Brodsworth Hall and Gardens Report

Researched and written by Edinam

Introduction

With its spacious grounds and rural location, Brodsworth Hall appears as a comfortable vision of the English country house. Located far from the industrial centres of Britain, it can be hard to imagine that the mid-Victorian house has links to transatlantic slavery. However, the lived experiences of the property's former residents reveal numerous connections to the complex history of Britain's involvement in the exploitation of enslaved Africans.

This report contains five sections that cover the hall's early history and what archives reveal about how the property's former owners acquired their wealth. The report makes clear the connections between Brodsworth Hall, Britain's involvement in the transatlantic slave economy and associated links to the wider history of colonialism.

Through the recovery, foregrounding and reinterpretation of archival content about Brodsworth Hall, the report illuminates and raises awareness of the long-standing connections between key sites of English Heritage and the British Atlantic world.

The history of Brodsworth Hall

Nestling amongst the trees in a small village near Doncaster, Brodsworth Hall is one of England's most unaltered Victorian country estates. The mid-Victorian house, designed in the Italianate style favoured by the likes of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, is surrounded by opulent pleasure gardens and 15 acres of private parkland.

Its rural location is far from the ports and marine cities that allowed Britain to become the world's principal slave-trading nation and naval power. Yet this remote country estate was largely funded through British involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. A glimpse into the lives of the Thellusson family, Brodsworth's longest serving owners, reveals a history, where successive generations amassed great wealth and power through their involvement in plantation enslavement, banking, and national politics.

The current house and its landscape setting date from the 1860's. Detailed documentation about the house and gardens prior to that date is scant. For many years Brodsworth was owned by the Darrell family, before passing to the Dawnays and the Wentworths. In 1713 the estate was purchased by George Hay, Viscount Dupplin (1689-1758), who was looking for a quiet country retreat after retiring from political life. Dupplin, by now 8th Earl of Kinnoull, died in 1758 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas, though is was his second son, Robert Hay Drummond, who came to live at Brodsworth on his appointment as archbishop of York in 1761. During his time at Brodsworth the archbishop carried out extensive improvements. The house was remodelled in the 1770s, perhaps by Robert Adam who supplied eight drawings for revocations in 1768. The gardens were also extended and avenues of trees planted.

Following Robert's death in 1777, the estate was neglected until it was sold to wealthy merchant and banker Peter Thellusson in 1791 by the archbishop's eldest son. Thellusson, who lived at Brodsworth until his death in 1797, was a notoriously private person, so we know little about any

changes he made to the estate. At the time of his death the estate comprised the house, gardens, offices, and farmlands totalling around 4,320 acres.

It's not surprising that Peter Thellusson was able to purchase an estate the size of Brodsworth as his business activities had made him immensely wealthy. Much of this wealth derived from activities linked to the transatlantic slave trade. This included providing loans and insurance to slave-ship and plantation owners, trading in slave-produced goods like sugar and coffee, and the acquisition of interests in sugar plantations, on the islands of Martinique, Montserrat, St Vincent, Grenada, and Trinidad, usually as a result of debtors defaulting on loans. Peter Thellusson also part-owned a number of London sugar refineries where plantation-produced sugar was processed.

Figure 1 Islands in the West Indies in 1796: "The map is colour coded to show which European country controlled which colonies. The British colonies have pink around their borders, the French blue and the Spanish yellow." By Louis Stanislas Gappian Delarochette (aka de Larochette, 1731-1802). Accessed via Wikipedia image commons.

The Thellussons reliance on the profits of enslavement meant that when the slave trade was abolished throughout the British Empire in 1807, and emancipation was achieved in the anglophone Caribbean by 1838, they had to diversify their mercantile and banking interests, though they remained very wealthy and influential members of the London business community.

Peter Thellusson left an infamously complex will in which he bequeathed the bulk of his fortune in trust for as yet unborn male descendants. His assets, including the Brodsworth estate were placed in the hands of the trustees, who managed the estate for the next 60 years. During this period the estate went into decline due to the mismanagement and extravagance of the trustees, some of whom lived for a time at Brodsworth in some style. After lengthy legal wrangling, the inheritance was settled by a judgement in 1858, with Peter's great-grandson Charles Sabine Thellusson (1822–85) being granted the Brodsworth estate.

