

Benjamin Vaughan

Dr **Benjamin Vaughan** MD FRSE LLD (19 April 1751 – 8 December 1835)^[1] was a British political radical. He was a commissioner in the negotiations between Britain and the United States at the drafting of the Treaty of Paris.

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Life

Vaughan was born in Jamaica to Samuel Vaughan, a British banker and West India merchant planter of Irish Protestant descent, and his Anglo-American wife, Sarah Hallowell, daughter of shipbuilder, Benjamin Hallowell.^[2]

He was educated at Newcome's School and Warrington Academy and attended Trinity Hall, Cambridge, without graduating.^[3] He then studied Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. In 1785, during his stay in Edinburgh, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. His proposers were Allan Maconochie, Lord Meadowbank, Dugald Stewart, and James Hutton.^[4]

His broader long-term interest was in politics and sciences: the latter leading to his friendship with Benjamin Franklin.^[5] In 1786, Vaughan was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, to which his father, Samuel Vaughan, had been elected a member two years prior.^[6]

Vaughan was a political economist, merchant and medical doctor. Through Benjamin Horne, brother of John Horne, he met the politician Lord Shelburne.^[7] Shelburne then used Vaughan in a diplomatic role, to try to bring peace between Great Britain and the United States, towards the end of the American War of Independence. He was also a middleman in reconciling Franklin and Shelburne.

Benjamin Vaughan



Born	19 April 1751 <div><u>Jamaica</u></div>
Died	8 December 1835 <div>(aged 84)</div> <div><u>Hallowell, Maine</u></div>
Alma mater	<u>Newcome's School</u> <div><u>Warrington Academy</u></div> <div><u>Trinity Hall, Cambridge</u></div>
Occupation	Commissioner, politician
Spouse(s)	Sarah Manning (m. 1781)
Parents	<u>Samuel Vaughan</u> (father) <div>Sarah Hallowell (mother)</div>
Relatives	<u>John Vaughan</u> <div><u>William Vaughan</u></div>

He was elected at a by-election in 1792 as a Member of Parliament (MP) for the borough of Calne in Wiltshire, and held the seat until the 1796 general election (he was absent from 1794). He spoke in parliament in strong defence of slavery in Jamaica, in his maiden speech. However, in February 1794, he came out in favour of the abolition of the slave trade.^[3] He felt that since slaves could no longer be repressed by ignorance and fear, they should be given inducements not to rebel.^[3] During his period in London he lived in Finsbury Square. He was arrested in 1794 on grounds of treason, regarding the supposed invasion of England by the French.^[8]

After 1794, Vaughan left France for Switzerland and later to America. His interest in republicanism lead to his permanent departure from Britain. He settled in Boston and then on a farm in Hallowell, Maine in 1797.

He is thought to be the builder (or related to the builder) of Hallowell House in Boston, and it is possible his Jamaican links give rise to the district being called Jamaica Plain.^[9]

In 1805, Vaughan was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences,^[10] and in 1813, he was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society.^[11]

He died in Hallowell in 1835.

Family

Vaughan married in 1781 Sarah Manning, daughter of William Manning (died 1791), and sister of William Manning.^[12] They had several children, including:

- Harriet Manning Vaughan (1782–1798)
- William Oliver Vaughan (1784–1826), who married Mary Argy (1786–1856)
- Sarah Vaughan (1785–1847)
- Henry Vaughan (1786–1806)
- Petty Vaughan (1788–1854)
- Lucy Vaughan (1790–1869), who married William Emmons (1784–1855)
- Elizabeth Frances Vaughan (1793–1855), who married Samuel Clinton Grant (1796–1853)

The family and their descendants remained in Maine after Vaughan settled in Hallowell in 1797^[13] and continue to reside in the town today.^[14]

John Vaughan and William Vaughan were his brothers.

