

Richard Tudway (1656-1707)

Richard Tudway was the third son of Thomas and Ann Tudway. He was born in Essex and came to Windsor when the family returned after Charles II came to the throne. He grew up in close vicinity to the Castle and the St Georges Chapel where his father was a lay clerk/chorister. When his father died in 1671, Richard, aged 14, was taken with his mother and the rest of his younger siblings back to Essex, presumably to his grandparents. It is possible that he had already begun working -perhaps an apprenticeship - and would have been expected, along with his older brother Clement 1, to have given financial help to his widowed mother who was still responsible for his younger siblings. Richard was described in the family tree as a merchant and 'Master Mariner in the Antigua Trade'.ⁱ

The role of a ship's captain, or Master Mariner, was a skilled and responsible role that would require twenty or thirty years of experience on the ship's crew before rising to this senior rank. Life at sea was very harsh and sea captains ensured the discipline of the ship's crew with brutality, resorting to flogging with the cat-o-nine-tails for even minor misdemeanours. The slave ships were particularly horrible and most of the sailors were pressganged as few people wanted to get involved in this business. The stench of the ships, their heat, the danger of revolt or even capture by pirates, the lack of food and the sheer misery of the human beings being transported made this possibly the worst seafaring venture of them all. The captains of the slave ships were known to be brutal, to the crew as well the incarcerated Africans below deck. It cannot be assumed that Richard Tudway was any less brutal than his counterparts.

The Royal Africa Company, which was re-formed in 1672 with a royal charter under King Charles II, was set up to trade along the Africa coast with its monopoly on the trade in gold, silver, ivory and of course enslaved Africans. Like his older brother, Clement, he had grown up in the close vicinity of Windsor Castle, so it would not have been difficult to have the right contacts to be able to join the Royal Africa Company, which provided him with an ample opportunity for Richard to build a career as a seafarer building his way up to the position of Ship's Captain or Master Mariner. From the evidence available, it appears that Richard eventually joined his brother in London and became a merchant, trading in commodities such as sugar, but also possibly tobacco and other imported goods coming into the ports of London.

Richard is mentioned with other merchants in the Calendar of Treasury Books of December 1692ⁱⁱ where royal permission had been granted him and others to trade with the Leeward Islands. Richard also held a young African boy, Quamy, in domestic slavery at his house in London. In March 1693 he placed an advertisement in the London Gazette saying that Quamy had run away. It read:

'A Black Boy run away from Mr Richard Tudway, Merchant, on 15th past, he is about 10 year old, named Quamy, in a dark coloured Coat lin'd with blue, with Large Brass Buttons, a strip'd pair of Breeches, blue Stockins, a light coloured Cap lined with blue. Whoever gives notice of him to Mrs Rachel Tudway at her House in Distaff Lane, or to Mr. Joseph Whitfield in the New Exchange in the Strand shall have 20s Reward'ⁱⁱⁱ

There is much information that can be gathered from this advertisement. Quamy – or Kwame – is an Akan name from the Ashanti or Akan people. It means born on a Saturday and carries auspicious connotations. It is likely he began his life in his family village and was captured and sold onto the ships. There are a number of ways Quamy would have arrived in the household of Richard Tudway. It was often the case that a privilege of being a ship's Captain or First Mate was to be able to choose a young boy, or girl, for themselves to be sold, and the money pocketed, or the child could be kept for themselves or gifted to a family member or friend. There were no ships between 1683 and 1693 that

named Richard Tudway as Captain but most that sailed to the Gold Coast (Ghana) from London and on to Barbados were under the Royal African Company, which he was involved in. Quamy may be a 'perk' gained from a voyage he made as a senior crew or may have been gifted by a friend separately from any journey he was involved in. Richard might also have purchased him directly from a trader. It became fashionable that some wealthy families in England, often those with connections to the trade in enslaved Africans, kept an African child in domestic slavery. They would be dressed in finery, perhaps taught to read and write, play music or some other accomplishment that could be shown off to the guests of the household as a 'novelty'. While they may have enjoyed a more privileged life than on the plantations, they were still enslaved, their iron collars and chains being replaced by those of gold, silver or brass. There were many who ran away, who Simon Newman calls 'freedom seekers'^{iv} and for many this did not end well. They could be captured by slave catchers and sent back to slavery in the colonies, drawn into crime on the streets or returned to their master or mistress only to endure severe punishment and then sold or sent back to the dreaded plantations. The sum of money offered as a reward would have tempted only a poor person – the amount corresponding to half a year's labouring work, yet nowhere near the value of the enslaved man, woman or child at a slave auction. The finder is not asked to return Quamy to Richard's house, but to that of Rachel, his sister-in-law in Distaff Lane, or his sister Elizabeth's husband, Joseph Whitfield, in the Strand. It is not known why this was. Perhaps Richard was away nor do we know what became of Quamy but perhaps he was taken in and cared for by fellow black freedom seekers in the community around him.

Looking at Rachel Tudway's story it is clear that she had some specific views on the treatment of the enslaved, believing that they would run away if treated severely, but if treated kindly, would learn to respect their master or mistress and work well for them. Perhaps her experience of this came from witnessing ill-treatment of Quamy in Richard's house. Perhaps, then he was returned to her, rather than her brother-in-law, where she demonstrated and reinforced her belief.