Charles decided to demolish and replace the existing house with a larger one, setting it further away from the church and village in private gardens overlooking newly opened up parkland. In 1861 he commissioned architect Philip Wilkinson to draw up plans and by the end of the decade, the remodelling of Brodsworth was complete.

The old Georgian mansion had been replaced with an Italianate style three-storey home that included a dedicated wing for the servants to live and work in, with a separate laundry and gas

works. The Italian sculptor Chevalier Casentini supplied statues, busts and urns for the house and gardens The London firm of Lapworths was hired to furnish the house in the conventional taste of the day, including many items made from mahogany which was first brought to Britain from Jamaica, then a British colony.

Around the estate, new Victorian pleasure gardens had been laid out alongside new cottages, stables, greenhouses, and farm buildings. Charles also purchased more parkland and constructed roads to extend the estate. The estate woods were rejuvenated and a team of gamekeepers appointed to manage pheasants and partridges for shooting, one of Charles' favourite activities. With all the renovations and additions, the size of the estate increased to 8,000 acres.

Charles died in 1885 and the estate was inherited in turn by three of his sons. By the early 20th century like many other country houses Brodsworth was going into genteel decline due to higher taxes, falling farm incomes and a shortage of servants. Successive generations of the family continued to live at Brodsworth, making small modernisations such as the adding of electric lights as the years went by. The estate was eventually given, by Pamela Williams, a descendant of Charles Thellusson, to English Heritage in 1990. Since then they have undertaken conservation work to ensure that the house was conserved as found.

Timeline of the transatlantic slave trade

For more than 400 years many European countries participated in the transatlantic slave trade, a highly lucrative international trading network in which Europeans exchanged goods for millions of enslaved Africans from West and Central Africa and then transported them to the Americas, where they were put to work on plantations producing goods primarily for European consumers. The Portuguese were the first to engage in Atlantic slave trading in 1526, in response to the strong demand for labour in their colonies across the Americas, following the establishment of plantation economies based on crops such as cotton, sugar, and tobacco in the region.

The English followed in 1562 when John Hawkins seeing Portugal's economic success, formed a syndicate to support a slaving voyage to the Guinea coast. Setting sail with three ships, he captured and enslaved 300 Africans in Sierra Leone, and transported them to plantations in the Spanish Americas where they were traded for pearls, hides, and sugar. The profit made from the voyage was so large that on his return to England, Elizabeth I commissioned additional voyages and granted Hawkins a coat of arms with a depiction of an enslaved man.

Ireland was the first English colony to be established in the late 16th century and colonies across the Americas soon followed, with Virginia in 1607, Saint Kitts in 1623, Barbados in 1627, Montserrat in 1632, Anguilla in 1650 and Jamaica in 1655.

The colonisation of these territories in the Americas, and the highly profitable network of global commerce that it spawned, facilitated Britain's rise to become the world's foremost imperial and economic power. Britain's Caribbean colonies were particularly valuable because of the quantities of sugar produced there. During the late 17th and 18th centuries demand for sugar was rising rapidly due to the popularity of tea and coffee drinking. This focus on sugar production, combined with the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht which granted British slave traders the Asiento contract enabling them to enslave and transport 144,000 people per year to Spanish South America, led to a substantial increase in the number of enslaved people working on plantations.

The wealth generated from plantation enslavement was used to colonise more territories and bolster trading companies such as the East India Company who established and controlled foreign trading posts, allowing Britain to build a near global monopoly of commerce. This domination of global trade made the country enormously wealthy as British traders could buy and sell commodities from and to every corner of the empire. By the end of the 18th century, Britain was the world's principal slave trading nation and economic power, with more than half of the world's goods being traded though British hands and with British currency. The wealth generated funded companies, banks and institutions across Britain and would later contribute to the Industrial Revolution, further enriching Britain.

It is important to note that enslaved people consistently resisted their captivity, with revolts and freedom-fighting movements only increasing in frequency and vigorousness with time. Notable events include the 1816 Barbados slave revolt led by Bussa, an enslaved man born in Africa and trafficked to Barbados; and the major 1831 slave revolt in Jamaica led by Sam Sharpe, an enslaved man of African descent. There was also a growing abolition movement in Britain, which gained momentum following the 1772 Somerset vs Stewart case relating to the right of an enslaved person on English soil not to be forcibly removed from the country, and public outcry about the 1781 Zong massacre, which saw more than 130 sick enslaved Africans thrown overboard by the crew of the British slave ship Zong, so that insurance could be claimed on them as 'damaged' goods.