Legacy

Several places are named after Vaughan:

- City of Vaughan, Ontario is named in his honour
- Indirectly Vaughan Road is linked to him as the northern end of the road headed into then Township of Vaughan.
- Vaughan Road Academy, name after Vaughan Road
- Vaughan Stream in Hallowell, Maine^[15]
- Vaughan Field in Hallowell

- Vaughan Homestead, his Hallowell estate, now a museum
- Vaughan Secondary School until name change to Hodan Nalayah Secondary School in 2021

References

1. Leigh Rayment's Historical List of MPs – Constituencies beginning with "C" (part 1) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150215181722/http://www.leighrayment.com/commons/Ccommons1.htm>)
2. "Summary of Individual | Legacies of British Slavery" (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146643669>). *www.ucl.ac.uk*.
3. *Vaughan, Benjamin (1751-1835), of Finsbury Square, London.* (<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1790-1820/member/vaughan-benjamin-1751-1835>) *historyofparliamentonline.org*
4. *Biographical Index of Former Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh 1783–2002* (https://web.archive.org/web/20160304074135/https://www.royalsoced.org.uk/cms/files/fellows/biographical_index/fells_indexp2.pdf) (PDF). The Royal Society of Edinburgh. July 2006. ISBN 0-902-198-84-X. Archived from the original (https://www.royalsoced.org.uk/cms/files/fellows/biographical_index/fells_indexp2.pdf) (PDF) on 4 March 2016. Retrieved 4 January 2019.
5. "Paras. 151-200. Benjamin Franklin. 1909-14. His Autobiography. The Harvard Classics" (<https://www.bartleby.com/1/1/4.html>). *www.bartleby.com*.
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7. Edmond George Petty-Fitzmaurice, Baron Fitzmaurice, *Life of William, Earl of Shelburne, afterwards first Marquess of Lansdowne* vol. 2 (1912), p. 165 note 3; *archive.org*. (<https://archive.org/stream/lifeofwilliam02fitzmaurice/page/n191/mode/2up>)
8. "VAUGHAN, Benjamin (1751-1835), of Finsbury Square, London. | History of Parliament Online" (<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1790-1820/member/vaughan-benjamin-1751-1835>). *www.historyofparliamentonline.org*.
9. "Hallowell house, Jamaica Plain" (<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:v405t118m>). *www.digitalcommonwealth.org*.
10. "Book of Members, 1780–2010: Chapter B" (<http://www.amacad.org/publications/BookofMembers/ChapterB.pdf>) (PDF). American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Retrieved 28 July 2014.
11. "MemberListV | American Antiquarian Society" (<https://www.americanantiquarian.org/memberlistv>). *www.americanantiquarian.org*.
12. "William Manning senior ???? - 1791, Legacies of British Slavery" (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146645245>). *www.ucl.ac.uk*.
13. *Vaughan Family Papers* (<http://www.masshist.org/findingaids/doc.cfm?fa=fa0040>). Massachusetts Historical Society
14. *Historic Homestead* (<http://vaughanhomestead.org/welcome-to-the-vaughan-homestead/>). *vaughanhomestead.org*
15. *Historic Hallowell* (<http://historichallowell.mainmemory.net/page/2467/display.html>). *historichallowell.mainmemory.net*

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Member Biographies

VAUGHAN, Benjamin (1751-1835), of Finsbury Square, London.

Published in *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1790-1820*, ed. R. Thorne, 1986
Available from [Boydell and Brewer](#)

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Constituency

CALNE

Dates

7 Feb. 1792 - 1796

Family and Education

b. 19 Apr. 1751, in Jamaica, 1st s. of Samuel Vaughan, W.I. merchant and planter, by Sarah, da. of Benjamin Hallowell of Boston, Mass. *educ.* Newcome's, Hackney; Warrington acad.; Trinity Coll. Camb. 1768; L. Inn 1765. *m.* 30 June 1781, Sarah, da. of William Coventry Manning of St. Kitt's, and of Totteridge, Herts., 3s. 4da. *suc.* fa. 1802.