By 1697 the Royal African Company had ended its monopoly on England's trade in trafficking Africans and The Trade With Africa Act (1697) opened up the trade to any English merchant on the payment of a levy. This opened up more opportunities for men like Richard who had now accumulated many years of experience as a merchant seaman trading between England, Africa and the Americas - especially, for him, Antigua and the Leeward Islands. In 1699, Richard was the Captain of a ship, *The Codrington*, (voyage ID 15086) which carried 243 Africans to Antigua, of whom only 195 survived, losing 48 en route^v. The ship owners were investors Robert Edwards and Daniel Jamineau. Jamineau, originally a Huguenot refugee, was a trader in Venetian glass beads, which became a source of currency among slave traffickers. By the late 17th c at least £3,000 worth of beads were traded in any year – crystal, amber, jet - was sold to slave traffickers as currency goods as well as bead traders directly transacting themselves. Jamineau became a prolific slave trafficker tallying a massive 60 voyages as an investor..

Richard Tudway and partners were investors between 1698 and 1704 for four (five if including Elizabeth Tudway) other ships trafficking captured Africans to Antigua, Barbados or Virginia. Perhaps some of these enslaved ended up on his brother's plantation, Parham in Antigua. These other voyages are recorded on the Slave Voyages website (www.slavevoyages.org)^{vi} and were:

Voyage ID 15085 Vessel name : The Prosperous. **Captain** John Henty. **Owners** (investors) Charles Buttery, Richard Tudway, Joseph Martin, Christopher Prissick, James and Richard Eyton

The voyage began from London on 31.10.1698, sailing to an unspecified African Port . It landed in St John's, Antigua on 3.6.1699, returning to the UK on 5.10 1699. In all 265 Africans were taken. The ship arrived with 212 Africans with 53 dying en route.

Voyage ID 21262 Vessel name The Prosperous. **Captain** John Henty. **Owners** (investors) Elizabeth Tudway,(probably Richard's daughter or sister) John Johnson, James Waite, James Moulins, Robert Moulins, Malbrough Merryweather, Henry Kewood, Daniel Jamineau.

The voyage left London on 31.5.1700, sailing to an unspecified African port, (no date), Landing at St John's Antigua on 6.3. 1701.. Took 250 Africans but arrived with just 200. 50 died on route.

Voyage ID 15147 Vessel Name The Champion. **Captain** Robert Pennington. **Owners.**(investors) Anthony Tourney, Robert Smith, Lewis Johnson, Thomas Coalhurst, Richard Tudway. Began London port 15.7.1703, landed unspecified port in Africa, arrived in Barbados 23.4.1704. Returned to UK on 9.9.1704. The voyage took 390 Africans, of whom 325 arrived and 65 died en route.

Voyage ID 21225. Vessel name The Codrington. **Captain** John Henty, Francis Squerrel. **Owners** (investors) Richard Tudway, Robert Curtis, James Waite, Gawthorne Barrett, Peter Joye, Alexander Cleeve.

The voyage left London on 19.9.1703; it arrived at an unspecified African port, no date, arriving in Virginia 21.10.1704, date returned to UK not recorded.. Total Africans taken 327, total arrived 262. 65 died

Voyage ID 15121 Vessel name The London. **Captain** John Grout **Owners** (investors) Richard Tudway, John Bryant, William Harris. Ship departed from Bristol on 31.7.1704, arrived at Cape Coast Castle on 22.11.1704, arrived in Antigua 20.1.1705 and returned to the UK on 2.7.1705. The ship took 311 Africans and arrived in Antigua with 269, out of whom 42 died en route.

Richard Tudway was responsible, with others, for the enslavement of 1,721 Africans and for the deaths of 323 over these 6 voyages, and possibly many more during his long career.^{vii}

Richard married Elizabeth Steel in 1691 and in that year they were recorded as living in London^{viii}. They were recorded again as living in the City of London in 1695.^{ix} The couple had 3 daughters – Anne born 1698, Jane born 1696 and Elizabeth, born 1703, being the only one who survived. His wife also pre-deceased him, as she was not mentioned in his will, but his daughter, Elizabeth, was, although it appears that she died in 1708. Richard Tudway died, aged 51, in 1707,

It is possible that Richard also spent time on the Parham plantations in Antigua as, in his will, dated 1707, he left a tenement in Parham Town to his sister-in-law Mary, widowed wife of his brother Charles 1, and their son Charles 2.^x From the will, it is also evident that his mother, Ann Tudway, was still alive and named as a beneficiary. Richard referred to two sisters by the name of Anne, one of which is an in-law, married to Thomas Hawes, and the other, Ann Cooper his sister by birth.

Richard Tudway was mired in the trafficking of Africans as much as anyone could be. There were strong connections between him and his brother Clement 1 in moving from trafficking to setting up the plantation so that they could use the enslaved African labour force, which they had a direct hand in procuring, to grow the sugar which was then sold in London.

ⁱ Oliver, V.L (1895) Pedigree of Tudway in History of Antigua Vol 3 Mitchell and Hughes. London p148

ⁱⁱ British History Online Calendar of Treasury Books Volume 9. December 1692 6-10

ⁱⁱⁱ Advertisement London Gazette 2 March 1693 (referenced in Newman, below)

^{iv} Newman, S (2021) Freedom Seekers in Restoration London

^v www.slavevoyages.org/voyages/database Data Source CO 152/7,461 BNA Kew; T70/350,3,4,6 British National Archives, Kew

^{vi} www.slavevoyages.org/voyages/database Data source T70/175/175 BNA (Kew) T70/350,59,60,63 BNA

vii www.slavevoyages.org/voyages/database data searched for each ship.

viii Boyd's Inhabitants of London 1691

ix London Record Society (1966) London Inhabitants Within The Walls (1695) British History Online

x Oliver op cit p 149