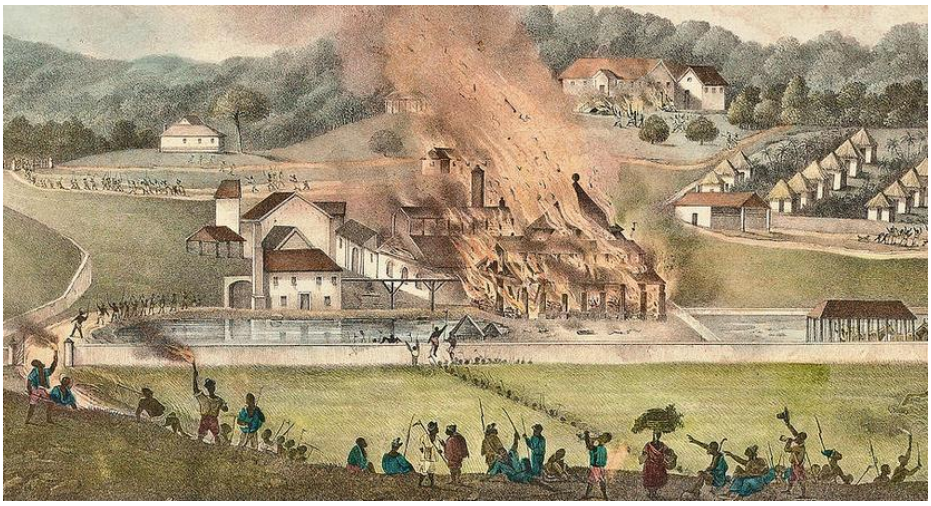

Figure 2 Illustration of the burning of Roehampton Estate in Jamaica during the Baptist War (also known as the 1831/32 Christmas Rebellion), led by Sam Sharpe (c.1801-1832), by Adolphe Duperly, 1 January 1833. Accessed from: Wikimedia Commons

This all came to a head in the early 19th century, when the combination of the success of the Industrial Revolution, the cost of supressing regular slave rebellions and falling crop yields due to over-cultivation made plantation agriculture less viable if not unprofitable. This helped the cause of abolition as the continuation of the slave trade was less crucial to the British economy.

The Slave Trade Act of 1807 restricted the transportation of enslaved persons throughout the Empire and the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 eventually led to emancipation throughout the British Empire by 1st August 1838. Initially the enslaved workers were forced to enter apprenticeships with their former owners. To compensate slave owners for the loss of what they considered their 'property', the government set aside £20 million (equivalent to many billions today). This substantial

amount had to be borrowed and was only fully paid off by British taxpayers in 2015. Significantly, it did not offer formerly enslaved people any compensation or reparations.

Enslavement and colonial history connections

A world away from the rural retreat of Brodsworth, business was booming on the streets of London. In the heart of the city lay Britain's first specialist commercial building, The Royal Exchange, and the city's coffeehouses, home to the stock exchange, insurance and auctioneering industries that spawned the credit, brokerage and insurance that facilitated the dramatic expansion of Britain's network of global trade in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The trading deals that merchants and traders made here established the commercial networks that enabled Atlantic slave trading. Merchants and bankers profited from the trade not only by the buying and selling of enslaved Africans, but also by trading in goods produced by enslaved workers, and providing loans and insurance to ship owners, merchants and planters. As a family of merchants and bankers, this was an industry that the Thellussons had long been familiar with.

The Thellussons were Huguenots (Protestants) who fled France for Switzerland in the 16th century to escape religious persecution. In the early 18th century, Isaac Thellusson set up a merchant bank in Geneva in partnership with Jacques Necker (Thellusson, Necker et Cie), who then went on to manage the French branch of the bank in Paris with the help of one Isaac's sons, George-Tobie. The success of the partnership led to Isaac's subsequent appointment as the Genevan ambassador to Paris. Across the Channel, one of Isaac's other sons, Peter, moved to England in 1760 to manage the London branch of the bank. All partners amassed a considerable amount of wealth.

Peter settled in England, married Ann Woodford in 1761 and became naturalised as a British subject in 1762. He opened a finance house at Philpot Lane in the heart of the City of London where he operated as a merchant and agent. Peter drew on a wide network of merchant contacts, many from the London-based Huguenot community, to expand his business interests into sugar refining and trading in plantation commodities. He also got involved with navy provisioning through his association with the business partnership, Camden, Calvert and King.