Offices Held

Biography

Vaughan's father settled in London and educated him at dissenting academies. Being a Unitarian, he did not graduate at Cambridge. In anticipation of his marriage he studied law and medicine (at Edinburgh), but did not qualify. His brother-in-law [William Manning](#)* made him a partner in his West Indian house. Unlike his younger brother William, he did not take to the mercantile line, though he published a treatise on international trade in 1789. He had already shown that his preference was for politics. A friend of Benjamin Franklin, he published his works in London in 1779 and was a keen supporter of the American revolt. In 1780 he was a member of the Society for Constitutional Information. Through Benjamin Horne, Lord Shelburne's secretary and brother of [John Horne Tooke](#)*, he was introduced to Shelburne and employed by him in 1782 as an unofficial emissary in peace negotiations at Paris. Richard Oswald warned Shelburne that Vaughan was one of those who 'if he is not invited into the boat, will step in at once, without waiting for an invitation', but the association continued. Vaughan was also a friend of the French politician Mirabeau. In 1790 he accompanied his patron's son Lord Wycombe to Paris and witnessed the fête of 14 July. A year later he was a steward at the *Crown and Anchor* celebration of the French revolution in London.¹

Vaughan was returned for Calne on his patron's interest on a vacancy which [Sir Samuel Romilly](#)* declined to fill. In his maiden speech, 2 Apr. 1792, he described himself as



Biography Detail

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connected with the West Indies by birth, profession and private fortune. He had not resorted to merchandise from motives of necessity, but from those of independence, a noble personage having offered to provide for him in a very ample manner. At an early period of life he had resisted this temptation and resolved to improve his own fortune, free from the operations of political parties. With regard to his sentiments of freedom, he believed every person would be convinced, that he had certainly imbibed principles of the most laudable nature, when he mentioned that he had been the pupil of Dr Priestley and had also studied with Mrs Barbauld's father.

He went on to oppose the emancipation of negro slaves: as they were not ready for it and the planters would be ruined by it, he believed from personal observation that there would be an end of civilization in Jamaica. That the condition of the slaves might be improved he did not deny. Next day Lord Wycombe assured his father that Vaughan was 'collected' and provided the House with 'abundant information'. On 4 Apr. the Speaker ruled him out of order when he revived the subject. In June he returned to France for a few weeks.² The partition of Poland prompted him to write a series of letters to the *Morning Chronicle* (beginning 20 July 1792 and afterwards published together) condemning the aggression of Russia, Austria and Prussia, which he feared would prejudice the cause of liberty in France: at home he was a critic of radical extremism. Nevertheless from 13 Dec. 1792 he voted steadily against war with France, which he deplored in debate, 18 Feb. 1793. He tried to amend the traitorous correspondence bill, 9 Apr., and voted for parliamentary reform, 7 May 1793. On 31 Jan. and 18 Feb. 1794 he complained of the inadequacy of convoys for the protection of the West Indian trade. He noted on 21 Feb. that the 'dangerous' French gesture of emancipating negro slaves made necessary 'measures to protect the tranquillity of the British dominions in the West Indies'. His motion to that effect was withdrawn after an assurance from the ministry. On 25 Feb. he came out in favour of the abolition of the slave trade: it could help the enemy only if pursued unilaterally. Since slaves could no longer be repressed by ignorance and fear they should be given inducements not to rebel.

On 8 May 1794 Vaughan was one of four Members who with Lord Lauderdale were examined at the Home Office after the arrest of the suspect William Stone. (The others were Sheridan, William Smith and Thomas Maitland.) Next day he, Sheridan and Lauderdale were examined by the Privy Council. Vaughan was implicated by a letter to Stone's brother in Paris, John Hurford Stone. It did not damage him, as it dismissed any French invasion of England as impracticable, but aware that his acquaintance with William Jackson the Irish conspirator might do so he fled to France, pausing only to give a last vote in the House against the suspension of habeas corpus, 16 May.³ In Paris he was protected by Robespierre, but then suspected of being a spy of Pitt's and imprisoned; next he moved on to Geneva. He courted the Directoire, ignoring an offer of indemnity obtained for him by his brother-in-law from Pitt. On 9 Oct. 1795 the *Oracle* announced his departure to America with 'a fortune of at least £100,000' and, next day, claimed that he had tried in vain to induce his colleague Joseph Jekyll to accompany him. His seat was not vacated until the dissolution. Despairing of Old World politics, he remained in the United States for the rest of his life. In 1806 he supervised the publication of Franklin's *Complete Works*. He died 8 Dec. 1835 at Hallowell, Maine.

