

1 September 1738

Arriving early to Liverpool, I hav receiv'd orders from my esteem'd colegue, Sir Robert Procter, merchant for King of England, to embark for the Gold Coast at Cape Coast Castle in Africa. I am to set sail within the week. Then, wil purchase 300, or more, of the best slaves for sale in Bridgetown port, Barbados, in ther best condition. I am to jornal my time as captan, and to recownt my ek-speriencs for whoev'r may seek thes playse in lief, by order of Procter, for wat reson I no not. I must in good consence manifest thes to you-- I wil not pretend to be a man of Literature. I poses skills in relations and comand, wich is the reson Procter enlist'd me for the Voyage. I am, according to Robert, to forge strong Relations with natives at Cape Coast Castle.<sup>1</sup>

His Majesty's humble Servant,

Captan J. Harrison Warminsham

4 September 1738

Robert prepar'd my departure for 9 o'clock today. The vessel is now call'd the Hopewell, after a deces'd relative of the ship's owner. Procter means to introduce the crew to there new captan against departure. However, I new meny of them prior to thes interview. Listing there 20 names and playses would become tedious. From thes time on, thay wil be mention'd as is nesenary. Primarily, Owen White, Chief Mate, and Benjamin Taylor, Surgeon and Physician,

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<sup>1</sup>"Voyage Information." Voyages Database. 2013. Accessed October 02, 2016.  
<http://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/94690/variables>.

wich is requir'd by law to have on board, and requir'd by nesesity, must be mention'd as thay wil be closest to the cargo and my self on board the Hopewell.<sup>2</sup>

October 1738

Left Liverpul at the start of September, and have been traveling without ceasing. Weather fair. Winds strong. Ship is on schedule to arive in Africa in December.

November 1738

Month began with traveling windbound and truh mitey tempests. Now are ofe-corse near the southern-most port in Portugal. Set to arive in Africa late January or early Febuary.

December 1738

Crew restless. Scout spot'd pirates on African coast, lieing in weicht for His Majesty's ships such as the Hopewell. I order'd the men to sail cleer round. Despite sailing a week ofe-corse, still set to arive in February.

January 1739

Uneventful. Winds favorable. I suffer'd the men to celebrate Christmas and Twelth Nite.

Febuary 1739

Ariv'd in Cape Coast Castle on the Gold Coast of Africa early thes m  
orning. Intend to stay 'til June, Lord willing.

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<sup>2</sup> "Voyage Information." Voyages Database. 2013. Accessed October 02, 2016.  
<http://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/94690/variables>.

October 1739

After arriving in February, the Natives sold 300 and 31 of their Men, Women, and Children to the crew and myself. Our interview was brief, but the capture of slaves took longer than they planned. Many times the slave merchants brought captives from the interior of Africa, whose country was lost to African Empires. These were strong and healthy, and each came shackled to the next. I admire their tenacity, as they fought the indestructible shackles. The merchants also used the disgusting practice of kidnapping children whilst their parents tilled fields or hunted. Each slave, then, marched to the coast, not stopping often.<sup>34</sup>

Our large slave order required the use of Fort Cape Coast, in which all cargo was confined to cells and bound by chains. (Several deliveries were required, and the Commander of Cape Coast suffered the storing of slaves there.) Once all had arrived, I paid the Africans in guns and ammunition. Then all slaves were taken to the Hopewell. Children went first and were allowed to roam, then men and women were separated and allowed aboard. Each one was stripped and cleaned by the men and inspected by the surgeon and myself.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> "Voyage Information." Voyages Database. 2013. Accessed October 02, 2016.

<http://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/94690/variables>.

<sup>4</sup> "The History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade." International Slavery Museum, Liverpool Museums.

Accessed October 01, 2016. <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/>.

<sup>5</sup> "The History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade." International Slavery Museum, Liverpool Museums.

Accessed October 01, 2016. <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/>.

Once approv'd or deny'd, male slaves were taken below deck and position'd in the main hold. To fit them all, each was forc'd to lie down, all with leg irons. Women and children were stor'd separatly and suffer'd little movment.<sup>6</sup>

I manifest'd thes to the crew-- the hold was to be chek'd each day for weapons or insurrection, women were not to be harm'd (in any way), and children, unless aiding in insurrection, were not to be kill'd or hurt. If any refuses to speak or confess, all crew are permit'd to use thumbscrews, cat o'nine tails, or any method of tortur. However, the case must be explain'd either to my self, or the first or second mate. If any slave refuses to eat, use the *speculum oris*, a device to force the mouth open using a system like thumbscrews. They are to be fed twice dayly and let out for 8 hours dayly. They are to excersise lest they become sickly. If any crewman breaks these orders, they are to be whip'd publikly and befor the cargo. There are to be minimal casualties, as to the fact the cargo is not our propriety but is the sum of our payment.<sup>78</sup>

After my speech, the remnants of the crew went aboard to work. We set sail the 17th of October 1739 with the aim to arive in Bridgetown, Barbados, in December.

Late October 1739

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<sup>6</sup> "The History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade." International Slavery Museum, Liverpool Museums.

Accessed October 01, 2016. <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/>.

<sup>7</sup> "The History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade." International Slavery Museum, Liverpool Museums.

Accessed October 01, 2016. <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/>.

<sup>8</sup> Wolfe, Brendan. "Slave Ships and the Middle Passage." Encyclopedia Virginia. January 29, 2013. Accessed October 02, 2016.

[http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Slave\\_Ships\\_and\\_the\\_Middle\\_Passage#start\\_entry](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Slave_Ships_and_the_Middle_Passage#start_entry).