From the early 1760s Thellusson worked with the Fonblanque family, from 1763-66 in partnership with Anthony Fonblanque and the widow of his brother John, with each partner contributing £5000 to the business. In 1765 the partnership invested in the slaving venture of the ship, *Lottery*, captained by William Hayman, carrying 172 enslaved Africans to Grenada. Anthony died in 1766, and Thellusson operated independently for a while, before setting up a new and long-lasting partnership with John Cossart, the former chief clerk at Fonblanque and Thellusson, in which Peter Thellusson was the dominant partner. Together they offered mortgages, insurance, and loans to slave ship and plantation owners in British and French colonies across the Caribbean. As most of Thellusson's clientele were French Huguenots like himself, he didn't make it a priority to actively remind them when their debts needed to be paid off. This led to a number of his clients defaulting on their loans and as a result, Thellusson acquired interests in property across the Caribbean, mostly sugar plantations, located mainly in the islands of Martinique, Montserrat, St Vincent, Grenada, and Trinidad. Through these holdings, he became a slave owner, planter, and importer of sugar and tobacco from the Caribbean.

Although he might not have actively set out to become the owner of plantations worked by enslaved Africans, it is clear that he had no moral or financial qualms about being involved in enslavement-linked wealth creation. That said many of the plantations he acquired an interest in were quickly sold

on to other proprietors suggesting he was not interested in building a property empire in the Caribbean.

Thellusson took advantage of The Navigation Acts which were a series of English Laws enacted to prioritise English ships, shipping, trade, and commerce between other countries and with its own colonies. Through the acts, foreigners' participation British colonial trade was heavily restricted. The Act enabled English merchants and financiers like Peter Thellusson to become unimaginably wealthy as they had the monopoly on all goods traded between Britain and its colonies.

Peter Thellusson's trading network meant he could benefit from the transatlantic slave economy without needing to leave the country. The fortune he acquired from financing slave traders and plantation owner and trading in goods produced by enslaved workers enabled him to acquire property in England, including a suburban villa at Plaistow in Kent and the Brodsworth Hall estate in south Yorkshire, which he purchased in 1790 with the intention of making it his main family home. When he died in 1797, his fortune was worth an estimated £700,000 amounting to over £35 million at today's prices. This is the pot of money that Peter's great grandson, Charles Sabine Augustus Thellusson, drew from to remodel Brodsworth Hall when he inherited it in 1859.

Due to the complex nature of Peter Thellusson's will, his three sons (and grandsons) didn't directly inherit his fortune, however they got heavily involved in his business interests, carrying on his legacy of being a significant banker, merchant and absentee planter.

As someone born overseas, Peter was barred by the Act of Settlement from holding public office, something that could be very beneficial for merchants and traders. However, his English-born sons were free to do so and they each became MPs, joining the pro-slavery lobby in Parliament in the late-18th and early 19th centuries. Together with an alliance of merchants, shipbuilders, planters and other financiers, the sons of Peter Thellusson strongly defended the transatlantic slave trade in Parliament, showing no signs that they wished to withdraw from supporting it or acknowledge that slavery was no longer profitable or morally justifiable.

Indeed, even after the nefarious trade was abolished, emancipation was achieved throughout the British Empire by 1838, and the Sugar Duties Act of 1846 ended the Caribbean preference system by equalising duties on all sugar entering Britain (making plantation agriculture there no longer economically viable), the Thellusson name continued to be linked with plantations and trading on the island of Trinidad well into the 20th century.

The Thellussons and their plantations

Once reserved for the tables of monarchs and aristocrats, by the 19th century, sugar was on almost every table in Europe, used to sweeten the continent's drinks and food. Its rise from a luxury to ubiquity was facilitated by the mass production of the sugar cane crop by enslaved Africans forced to work on plantations across the Americas.

Sugar, or 'White Gold' as it was colloquially known by British colonists, was by far the most important crop produced in plantations across the Americas Although other crops such as tobacco and cotton were also grown using the labour of enslaved Africans, , it was the sugar cane plantations established by European colonial powers that forever shaped the history of every nation in the Caribbean, much of South America and parts of the Southern United States.

