Black History Month

Chloe Gambia

The influence of the Port of Runcorn on the Slave Trade in the late 1700’s is not a well-documented story. It can be surmised that as a port, some of the ship owners who resided here would have owned or had shares in the ships which carried cargo and returned with goods and people from the African continent and beyond.

Documentation is fragmented of slavery or ownership of slaves in service in the area.

There is however a documented chronicle of a slave girl who was taken in by the Henry Hervey Aston (1741-85) and the Aston family, owners of the Aston Estate, which at the time was part of the township Runcorn ancient parish and had a population of 47 people in 1801, including a girl bought by the Aston family called Chloe Gambia.

It must be noted that the Aston family were not involved in the slave trade, however, Chloe was taken in by the family, presumably at auction from a slave trader from Liverpool or one of the other major Slave trading ports.

Chloe was born around 1760. It is assumed she was born in Gambia, thus the surname she was given. She was traded at around 7 years of age.

It is probable she was bought as a playmate for the family children, Catherine, Henry, Anna and Harriet, or even as was then fashionable, as a display of wealth and exotica.

Chloe was Baptised at the Local Church, St Peters in 1767.

As time passed and Chloe grew up, she stayed with the Aston family in Domestic Service and in her later years held the position of housekeeper at Aston Hall, the most senior of positions for a female servant.

Chloe succumbed to breast cancer on 12th September 1838 at what is assumed to be the age of 77. She was buried in a family owned grave with previous Estate workers on 14th September 1838.

**Note**This is my version of the story as I have taken it from the stuff others have written

The weekly news did a feature in 2008 about Chloes Story, written by Ray Miller, so they may choose to re-edit that version.



**Aston Family Members under whom Chloe Served at Aston Hall.**

**Henry Hervey Aston (1741-85) Married Catherine Dicconson (1759 – 1798)**

Children

1. Legitimate
   1. Catherine Lapal Aston (1760-1833)  
      (2) Col. Henry Hervey Aston (1762-98) (*q.v.*);  
      (3) Anna Sophia Aston (b. 1765 she had an affair with George, Prince of Wales, and after her separation another with Hon. Charles Wyndham (1760-1828), whom she bore three children, leading to an unsuccessful action by Hodges against Wyndham from 'criminal conversation', the court finding that Hodges had been an accessory after the fact;  
      (4) Harriet Aston (1768-76)
2. Illegitimate

He appears also to have had four illegitimate children, for whom provision was made in his will, including:

* 1. By an unknown partner
     1. Constantine Aston (b. c.1770); a daughter educated at a convent in St. Donato, Pulverosa near Florence; but by 1784 living with her father at Spa;
  2. By Teresa Guiseppa Ravizza:
     1. Thomas Manners (fl. 1784); attending a private school at Twickenham (Middx) in 1784  
        Frederick Manners (fl. 1784);  
        Charles Manners (fl. 1784).

**Aston, Col. Henry Hervey (1762-98) Married Harriet Ingram-Shepheard (1765-1815),**

*He inherited the Aston Hall and Warwickshire estates from his father in 1785, and remodelled Aston Hall and laid out the grounds. After his death, his widow brought Humphry Repton back to Aston for further landscaping in 1804-10. He was co-heir in right of his wife to an estate at Linwood (Lincs) under the will of Samuel Shepheard.*  
He died from wounds received in a duel with Maj. Allen in India, 23 December 1798; his will was proved 2 November 1799. His widow was buried at Aston, 15 June 1815.

**Children**

Henry Charles Hervey Aston (1792-1821) (*q.v.*);  
Sir Arthur Ingram Aston (1796-1859), kt. (*q.v.*);  
Harriet Elizabeth Frances Aston (1791-1853)

**Aston, Henry Charles Hervey (1792-1821). Married Margaret (alias Marquerita) Melitona**, daughter of William Barron of Carrick Barron and Cadiz (Spain)

*He inherited the Aston Hall and Warwickshire estates from his father in 1798 as a minor and came of age in 1813.*

Children

Harriet Hervey Aston (c.1815-45) (*q.v.*);   
Arthur Wellington Hervey Aston (1816-39) (*q.v.*).

