

U DP211

Documents relating to Sierra Leone

1802-1848

Historical Background:

The Sierra Leone river, with a natural harbour at its mouth where Freetown now stands, was a regular port for many of the European slaving ships. It was here that the British abolitionist, Granville Sharp, sought to create a model society for thousands of the freed slaves that were living in London in the late 1780s.

Sharp reached an agreement with King Tom, a local chief of the Temne tribe, to secure an area of hilly coast and Sharp named it 'The Province of Freedom'. May 1787 saw the arrival of a naval vessel carrying 331 freed slaves, 41 of them women, and 60 white London prostitutes. A basic settlement, called Granville Town, was built but half of the settlers died within a year and the settlement was burnt down by a local chief in 1789.

A new settlement, in a new location and with a new name – Freetown – was strengthened with the arrival in 1792 of more than 1000 freed slaves from Nova Scotia. This group was recruited by Thomas Peters, a former American slave who had supported the British in return for his freedom. In 1794 Zachary Macaulay was appointed Governor and started to make improvements. The settlement was secured in 1808 when the British government decided to use Sierra Leone as a base for its anti-slavery campaign. An estimated 50,000 re-captives, freed by the British Navy, were brought to Freetown over a fifty year period.

Over the course of the 19th century the British and Creoles in the Freetown area increased their control over the surrounding territory by engaging in trade, treaty making, and military expeditions. In their treaties with the native chiefs the British were largely concerned with securing local peace so that commerce would not be interrupted. In the decades following Britain's prohibition of the slave trade in 1807, the treaties sometimes also required chiefs to desist from slave trading.

Custodial history:

The material was purchased at auction 1 Nov 2007, with half of the purchase price funded by a grant from Friends of the National Libraries and the remainder of the cost split between the University Archives and WISE. Previous provenance unknown.

Description:

Papers of George Rickards, relating to his career in Sierra Leone including the office of Sheriff, 1808- 1811. Draft letter from George Rickards to Zachary Macaulay (1819) setting out Rickard's testimony as to Zachary Macaulay's activities and reputation in Sierra Leone during the period 1802-1810.

Arrangement:

- U DP211/1 Papers regarding George Rickards' career in Sierra Leone
- U DP211/2 Papers mainly relating to George Rickard's term of office as Sheriff
- U DP211/3 Miscellaneous

Extent: 1 bundle

Related material:

Rickard's correspondence (8 letters) Bodleian Library, Oxford [Mss. Afr.s.2446, fols. 1-2]

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Hull History Centre: Documents relating to Sierra Leone

U DP211/1	Papers re George Rickards' career in Sierra Leone 12 items	1802-1811
U DP211/1/1	Extract from the minutes of the committee of Trade 22 July 1802. Appointing George Rickards as clerk to the Sierra Leone Company. 1 item	22 Jul 1802
U DP211/1/2	Printed pro forma letter to George Rickards Concerning the transfer of the colony to Government and the effective end of all salaried posts within the company unless by new and special appointment and the transfer of service to the British Government 1 item	23 Dec 1807
U DP211/1/3	Letter to George Rickards Appointing George Rickards' secretary to the Governor & Council & Registrar 1 item	1 Jan 1808
U DP211/1/4	Letter to George Rickards from T Perronet Thompson, Governor. Appointing George Rickards as Sheriff 1 item	1 Sep 1808
U DP211/1/5	Letter to George Rickards from Thomas Perronet Thompson. Regarding the appointment of George Rickard as Captain of a company of Militia in the African Brigade at Sierra Leone 1 item	27 Oct 1808
U DP211/1/6	Letter from Samuel Curry, Secretary's Office, to George Rickards. Regarding the continuation of his situation as Registra of the Vice Admiralty court 1 item	12 Feb 1810
U DP211/1/7	Letter to George Rickards Samuel Curry, Secretary's Office. Appointing George Rickards as Alderman of Freetown 1 item	26 Mar 1810
U DP211/1/8	Certificate that George Rickards served as Alderman 1 item	1 Oct 1810
U DP211/1/9	Letter to George Rickards from Samuel Curry, Secretary's Office. Appointing George Rickards Assistant Engineer 1 item	27 Feb 1810
U DP211/1/10	Certificate that George Rickards served as Assistant Engineer 1 item	30 Jan 1811

