

MUMU

FREED AFRICAN SLAVE

GRAVE AT LOCKSBROOK CEMETERY, BATH

SOME NOTES

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In memory of
MUMU,
A DEAF AND DUMB AFRICAN GIRL
SHE WAS RESCUED IN CHILD-HOOD
FROM A SLAVE VESSEL, AND TAKEN
TO THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SCHOOL
AT CHARLOTTE, SIERRA LEONE, FROM
WHENCE SHE WAS SENT TO ENGLAND FOR
EDUCATION, AND REMAINED 11 YEARS
IN THE BATH INSTITUTION FOR THE
BLIND AND DEAF AND DUMB,
SHE WAS BAPTIZED DEC^R 29TH 1857
AND RECEIVED THE CHRISTIAN NAMES OF
ANNIE JANE ELWIN.
AFTER A SHORT ILLNESS, SHE FELL
ASLEEP IN JESUS, MAY 16TH 1866,
AGED 25 YEARS.

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ALSO IN MEMORY OF GEORGE SPEAR
A BLIND BOY, A NATIVE OF
CAPE PALMAS, W. AFRICA
HE WAS EDUCATED IN THE ABOVE INSTITUTION
AND DIED IN PEACE, SEPT^R 26TH 1866,
AGED 11 YEARS.
HE LED THEM FORTH BY THE RIGHT WAY, THAT
THEY MIGHT GO TO A CITY OF HABITATION
ALSO IN MEMORY OF ANNE TOONE
A DEAF AND DUMB PUPIL
IN THE SAME INSTITUTION,
SHE DIED DEC^R 10TH 1866,
AGED 13 YEARS
ALSO IN MEMORY OF ELIZA FELDWICK
WHO DIED JANUARY 22ND 1872, AGED 13.
AND MARY EMMA PEARCE
DIED FEBRUARY 18TH 1872

On a band along the edge:
"IT IS NOT THE WILL OF OUR FATHER WHICH IS IN
HEAVEN THAT ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES SHOULD
PERISH."

Background

The court case of *Somerset v Stewart* in the Court of King's Bench 1772 established that, without a legal statute, the state of slavery was unsupported by common law in England and Wales. The case involved James Somerset, an enslaved African, who had been purchased by Charles Stewart or Steuart in Boston, been brought to England, escaped, captured and imprisoned.

The Slave Trade Act 1807 (47 Geo III Sess 1 c.36) made the purchase or ownership of slaves illegal within the British Empire, with the exception of "the territories in the possession of the East India Company", Ceylon, and Saint Helena. The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 (3 & 4 Will. IV c. 73) abolished slavery throughout the British Empire. The Slavery Compensation Act of 1837 paid compensation to slave owners in various British colonies, mainly in the Caribbean.

The 1807 Act also included a clause allowing the seizure of ships without slave cargoes on board but equipped to trade in slaves. In order to enforce this ruling in 1808 the Admiralty sent vessels to police the African coast. Between 1808 and 1860 they seized approximately 1,600 slave ships and freed 150,000 Africans who were aboard.

Charlotte, Sierra Leone, was founded in 1817 to provide accommodation for liberated enslaved Africans who had been brought to Freetown by the Royal Navy's West Africa Squadron. A number of such villages were established. It is estimated that more than 80,000 Africans rescued from the illegal trade between Africa and the Americas were emancipated before courts operating in Freetown between 1808 and 1871.

The Missionary History of Sierra Leone by Rev Henry Seddall (London, 1874), describes the country and its inhabitants. It also relates the practice of local rulers enslaving other tribes to pay foreign merchants. It includes various estimates of the number of slaves being transported and comes to the conclusion that the annual rate in 1834 was about 250,000 with another 50,000 sold in the slave markets of North Africa, Turkey, Persia and Arabia.

The Bath Institution of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind founded in 1843 was at 8-9 Walcot Parade and the Deaf and Dumb Industrial Home was at 13 Walcot Parade.

Mumu (1840-1866)

In the 1861 census at the Rectory, Holbrook (Suffolk) in the household of (the absent) Reverend Charles Frederick Childe: Annie J Elwin, aged 21, house servant, born in Africa, deaf & dumb from birth.

The Rev Childe (1807-1897) was Principal of the Church Missionary College, Islington from 1839 to 1858 and one of visitors at Holbrook Rectory in the 1861 census was John G Hirsh, Vice-Principal of the Church Missionary College.

The Library of Nineteenth-Century Photography has various photographs of the Rev Childe including an undated one (122703) of the members of the household.

There is a brief account of her life in the *Quarterly Review of Deaf Mute Education* for October 1892.

The death of Annie J Elwin, aged 26, was registered 1866/Q2 Bath.

George Spear (1855-1866)

The death of George Spear, aged 11, was registered 1866/Q3 Bath.

Cape Palmas is on the extreme south-eastern part of the coast of Liberia, about 20km from the border with Côte d'Ivoire. It was the centre of the establishment of the settlement by the American Colonization Society and later the Maryland Colonization Society. The Republic of Maryland (also known as the Independent State of Maryland, Maryland-in-Africa, and Maryland in Liberia) existed from 1834 to 1857, when it was merged into Liberia (which declared independence in 1847 but was only recognised by the USA in 1862).

Anne Toone (1853-1866)

In the 1861 census at Institution Blind Deaf & Dumb, 8 & 9 Walcot Parade, Bath: Ann Toon, aged 8, pupil, born at Basley, Leics, deaf & dumb from birth.

The death of Ann Toon (sic), aged 13, was registered 1866/Q4 Bath.

Eliza Feldwick (1859-1872)

In the 1871 census at the Institution for Blind Deaf & Dumb, 8 & 9 Walcot Parade, Bath: Eliza Feldwick, aged 12, scholar, born at Windsor, Berks, deaf & dumb.

(The institution at the time had a matron, a governess, a teacher, a nurse, four servants, and three dozen inmates.)

The death of Eliza Feldwick, aged 12, was registered 1872/Q1 Bath.

Mary Emma Pearce (1858-1872)

The birth of Mary Emma Pearce was registered 1858/Q3 Falmouth. Baptised on 26 Sep 1868 at Mylor, Cornwall: Mary Emma, daughter of Joseph & Sarah Pearce.

In the 1871 census at the Institution for Blind Deaf & Dumb, 8 & 9 Walcot Parade, Bath: Mary Emma Pearce, aged 22, scholar, born at Meylor (Cornwall), deaf & dumb.

The death of Mary Emma Pearce, aged 13, was registered 1872/Q1 Bath.

The grave is at the centre of Section L of the St Swithin's section of Lockbrook cemetery.

