

## Addressing our connections with historic slavery

Research is ongoing into the connections between historic slavery with the earls and dukes of Argyll. These connections include the global slave trades and goods and products of enslaved labour, as well as abolition and protest. When completed, this research will be used to update our digital content and support visitor information and interpretation at Inveraray Castle.

Accounts from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century relating to the death of the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Argyll include expenditure for shoes and boots for at least 'two blacks'.<sup>1</sup>

A record from the Inveraray Baptismal Register for 1754 records the administration of baptism to William Campbell, 'a native of the East Indies and servant to His Grace the Duke of Argyll'.

In 1763, Lord William Campbell, 5<sup>th</sup> son of the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll married Sarah Izard. Lord William was an MP (for Argyll) then became Governor of Nova Scotia 1766 to 1773. In 1775, he became British Governor of South Carolina and had to flee to England soon after (abandoning his wife) as revolution was beginning in South Carolina. The Izards were a plantation-owning family and Lord William may have purchased a rice plantation on which eighty enslaved people worked.<sup>2</sup>

In 1820, Lord John Campbell, younger brother of the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke married Joan Glassell, only daughter and heir of John Glassell of Longniddry, formerly a tobacco merchant in Virginia. The substantial Glassell wealth inherited by Joan was derived from the production and sale of tobacco in Virginia, including the ownership of at least one plantation on which enslaved people worked.

Joan died in 1828 and Lord John married his third wife, Ann Colquhoun in 1831. Ann was the daughter of John Cunningham of Craighends and the widow of Dr George Cunningham Monteith. John Cunningham of Craighends is known to have owned a Jamaican plantation on which enslaved people worked. The plantation was inherited by his son, William.<sup>3</sup> Lord John Campbell became the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll and his prudent management of the Argyll Estates established some financial stability.

George, 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll succeeded to the title in 1847. The Duke was an active politician, serving in the cabinet of every Whig Liberal government between 1852 and 1881 and as Secretary of State for India from 1868 to 1874. His first marriage was to Lady Elizabeth Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, daughter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Sutherland.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Duchess of Argyll was a prominent opponent of slavery. With her mother Harriet, Duchess of Sutherland, she helped to write *An Affectionate and Christian Address of Many Thousands of Women of Great Britain and Ireland to Their Sisters, the Women of the United States of America*, calling for an end of slavery. This letter was signed by 562,848 British women. Elizabeth was friends with the American abolitionist and author Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896), hosting her when she visited England and maintaining a correspondence with her. The 8<sup>th</sup> Duchess was also a friend of and correspondent with Charles Sumner (1811-1874), an American politician who was the leader of the

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<sup>1</sup> NRAS 1209/142

<sup>2</sup> Rugeimer 'Slave Law and the Politics of Resistance in the early Atlantic World' (Harvard University Press, 2018)

<sup>3</sup> William Cunninghame, 14<sup>th</sup> of Craighends was compensated for 185 enslaved people. Centre for the study of the Legacies of British Slavery [Summary of Individual | Legacies of British Slavery \(ucl.ac.uk\)](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legacies-of-british-slavery/summary-of-individual-legacy)

anti-slavery movement in Massachusetts during the American Civil War and who fought to free all slaves and guarantee equal rights to freed men after the War.