Peter Thellusson's interests in the transatlantic slave economy ranged from the ownership of plantations, to insuring ships which carried enslaved Africans across the Atlantic, to the important

and processing of plantation-produced sugar. As mentioned before, it can be difficult to directly link Thellusson's name to these interests as they weren't purchased outright, but rather acquired by borrowers defaulting on loans.

There are four known sugar plantations linked to the Thellussons. The first was Conference, a sugar plantation of around 330 acres in St Andrews, Grenada in the Windward Islands. Peter Thellusson acquired a share in the plantation in 1768 when the former owner failed to pay his debts. At the time, it is believed that around 155 enslaved Africans were on the estate. The second, third and fourth were the 580 acre Windmill Hill estate in Montserrat, the 384 acre Bacolet estate in Grenada and the Las Cuevas cocoa and coconut plantation in Trinidad.

Windmill Hill

The Windmill Hill Estate used to be located in the centre of western Montserrat, close to the River Belham and just north of Plymouth, an area now in the exclusion zone following the eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano in 1995. Detailed documentation about the nature of the estate and its owners, prior to the late 18th century is scant. However, it is known that in 1772, Peter Thellusson and John Cossart lent £7,180 to Mr Anthony Lynch Tully, the owner of a half share of the Windmill Hill plantation and 87 enslaved Africans and their right to issue. Of the 87 enslaved Africans owned by Tully, 19 were part of the relatively small workforce at the plantation. The loan given to Tully was raised through bond-secured annuities on the lives of 12 of those 19 enslaved Africans and secured on the Windmill Hill estate.

The archives provide limited information about the nature of Windmill Hill estate and the position of Mr Tully in the period after the loan was given. However, Thellusson's will dated April 1796, states that he and Cossart had acquired shares as mortgagees of the estate, suggesting that Mr Tully defaulted on the loan. In July 1796, they sold their shares for £5,700 to a Mr Thomas Harcum, a resident of Montserrat.

Thellusson received £2,139 of the purchase price and the remainder was secured by a Bond of David Milligan and Grant Allen to be paid in seven instalments, one of which he received before his death in 1797. The remaining instalments were paid to the executors of his will and his second son, George Woodford Thellusson.

Bacolet estate

Peter Thellusson was first linked to the Bacolet plantation in 1772, when he and John Cossart lent £12,855 to Peter and Marie Fournillier, the owners of the plantation. The plantation was located in the Grenadian parish of St Andrews, an area known for its extensive plantations. 121 enslaved people were resident on Bacolet at the time and the loan was partly secured on the lives of 101 of them.

At the Fournilliers' request, Thellusson and Cossart then arranged and acted as security for a series of bond loans that amounted to £25,710, with Fournillier paying the annual interest of £1,393. These loan arrangements came with certain conditions that had to be met. If they weren't, Thellusson and Cossart could legally take possession of the plantation, its workforce and working capital, with the Fournilliers liable for payment for any further legal measures.

The conditions included having to produce a certain amount of sugar every year, ensuring there was a workforce of 140 enslaved Africans on the estate, and shipping and consigning the majority of the produce made on the estate to Thellusson and Cossart in London.

The Fournilliers were never fully able to meet the conditions of the loan due to events which adversely affected the estate's ability to produce sugar and make a profit. These events include the 1780's Revolutionary Wars with France which disrupted trade to Grenada for two years and Fedon's 1795 rebellion, which saw the destruction of 100 plantations in Grenada and the deaths of around 7,000 enslaved Africans, who were either killed in the insurrection or condemned to death as rebel insurgents. In order to avoid defaulting on their loan, the Fournilliers borrowed more money, however this only resulted in them owing more debt, the majority of which was never paid off.

When Thellusson died in 1797, he left his interests in the plantation to his second son, George Woodford, who assumed responsibility of the estate until his own death in 1811. As his tenure as manager of the estate coincided with Britain passing the Slave Trade Act in 1807, he was never in a position to help alleviate the debt nor restore its profits by recruiting additional enslaved workers so that the plantation could be operated to full capacity. After his death, the court appointed a consignee, Mr Ambrose Humphrys, to manage the estate, who went on to sell it in 1820 to a Mr William Le Blanc for £3,000.

This was the last sugar plantation the Thellussons had an interest in. The abolition of the trade across the Empire in 1838 combined with the Sugar Duties Act of 1846, which ended the West Indian preference system by equalising duties on all sugar entering Britain, ensured that it was no longer economically viable to run a sugar plantation nor profit from the trade of sugar. By this point, however, the Thellusson family no longer relied on plantation income for their wealth. Nevertheless, the money that Charles Sabine inherited through Peter Thellusson's will in 1859 was derived substantially from the exploitation of enslaved Africans, and it is this money which he used to rebuild and furnish Brodsworth Hall and lay out new gardens around it.