Ref Volumes: 1790-1820



Author: R. G. Thorne

Notes


DAmB.

1. Fitzmaurice, *Shelburne*, ii. 219, 462; Romilly, *Mems.* i. 85, 87, 111; *Morning Chron.* 13 June 1791.
2. N. Riding RO, Wyvill mss ZFW/7/2/72/22, 31.
3. H. Alger, *Englishmen in the French Revolution*, 89; *Colchester*, i. 30.

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Benjamin Vaughan

Profile & Legacies Summary

1751 - 1835

CLAIMANT OR BENEFICIARY

Biography

Son of Samuel Vaughan (1720-1802) (q.v.) and Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Hallowell of Boston, and brother of William Vaughan (q.v.). Born in Jamaica, Benjamin Vaughan was educated in Britain at Warrington Academy under Joseph Priestley (see his entry in the *ODNB* as 'diplomatist and political reformer'), and then at Cambridge. His religion meant he was unable to graduate from university and instead he began studying law and medicine in Edinburgh in preparation for marriage in 1781 to Sarah, daughter of William Coventry Manning. Benjamin Vaughan subsequently joined his brother-in-law William Manning (father of Cardinal Henry Manning) as a partner in his West Indian merchant house. Benjamin did not remain in the business for long, instead turning to politics in the 1780s. He was a member of the Society for Constitutional Information and a keen supporter of the American cause. Close association with Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Horne gained him an introduction to Lord Shelburne, who dispatched him as an unofficial emissary to the Paris peace negotiations in 1782. In 1790 he was in Paris for 14th July celebrations and was an active supporter of the French Revolution in London.

He was elected to Parliament as M.P. for Calne in 1792 and held the seat until 1796. In his maiden speech he introduced himself as 'connected with the West Indies by birth, profession and private fortune'. An advocate for amelioration, he nonetheless vehemently opposed abolition and emancipation, exclaiming that it would bring an end to civilization in Jamaica. Throughout his time in Parliament he was a fierce defender of the West India interest, as well as a champion of the French revolution. His revolutionary sympathies led to him being formally questioned over a plot to support a French invasion and he subsequently fled London for Paris. After being imprisoned on suspicion of being an English spy he moved to Geneva, before sailing to the US in 1795, reportedly possessed of a fortune estimated at £100,000. He remained in the United States for the rest of his life, settling in Hallowell Maine, where he pursued interests in science, agriculture and philosophy.

His marriage to Sarah Manning produced seven children: Harriet (1782-1798); William Oliver (1783-1826); Sarah (1784-1847); Henry (1786-1806); Petty (1788-1854); Lucy (1790-1869); and Elizabeth Frances (1793-1855). Petty Vaughan (q.v.) became a London based West India merchant, whilst Benjamin's brothers William and Charles were also West India merchants. Another brother John was a Philadelphia based merchant who collaborated closely with the London firm of Samuel Vaughan and Sons, and the brother Samuel Vaughan Jnr. was a Jamaica planter (all q.v.). Along with his brothers and mother he was appointed trustee and executor to his father's will.

Sources

VAUGHAN, Benjamin (1751-1835), of Finsbury Square, London, History of Parliament, <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1790-1820/member/vaughan-benjamin-1751-1835> (<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1790-1820/member/vaughan-benjamin-1751-1835>); Michael T. Davis, 'Vaughan, Benjamin (1751-1835)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Sept 2014 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/28123>, accessed 28 Oct 2015].

See also Ian John Barrett, *The culture of pro-slavery: the political defence of the slave trade in Britain c. 1787 to 1807* (Unpublished PhD thesis, King's College London, 2010).

We are grateful to Michael Baron for his assistance with compiling this entry.