One week after departure. Weather warm and wet. Wind scarce. Water calm.

All obey'd original orders as stat'd. Slaves given 8 hours on dek, each fed twice daily as able by the cook. 3 refus'd to eat, 2 women and a man. Owen us'd the *speculum oris*, and thay et. (I shall endeavor to explain the *speculum oris*. It is a "scissor-shap'd instrument that, with the help of a thumbscrew, forc'd the jaws open," according to Owen.) My men tied the male's feet and arms, and I whip'd him to submission. He did not survive the nite. He was N. 300.<sup>9 10</sup>

The crew quell'd one attempt to rebel within 2 weeks of departure. I was forc'd to murder a young boy (N. 3), his parents (Ns. 133 and 248), and two other men (Ns. 289 and 87) as an example of the punishments for rebellion. The boy and woman died quickly by my hand were and thrown in the drink, but the others were left to my men. The 3 were chayn'd together, after being forc'd to publikly entertain us with dance and singing, and push'd off the boat alive to waiting sharks.<sup>11</sup>

Early November 1739

The hold was pestilential. Slaves had seasickness and dysentery, and many had wet themselves. Many began to suffocate in the heat and foul stench, and I order'd the men to clean

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<sup>9</sup> "The History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade." International Slavery Museum, Liverpool Museums.

Accessed October 01, 2016. <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/>.

<sup>10</sup> Wolfe, Brendan. "Slave Ships and the Middle Passage." Encyclopedia Virginia. January 29, 2013. Accessed October 02, 2016.

[http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Slave\\_Ships\\_and\\_the\\_Middle\\_Passage#start\\_entry](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Slave_Ships_and_the_Middle_Passage#start_entry).

<sup>11</sup> Lynch, Jack. "A Guide to Eighteenth-Century English Vocabulary". April 14, 2006. Accessed October 2, 2016. <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/C18Guide.pdf>.

the hold. All slaves were broght on dek. Benjamin en-spekt'd all for disease, and 15 found with smallpox were imediatly push'd overboard (Ns. 72, 84, 91, 100, 115, 143, 168, 172, 185, 193, 222, 209, 270, 319, and 326). Whilst the crew clean'd, 4 more bodies were found infekt'd and traml'd (Ns. 29, 74, 280, and 330 ). Next the women were inspekt'd, and most were healthy, but 4 were found with evidence of rape and uh-buse. Benjamin and I suspect'd a few men, but a snotty (midshipman) was discover'd as the ofender. He was strip'd, whip'd with a cat o'nine tails but not murther'd. The children were all healthy and happy because I suffer'd them to play. However 2 bodies were found in cleaning the children and women's quarters, both near 5 years of age (N. 7 and 10).<sup>12</sup>

Another atempt'd rebellion. 4 men and a child were murther'd by the crew. I dispos'd of the boy and allow'd the crew to humiliate the 4. They were whip'd and had there fingers and toes crush'd by thumbscrews. They were tos'd overboard. (Ns. 6, 144, 154, and 229.)<sup>13</sup>

Late November 1739

Third week of November. Weather humid and stife-ling. Strong wind. Clouds dark and thretening to the west by compass. The crew and I felt a storm near. The tempest came faster then eks-pekt'd. There was time enof to get all women and children below dek and baten down the hatches. Most male slaves safe-ly went to the hold, but 12 were caught by the shifting seas and pull'd in the drink by their chayns (Ns. 30, 49, 88, 105, 120, 146, 187, 193, 224, 252, 294,

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<sup>12</sup> "The History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade." International Slavery Museum, Liverpool Museums.

Accessed October 01, 2016. <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/>.

<sup>13</sup> De La Sierra, Joaquin. "Thumbscrew Torture." Medieval Times and Castles. Accessed October 02, 2016. <http://www.medievality.com/thumbscrew.html>.

and 331). After the storm many slaves fell to despair, and a mother and babe, jump'd overboard (Ns. 2 and 40).<sup>14</sup>

Early December 1739

Weather peaceful. Wind strong. Crew restless to reach land. I myself am as well.

3 died of starvation in the hold (Ns. 28, 39, and 321), totaling 48 lost profits and 283 slaves ready to auction in Barbados. Land sight'd early this morning. According to my maps, this is Bridgetown. I gather'd the crew and gave orders to prepare for disembarking.

Once in port, I was told the date was the 19th of December, and the crew was ready to celebrate the next week, yet we still had business in the slave markets. The slaves were, then, wash'd, shav'd, and cover'd in palm oil and made to look healthy or at the least normal. I decid'd to take them to a market on shore, rather than clutter my ship with people. All were auction'd to the highest bidder, no matter their relations form'd onboard the Hopewell.<sup>15</sup>

January 1740

By the end of December, all slaves had been sold. The profits far exceed'd my hopes, and the owners will be pleas'd when we return to England. We intend to leave Barbados in May

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<sup>14</sup> Bos, Carole. "'Amazing Grace - Horrors of the Middle Passage'" *Awesome Stories*. October 7, 2013. Accessed September 19, 2016. <https://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/AmazingGrace-Horrors-of-the-Middle-Passage->

<sup>15</sup> Wolfe, Brendan. "Slave Ships and the Middle Passage." *Encyclopedia Virginia*. January 29, 2013.

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[http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Slave\\_Ships\\_and\\_the\\_MiddlePassage#start\\_entry](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Slave_Ships_and_the_MiddlePassage#start_entry).

when cargo will be ready for passage to England. From there we should arrive home in July of this year, Lord willing.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> "Voyage Information." Voyages Database. 2013. Accessed October 02, 2016.  
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