Hull History Centre: Documents relating to Sierra Leone

U DP211/1/11	Letter to George Rickards from Samuel Curry, Secretary's Office. Regarding leave of absence & return to England 1 item	1 Jan 1811
U DP211/1/12	Receipt from James [Turnwell] Bell For payment of passage to England 1 item	17 Jan 1811
U DP211/2	Papers mainly relating to George Rickard's term of office as Sheriff 24 items	1808-1809
U DP211/2/1	Writ of Venire Facias for the Michaelmas Quarter Session 1 item	14 Oct 1808
U DP211/2/1-13	Writs of Venire Facias for Quarter Sessions and special Sessions. A judicial writ or precept directed to the sheriff, requiring him to cause a certain number of qualified persons to appear in court at a specified time, to serve as jurors in said court. Also used as a summons to cause the party indicted to appear. A writ of scire facias is a judicial writ founded upon some record directing the sheriff to make it known (scire- facias) to the party against whom it is brought, and requiring the latter to show cause why the party bringing the writ should not have the advantage of such record, or why (in the case of letters patent and grants) the record should not be annulled and vacated. 7 items	Apr 1808- Nov 1809
U DP211/2/2	Writ of Venire Facias for a special session 1 item	8 Oct 1808
U DP211/2/3	Writ of Venire Facias for a special session 1 item	28 Apr 1808
U DP211/2/4	Writ of Venire Facias for the Epiphany Quarter Session 1 item	4 Jan 1809
U DP211/2/5	Writ of Venire Facias for the Easter Quarter Session 1 item	5 Apr 1809
U DP211/2/6	Writ of Venire Facias for the Trinity Session 1 item	5 Jul 1809

Hull History Centre: Documents relating to Sierra Leone

U DP211/2/7	Writ of Venire Facias 1 item	3 Nov 1809
U DP211/2/8	Writ of Scire facias for James Carr to appear in Smith versus Carr 1 item	7 May 1809
U DP211/2/9	Writ of Scire facias Regarding James Carr 1 item	27 May 1809
U DP211/2/10	Writs of Scire facias. Regarding Walter Robertson 3 items	24 Aug 1809
U DP211/2/11	Writ of Capias Corpus. Regarding Jesse George 2 items	15 Oct 1808
U DP211/2/12	Writ of Capias Corpus. Regarding Elliot versus Arthy, with recognizance 1 item	9 Mar 1809
U DP211/2/13	Writ of Capias Corpus. Regarding John Raynour for contempt 1 item	4 May 1809
U DP211/2/14	Copy letter from Perronet Thompson Rejecting the minutes of the court martial on F Duncan & W D Quarnel 1 item	Nov 1808
U DP211/2/15	Letter from T Perronet Thompson, Govenor Order to delay Sessions 1 item	31 Dec 1808
U DP211/2/16	Governor's order to summon a Jury to view a body 1 item	31 May 1809
U DP211/2/17	Order to give notice of fences & trees to be cleared & trimmed 1 item	22 May 1809
U DP211/2/18	Letter to George Rickards from Thomas Perronet Thompson. Precept to choose a Coroner 1 item	5 Jul 1809
U DP211/2/19	Record of County Court, George Town, signed by George Rickards. Voting Daniel Molloy Hamilton to serve as Coroner 1 item	17 Jul 1809
U DP211/2/20	Precept to choose Surveyor of Roads 1 item	5 Jul 1809

Hull History Centre: Documents relating to Sierra Leone

U DP211/2/21	Letter from George Rickards, Sheriff to Dr Thorpe, Regarding the procession to Captain Macgregor's funeral. Captain Macgregor was the First in Council and was a Commanding Officer. 1 item	22 Feb 1809
U DP211/2/22	Letter from John Duncan, clerk, George Town Regarding persons nominated by the freeholders to serve as surveyors of the roads 1 item	22 Jul 1809
U DP211/2/23	Receipt for 8 packets of dispatches for transmission to England 1 item	13 Mar 1811
U DP211/2/24	Copy of the Register of High Sheriffs of Freetown Lists the High Sheriffs from 1800 to 1811 1 item	c.1811
U DP211/3	Miscellaneous 3 items	1811-1848
U DP211/3/1	Receipt for £60 paid by George Rickards to Mr Dawes 1 item	1 Aug 1811
U DP211/3/2	Draft letter from George Rickards, Wortley, near Leeds, to Zachary Macaulay, London Setting out Rickards' testimony as to Zachary Macaulay's activities and reputation in Sierra Leone during the period 1802-1810, [in connection with a libel case brought by Macaulay against Dr Robert Thorpe] 1 item	25 Oct 1819
U DP211/3/3	Assurance of two undivided thirds of Estates in the parish of Vere, Jamaica. Parties: 1. Revd Willoughby Crewe, Rector of Muxton in Staffordshire, 2. Keith Baines of Spring Gardens, Westminster, gentleman, 3. Revd Edward Hinchliffe of Barthomley, Cheshire, clerk to 4. Joseph Brooks Yates, Liverpool, merchant 5. Cezaire Hinchliffe of Brook Green Land, Hammersmith, Middlesex, widow and sole executrix of Henry John Hinchcliffe, formerly of Spanish Town, Jamaica 6. William Holt of Liverpool, gentleman Regarding two third shares of a plantation or estate called Raymonds, in Vere, Jamaica, a piece of land	30 Aug 1848

Hull History Centre: Documents relating to Sierra Leone

U DP211/3/3
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called Moores Crawl and "all capital and other messuages, tenements, sugar and other works, pens, provision grounds, curing houses, boiling houses, coppers, still houses, water mills, wind mills, cattle mills and other buildings and fixtures" belonging. Assured to William Holt, for such uses and purposes as Joseph Brooks Yates shall direct.

30 Aug 1848

1 item