Legacies Summary

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Inventories

Further Information

Absentee?	British/Irish
Spouse	Sarah Manning
Occupation	Politician and merchant
Religion	Unitarian
Oxford DNB Entry	Visit Oxford Dictionary of National Biography site (http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/index.html)

Associated Claims (1)

Jamaica St James 153 (Flamstead Estate) (/lbs/claim/view/15082)	£4,870 2s 7d	Awardee (Executor or executrix)	DETAILS (/lbs/claim/view/15082)
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Associated Estates (2)

The dates listed below have different categories as denoted by the letters in the brackets following each date. Here is a key to explain those letter codes:

- **SD** - Association Start Date
- **SY** - Association Start Year
- **EA** - Earliest Known Association
- **ED** - Association End Date
- **EY** - Association End Year
- **LA** - Latest Known Association

1802 [SY] - 1835 [EY] → TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR	Flamstead Estate [Jamaica St James] (/lbs/estate/view/1904)
1802 [SY] - 1829 [EY] → TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR	Vaughansfield [Jamaica St James] (/lbs/estate/view/2412)

Legacies Summary

Commercial (1)

NAME PARTNER	Manning & Anderdon (/lbs/firm/view/1628509164)	DETAILS (/lbs/COMMERCIAL/VIEW/1300380441)
	West India merchant	

Political (1)

MP		DETAILS (/lbs/POLITICAL/VIEW/2122744633)
	<i>election</i> → Calne Wiltshire 1782 - 1796	

Relationships (10)

Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	BROTHER-IN-LAWS	William Manning (/lbs/person/view/-430637747)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058769981/45943)
Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	TRUSTEE → TESTATOR	Lucretia Payne formerly Ottley (/lbs/person/view/214666671)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058797701/45943)
Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	FATHER → SON	Petty Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/20384)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058760833/45943)
Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	BROTHERS	Charles Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45942)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058760834/45943)
Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	BROTHERS	William Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/18900)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058760835/45943)
Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	SON → FATHER	Samuel Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/2146643669)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058769923/45943)
Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	BROTHERS	Samuel Vaughan junior (/lbs/person/view/2146635392)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058769961/45943)
Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	BROTHERS	John Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/2146643701)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058769985/45943)
Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	EXECUTOR → TESTATOR	Samuel Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/2146643669)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058769997/45943)
Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)	TRUSTEE → TESTATOR	Samuel Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/2146643669)	DETAILS (/LBS/RELATIONSHIP/VIEW/2058769999/45943)

Addresses (1)

Hallowell, Maine, United States of America	DETAILS (/LBS/ADDRESS/VIEW/2145439289/45943)
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People of Interest

[Joseph Brown](/lbs/person/view/2146666917)
[\(/lbs/person/view/2146666917\)](/lbs/person/view/2146666917)

1774 - 1832

Head driver on Great Valley estate in Hanover, Jamaica. Executed by hanging following Sam Sharpe's War.

[Visit the people of interest section \(/lbs/people/\)](/lbs/people/).

Documents of Interest

[Occupations of enslaved women on Buff Bay Plantation, 1819](/lbs/media/view/255)
[\(/lbs/media/view/255\)](/lbs/media/view/255)

The Buff Bay plantation was a sugar estate next to the Buff Bay River,



south of Charlestown in Jamaica. By 1839, the estate was 840 acres.

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[accessed 16th May 2022].



(<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/>)



(<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/>)

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Manning & Anderdon

FIRM DETAILS

People & Investments (9)

PARTNER	Charles Bosanquet (/lbs/person/view/2146630296)
PARTNER	Charles John Manning (/lbs/person/view/326)
PARTNER	John Lavicount Anderdon (/lbs/person/view/856384207)
PARTNER	Frederick Manning (/lbs/person/view/2146632260)
NAME PARTNER	William Manning (/lbs/person/view/-430637747)
NAME PARTNER	John Proctor Anderdon (/lbs/person/view/926)
NAME PARTNER	Benjamin Vaughan (/lbs/person/view/45943)
INVESTMENT IN FIRM	Nevile Reid (/lbs/person/view/25299)
INVESTMENT IN FIRM	John Dixon (/lbs/person/view/40826)

Firm Evolutions (8)

1794 →	Mannings and Vaughan Billter Square [London Gazette]
1800 →	Manning & Anderdon & Bosanquet 106 Fenchurch Street [P.O.]
1811 →	3 Princes Street, Lothbury [P.O.]
1836 →	3 New Bank Buildings [P.O.]
1845 →	3 New Bank Buildings [P.O.]
1850 →	3 New Bank Buildings [P.O.]
1863 →	3 Bank Buildings [P.O.]
1879 →	109 Leadenhall Street [P.O.]