**Aston, Arthur Wellington Hervey (1816-39) He was unmarried**

*He inherited the Aston Hall and Warwickshire estates from his father in 1820 as a minor and came of age in 1836.*

Aston Hall



Information on the Aston Famliy

 Henry's marriage in 1759 to Catherine Dicconson of Wrightington Hall produced a number of children, but seems to have been a somewhat intermittent relationship: in 1765 he travelled on the continent with a Frenchwoman who was passed off as Mrs. Aston, and in his will he provided for four illegitimate children by two different ladies. His only legitimate son was Col. Henry Hervey Aston (1762-98), a warm-tempered man who was regularly embroiled in duels and whose sporting interests extended beyond hunting to cricket and pugilism. Col. Aston was also responsible for the remodelling of Aston Hall to the designs of Samuel Wyatt, and for laying out the grounds to the designs of Humphry Repton. In 1794 he accepted a commission in the 12th Foot, with whom he went to India two years later. He was mortally wounded in a duel with a brother officer on 23 December 1798 (the second he had fought on consecutive days), leaving his widow (1765-1815) to bring up their young family and complete the landscaping of the grounds at Aston.  
  
Henry Charles Hervey Aston (1792-1821) came of age in 1813 and married the following year to the daughter of an Irish merchant trading in Spain. His only son, Arthur Wellington Hervey Aston (1816-39) died unmarried soon after coming of age, prompting a Chancery suit about the descent of the estates. Following a decree in 1843, the Warwickshire estates were sold for the benefit of some of the claimants, while the core Aston estate passed to his uncle, Sir Arthur Ingram Aston (1796-1859), kt., a career diplomat who was British minister in Spain at the time. Sir Arthur retired from the service and took up his duties as squire at Aston, but as he was unmarried and without issue he sought to simplify the succession to the estate by buying out the reversionary interest of one his great-nephews, Charles Arthur Chetwynd Talbot (1843-69) in order bequeath the estate in its entirety to the other, Lt-Col. Arthur Hervey Talbot (1838-84).  Unfortunately, after his death, the purchase of the reversionary interest was set aside by the courts on the grounds that Charles Talbot had been in a weak bargaining position and had insufficient knowledge of the value of his rights. As a result the estate was vested in Trustees and let during the later 19th century. Brig-Gen. Arthur Hervey Talbot (1863-1927) moved back into the hall in about 1900 but let it again later. When General Talbot died his affairs were found to be in some confusion, and anxiety over the future of the estate was blamed for the suicide of his son and heir, Col. Douglas Hervey Talbot, a few months later. The next heir was Col. Talbot's only son, Bryan Hervey Talbot (1916-2008), who demolished the main house soon after coming of age. In the 1950s he refurbished the dower house, Aston Lodge, as a new centre for the estate, and this remains the property of his descendants.

Aston of Aston Hall, Aston-by-Sutton

Aston of Aston-by-Sutton

The Aston family is first documented in the reign of Henry II, when charters record one Gilbert de Aston, Lord of Aston juxta Sutton. The family built up a large estate in Cheshire and other parts of the country (especially in Berkshire, Warwickshire and Derbyshire), largely through the marriage of their male heirs to a female heiresses. The estate descended lineally until the death of Sir Thomas Aston, 4th Baronet, in 1744, when the baronetcy reverted to a collateral male line settled on the family's Berkshire estate, and the Cheshire property passed to his elder sister Catherine, wife of the Hon. & Rev. Henry Harvey (d. 1748), who took the name of Aston. The estate remains in the possession of their descendants. The genealogy of the family is traced below from the early 15th century, but the account given is very deficient until the mid 17th century because of the unfortunate deficiency of key parish register sources.

