

Bristol Middle Passage Ceremonies & Port Markers Project



These slides accompany the BMPCPMP's presentation to the Bristol Town Council on March 2, 2022.

Slaveholders Among Bristol's Founding Families

Blagrove 5	Church 16	Gladding 1	Hubbard 7	Peck 8
Bosworth 18	Cotton 4	Gorham 3	Joll 18	Reynolds 8
Bourn 5	Davis 27	Greene 9	Munro 28	Rosbotham 2
Bowerman 2	Durphey 2	Greenhill 6	Norton 1	Saffin 1
Bragg 2	Edgill 3	Hayman 1	Osborne 1	Throope 2
Byfield 1	Finney 4	Hoar 1	Paine 11	Viall 1
Cary 12	Gallop 4	Howland 9	Pearse 12	Walker 3

Byfield and Hayman's names are boldfaced to recognize them as two of the four founders of Bristol.

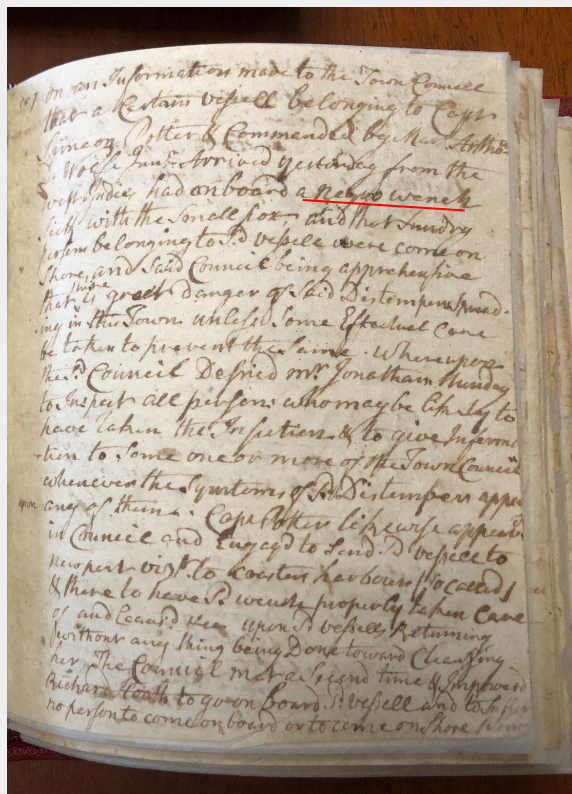
Bristol: A Point of Disembarkation

Between 1680 and 1808, Bristol's residents were responsible for bringing approximately 11,000 enslaved people out of Africa. Only a fraction came to Bristol. The earliest enslaved person who is known to have endured the Middle Passage is Rose Byfield, who arrived in Bristol in 1718 at the age of 13.

15 July 1768 [2:106-108]

A vessel belonging to Capt. **Samson Potter** and commanded by **Master Arthur De Wolfe, Jr.**, had arrived the previous day from the West Indies and had on board "a Negro wench" sick with the smallpox. Several persons from the vessel had come ashore and the council was concerned that the disease might spread in the town unless special care was taken. **Jonathan Munday** was appointed to inspect anyone who was likely to have contracted the disease and to inform the council whenever symptoms of the disease appeared in any of them. **Capt. Potter** agreed to send the vessel to Coasters Harbor in Newport to have "the wench" properly taken care of and cleansed, but the vessel returned without having been cleansed. The council met a second time and ordered **Richard Hough** to go on board and to prevent anyone from coming on board or going ashore from the vessel without a license from the town council and to move the vessel a proper distance from the town. **Hough** and **William Christopher** were to cleanse the goods on board the vessel in order to be returned to the owners.

*Gleanings from
Rhode Island
Town Records:
Bristol Town
Council Records,
1760-1811 by
Linda L. Mathew*



Bristol Houses Built Using Money from the Slave Trade



Capt. William Richmond



Capt. William Bradford III



Capt. Leonard Bradford



Charles Collins



Capt. Thomas Moore



Isaac Royall, Jr.

Local Industries Dependent on Slave Labor



Pokanoket Mills (1839)



Bristol Insurance and
Counting House (1835)



Namquit Cotton (1843)



National Rubber Co. (1865)

Even after slavery was made illegal in Rhode Island, Bristol's industries relied on cotton that was grown in Southern states using the labor of enslaved people. Southern planters outfitted their enslaved people in fabric made in RI mills. Later in the century, raw rubber was gathered from rubber trees in South America by enslaved indigenous people and imported to Bristol.

Tourist Destinations with Connections to the Slave Trade



Linden Place



Bristol Historical &
Preservation Society



Coggeshall Farm



Mount Hope Farm

Linden Place and Mount Hope Farm were constructed by enslaved labor using funds generated by the slave trade. The Bristol Historical & Preservation Society's building was constructed using African stone. Coggeshall Farm participated in the business of slavery by producing products used to purchase enslaved people.

The Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Marker Project

The Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project (MPCPMP) was established in 2011 to honor the two million captive Africans who perished during the transatlantic crossing known as the Middle Passage and the ten million who survived to build the Americas. The Bristol MPCPMP seeks to participate in this program to erect a marker in honor of Bristol's enslaved population.

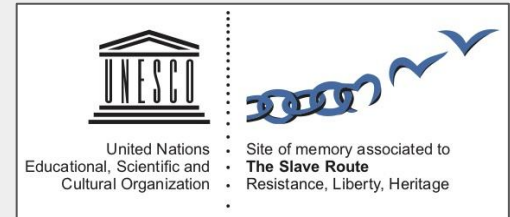


For more information: www.middlepassageproject.org

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization)

Bristol has already been recognized as a Site of Memory by UNESCO's Slave Route Project. The marker will provide a destination for national and international travelers participating in that project. It will also link Bristol with similar destinations around the world and provide a new point of interest that tells the whole story of Bristol's history.

For more information: en.unesco.org/themes/fostering-rights-inclusion/slave-route





The Port Marker Project in Bristol

With this port marker, Bristol will join the other 55 ports of disembarkation that have been recognized in the United States.

The goals are to acknowledge this history and honor its victims, to provide a space for contemplation and healing, and to provide a focus for those travelers and residents alike seeking to know the whole story of Bristol.

As representatives of our town, we seek the Town Council's support as we work towards finding a suitable location for the marker.

The Bristol MPCPMP will fundraise the cost of design, fabrication, and installation, and commits to creating a monument with minimal maintenance requirements.

Stakeholders and Supporters

Bristol Art Museum

Bristol Historical & Preservation Society

East Bay BIPOC Research Group

Linden Place Museum

Pokanoket Tribe/Pokanoket Nation

RI Slave History Medallion Project

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Professors of History and Preservation at Roger Williams University and Agnes Scott College

–in addition to at least 20 other Bristol residents who have kindly written letters of support

We thank you for your support!

Please visit
www.bhpsri.org to view a
timeline of the history of
Bristol's enslaved
population between 1680
and 1808.