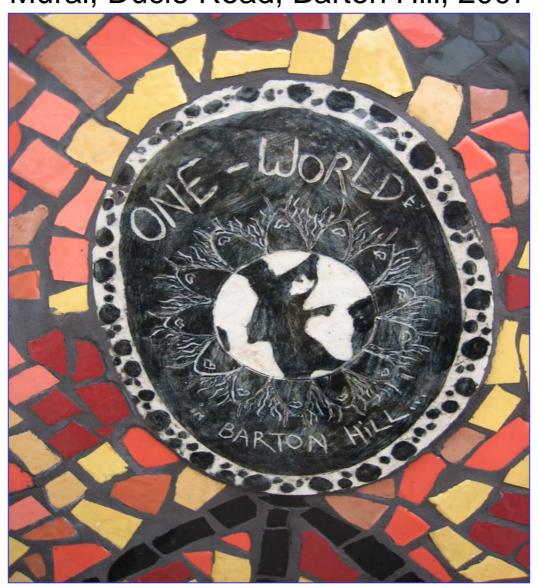
The sheds contained up to 1600 looms.













What form should be any public testament take in Bristol?

Does the Barton Hill mural show the way?