**Hervey (later Aston), Henry Hervey (1741-85).**

Educated at Christ Church, Oxford (matriculated 1757/8). In 1765 he appears to have temporarily abandoned his wife and spent over twelve months travelling in Italy with a French lady described as his wife, whom John Wilkes drily observed was 'not the same Mrs. Aston who was at Paris'; he visited Venice, Rome, and Naples and applied for permission to export a total of fifty-five pictures to England. He also visited Florence in 1778-79, when he was described as 'a great martyr to the gout'. High Sheriff of Cheshire, 1768. Freemason. He married, 25 January 1759, [Catherine](http://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/851899) (d. 1798), daughter of Edward Dicconson of Wrightington Hall (Lancs), and had issue:  
(1) Catherine Lapal Aston (1760-1833), baptised at Aston, 13 October 1760; married, 22 June 1782 at St Marylebone (Middx), Sir John Legard (1758-1807), 6th bt., but had no issue; buried at Aston, 27 December 1833; will proved 14 January 1834;  
(2) Col. Henry Hervey Aston (1762-98) (*q.v.*);  
(3) Anna Sophia Aston (b. 1765), born 7 February and baptised at Aston, 10 February 1765; married, 22 June 1782 at St Marylebone (Middx) (sep., 1785; div. 1791), Anthony Hodges (d. 1799) of Bolney Court, Harpsden (Oxon); in 1783 she had an affair with George, Prince of Wales, and after her separation another with Hon. Charles Wyndham (1760-1828), whom she bore three children, leading to an unsuccessful action by Hodges against Wyndham from 'criminal conversation', the court finding that Hodges had been an accessory after the fact;  
(4) Harriet Aston (1768-76), baptised at Aston, 8 August 1768; died young and was buried at Aston, 21 August 1776.  
He appears also to have had four illegitimate children, for whom provision was made in his will, including:  
By an unknown partner:  
(X1.1) Constantine Aston (b. c.1770); a daughter educated at a convent in St. Donato, Pulverosa near Florence; but by 1784 living with her father at Spa;  
By Teresa Guiseppa Ravizza:  
(X2.1) Thomas Manners (fl. 1784); attending a private school at Twickenham (Middx) in 1784  
(X2.2) Frederick Manners (fl. 1784);  
(X2.3) Charles Manners (fl. 1784).  
*He inherited the Aston Hall estate from his mother.*  
He died at Spa (Belgium) in 1785 and was buried at Aston, where he is commemorated by a monument; his will was proved 17 September 1785. His wife died in 1798.

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| Henry Hervey Aston (1762-98) |

**Aston, Col. Henry Hervey (1762-98).**Only recorded son of Henry Hervey-Aston (1741-85) and his wife, Catherine Dicconson of Lancashire, born 4 December and baptised at Aston, 5 December 1762. In 1789 he was president of the Tarporley Hunt. He was a first-class cricketer, appearing for the Hambledon Club and the MCC between 1786 and 1793 and 'a noted amateur and patron of pugilism'. An officer in the 12th Foot (Maj, 1794; Lt-Col. 1794; Col., 1796), stationed in India, 1796-98, where he was mortally wounded in a duel on the eve of an engagement with Tippoo Sultan. He was said to be 'of a fierce character' and to have been involved in duels on several occasions, both in England and India. He married, 16 September 1789 at St George's, Hanover Square, London, the Hon. Harriet Ingram-Shepheard (1765-1815), fourth daughter and co-heir of Charles Ingram, 9th Viscount Irvine, and had issue:  
(1) Henry Charles Hervey Aston (1792-1821) (*q.v.*);  
(2) Sir Arthur Ingram Aston (1796-1859), kt. (*q.v.*);  
(3) Harriet Elizabeth Frances Aston (1791-1853); married, 18 January 1837, Lt. Col. Edmund Henry Bridgeman (1797-1841), son of Rev. George Bridgeman, rector of Wigan (Lancs), but had no issue; buried at Aston, 26 August 1853; her will was proved 17 September 1853.  
*He inherited the Aston Hall and Warwickshire estates from his father in 1785, and remodelled Aston Hall and laid out the grounds. After his death, his widow brought Humphry Repton back to Aston for further landscaping in 1804-10. He was co-heir in right of his wife to an estate at Linwood (Lincs) under the will of Samuel Shepheard.*  
He died from wounds received in a duel with Maj. Allen in India, 23 December 1798; his will was proved 2 November 1799. His widow was buried at Aston, 15 June 1815.