Notes

1.
1794 dissolution of Mannings & Vaughan of Billiter Square (with Benjamin Vaughan) and continuation of William Manning with John Proctor Anderdon and Charles Bosanquet under firm Manning, Anderdon & Bosanquet.
2.
Charles Bosanquet leaves 1810
3.
1816 Partnership between William Manning, John Proctor Anderdon, Frederick Manning and John Lavicount Anderdon dissolved as far as respects John Proctor Anderdon, firm to be continued as Mannings & Anderdon.
4.
Commission of bankruptcy against William Manning, Frederick Manning and John Lavicount Anderdon 5th September 1831; 'final dividend' 30 May 1837; audit of accounts of assignees of bankrupts 23/10/1838; further dividend 24/1/1843; 'final dividend' 3/2/1854
5.
William Manning blamed the decline of the firm and its bankruptcy (with debts of at least £374,372) on the 'neglect' of the West Indies by governments in the 1810s and 1820s. For some details of the firm's history see Fisher.
6.
Dissolution of the partnership between John Lavicount Anderdon and Charles John Manning as Manning & Anderdon of New Bank Buildings, to be continued by Charles John Manning.

Sources

1.
London Gazette 13658 17 May 1794 p. 457 [p. 5 of 8]
2.
London Gazette 16366 1 May 1810 p. 650 [p.10 of 20]
3.
London Gazette 17133 4 May 1816 p. 831 [p. 15 of 32]
4.
London Gazette 19059 18 June 1833 p. 1188 [p. 12 of 24]; London Gazette 19493 9 May 1837 p. 1208 [p.26 of 32]; London Gazette 19660 2 October 1838 p. 214 [p. 8 of 16]; London Gazette 20182 30 December 1842 p. 3932 [p. 34 of 44]; London Gazette 21511 13 January 1854 p. 134 [p. 28 of 36].
5.
Fisher (ed.), *House of Commons 1820-1832*, vol. VI (entry for William Manning).
6.
London Gazette 21573, 18/07/1854 p. 2245.

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People of Interest

Ann Eliza French (/lbs/person/view/19966)

1787 - 1835

Daughter of "free Mulatto" lodging-house-keeper Jane Charlotte Beckford (c. 1759-1825); possibly the daughter of George French, Clerk to the Jamaica Assembly. Spinster; independently wealthy slave-owner.

[Visit the people of interest section \(/lbs/people/\)](/lbs/people/)

Documents of Interest

Occupations of enslaved women on Buff Bay Plantation, 1819 (/lbs/media/view/255)

The Buff Bay plantation was a sugar estate next to the Buff Bay River, south of Charlestown in Jamaica. By 1839, the estate was 840 acres.



[\(/lbs/media/view/255\)](/lbs/media/view/255)



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[\(http://www.esrc.ac.uk/\)](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/)

<http://hutchinscenter.fas.harvard.edu>

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From Tobias Lear, 16 February 1790

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From Tobias Lear

Sir

United States
February 16th. 1790.

In obedience to the command of the President of the United States, I have the honor to enclose for your information, a letter from M. H. Bird¹ to the President of the United States dated at Charleston S. Ca. 23d January 1790. offering the services of the Houses of Bird, Savage & Bird, and of Mannings & Vaughan² to Act as Agents, if such should be wanted in Europe for the purpose of negotiating a loan, or paying of Interest to the European Creditors of the United States.

I have the honor to be with perfect respect Sir Your most Obt. Servant

Tobias Lear.
Secretary to the President of the U. States.

LC, George Washington Papers, Library of Congress.

¹ Henry M. Bird, a member of the London banking firm of Bird, Savage, and Bird, had speculated extensively in the South Carolina debt.

² Manning and Vaughan was an English banking firm. The members of this firm were William Manning, John Laurens's father-in-law, and Benjamin Vaughan, Manning's son-in-law.

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