Bacolet though wasn't the last plantation that the Thellussons can be linked to. Letters and accounts held at the Suffolk Record Office show that Frederick William Brook Thellusson, 5th Baron Rendlesham (1840-1914) and Frederick Archibald Charles Thellusson, 6th Baron Rendlesham (1868-1936) were owners of the Las Cuevas cocoa and coconut plantations in Trinidad in the 1920s. Detailed documentation about the estate is limited, however it is known that it was mainly staffed by indentured labourers from British India, who Britain relied on to staff plantations across the colonies, as a substitute for the enforced labour provided by formerly enslaved Africans.

The collections at Brodsworth Hall

With its Italianate exterior and Victorian-era furnishings, it can be hard to imagine any obvious references to transatlantic slavery at Brodsworth Hall. However, a walk through its rooms reveals a certain material was a central element of the decorative scheme. From the shutters that covered the windows, to the house's numerous doors, tables, closets and chairs, many pieces of furniture, fixings and fittings were made out of mahogany.

The house was furnished in the taste of the day and mahogany furniture was very much in style. The use of mahogany in domestic furniture across Britain was so commonplace during the early Victorian era, that it may come as a surprise to learn that the wood was virtually unknown across these shores prior to the 18th century and that it was primarily harvested in the Caribbean and Latin America by enslaved Africans until the 1830s.

The true mahogany tree can be found across the Americas but is particularly abundant in the Caribbean and central America. Most of the mahogany imported into England in the 18th century came from Jamaica, although a significant part of the trade came from other British Caribbean colonies, such as Barbados, and from territories Britain controlled in Central America near the Gulf of Honduras and today's Belize (formerly known as British Honduras). The British Caribbean colonies were of vital importance to British trade. Sugar was the main source of profits, but other goods such as mahogany were also a profitable cargo.

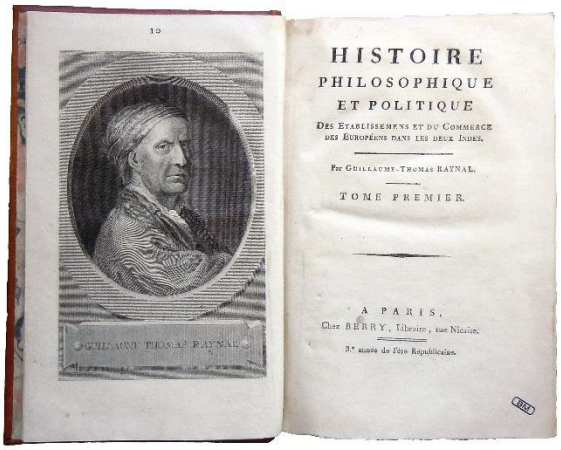

Figure 3"Histoire Philosophique et Politique des Etablissemens et du Commerce des Europeans dans les Deux – part of the collection at Brodsworth Hall. Image accessed from Wikipedia image commons.

Extracting mahogany was hard, labour intensive work, predominantly done by enslaved Africans. The process required more labour than other woods as the trees were large and mahogany had to be transported to the market intact to realise a reasonable return. The harmful process of extracting mahogany in combination with the cultivation of cash crops such as sugar and coffee led to the near complete deforestation of the British Caribbean. In fact, by the early 19th century, Britain had to source most of its mahogany from around the Gulf of Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Haiti as most of the viable mahogany in the British Caribbean had been cut.

Conclusion

The story of Britain's involvement in the transatlantic slave trade is one that permeates nearly every nook and cranny across the country. Brodsworth Hall is no exception to this, despite its rural location far from the ports and marine cities that facilitated Britain's rise to become the world's principal slave trading nation. The nation's involvement in this brutal and inhumane trade is a complex story but is one that is central to British history as a whole. This is why, although it can be difficult to discuss, I believe telling this story can speak profoundly about our past and who we are as a nation.

The abolition of the slave trade across the British Empire in 1838 is regarded as a great British achievement, but as I hope to have demonstrated in this report, it was a complex and long process. One that often favoured the slave traders and as a result meant that willing participants such as the Thellussons could benefit from it long after abolition. The Thellussons were willing participants as they not only built their wealth through plantation enslavement, but used the power and influence gained from that wealth to oppose abolition.

As such, the story of British involvement in the transatlantic slave economy is one that is central to the creation and maintenance of Brodsworth Hall, from the money that was used to build the house, to the mahogany furniture that fills its interior. Ensuring that this history is uncovered can help us dispel myths about the transatlantic slavery that continue to uphold troubling narratives – mainly the notion that abolition was something that Britain enacted out of benevolence, rather than the hard fought struggle for freedom by the enslaved that the road to abolition and emancipation was.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Selected items from the Brodsworth Hall collections with links to enslavement history.

Source: Brodsworth Hall collection catalogue and additional expert guidance from Eleanor Matthews - Curator of Collections and Interiors (South Yorkshire, Lancashire, North Midlands), English Heritage.

Collection reference	Title	Description
90009149	Mahogany sideboard	A nineteenth century mahogany sideboard with a leaf carved cresting and a frieze drawer, flanked by pedestals each with a panelled cupboard enclosing drawers, one zinc lined one felt lined, with original brass handles, on paw feet. Maker: T. & G. Seddon(?). Dimensions: H 118 L 275 W 74.5 cm. Located in the Dining Room at Brodsworth Hall.
90009011 and 90009012	Rosewood card tables, c.1815-1820	Pair of George IV rosewood card tables, each with a rectangular baize-lined top on tapered column support on a concave sided quatrepoid base ending in brass hairy paw feet, mounted over all with gilt brass foliate appliques. Maker: T. & G. Seddon. Overall dimensions of each table: (90009011) H 735 mm x W 495 mm x L 990 mm; (90009012) H 740 mm x W 495 mm x L 990 mm. Located in the Drawing Room at Brodsworth Hall.
90009572	Mahogany tripod table, c. 4th quarter of the 18th century	Late-18th century circular mahogany tripod table, with a tip-up top with brass clip, and turned baluster stem on pad feet. Dimensions: H 72 D 42 cm. Located in the South Hall at Brodsworth.

90014499	A Voyage to Guinea, Brazil, and the West Indies (1735), by John Atkins	Adkins' Voyage was printed in London and published in 1735. Although there isn't a bookplate, the book is believed to have been owned by Peter Thellusson. The author John Atkins (1685–1757) is described in online biographies as a British naval surgeon and an enslaver. His book provides a description of the naval voyage of the Swallow and the Weymouth, including information about the slave trade. There are also various accounts and observations about plantation enslavement and sugar production, including the relative cost of enslaved men, women and children in different islands and territories of the anglophone Caribbean.
90013671 – 90013675	"Histoire Philosophique et Politique des Etablissemens et du Commerce des Europeans dans les Deux Indies" (1780), by Guillaume Thomas François Raynal	This five-volume first edition of Guillaume Thomas François Raynal's "A philosophical and political history of the settlements and trade of the Europeans in the Two Indies" was published in Switzerland in 1780, and was owned by Peter Thellusson (with each volume containing a bookplate of Mr Thellusson). The particular volume of interest is Vol. III, *"Etablissemens des Anglois dans les isles de l'Amérique"* [Settlement of the English in the American Islands]. Raynal's book was very influential at the time of publication and included contributions by the famous French philosopher Denis Diderot (1713–1784) – who openly documented his opposition to enslavement and, for example, is described in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy as "a passionate abolitionist with no tolerance for the crimes of the Atlantic slave trade." (NB: A copy of Diderot's *Encyclopédie* (1765) is also in the Brodsworth Hall library.)
90014269	"Six Months in the West Indies in 1825" (1832), by Henry Nelson Coleridge	"Six Months in the West Indies in 1825", by Henry Nelson Coleridge (who was related to Samuel Taylor Coleridge) was published in London in 1832. The book documents the author's travels throughout various islands – including Barbados and Trinidad, and also includes a chapter titled 'Planters and Slaves.' The plate at the front features an engraved map of the islands.

Note: Curator Eleanor Matthews identified more than 450 objects from the 30,000+ items in the Brodsworth Hall collection that were made from tropical hardwoods – specifically mahogany and rosewood. Many items date from the 1860s+. Nevertheless, the aforementioned selection have earlier dates, and some additional items of furniture that have not yet been catalogued may also have provenance linked to the Caribbean region.

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