"The History of the Rise, Progress, and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave Trade," undated
MC.975.07.021
Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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"The History of the Rise, Progress, and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave Trade,"...
Biographical note

Thomas Clarkson (1760–1846) was a leading campaigner against slavery and the African slave trade. He was born in 1760 in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England, the son of John Clarkson. After graduating from St. John's College, Cambridge in 1783, Clarkson with Granville Sharp (1735–1813) founded the Committee for the Abolition of the African Slave Trade in 1787, which increased popular support for abolition and was the main campaigner behind the abolition of the slave trade. Clarkson prepared pamphlets from his travels, to raise public awareness and support in their fight against the slave trade. In 1807 Great Britain enacted a bill prohibiting the importation of slaves. The next year Clarkson published "The History of the Rise, Progress, and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave-Trade by the British Parliament." Clarkson married Catherine Buck and the couple had a son, Thomas (1796-1837). Clarkson, along with Wilberforce, joined to campaign for the end of slavery and served as vice presidents for the Anti-Slavery Society also called Society for the Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery Throughout the British Dominions. In 1833, slavery was abolished in the United Kingdom with the Slavery Abolition Act, but Clarkson continued to work towards emancipation in the United States until his death in 1846.

Scope and Content note

This collection is comprised of the two volume, handwritten manuscript of Thomas Clarkson's "The History of the Rise, Progress, and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave Trade." In it, Clarkson describes the Quaker influence in the abolitionist movement in Britain and the parliamentary debates leading to the Slave Trade Act of 1807. The manuscript describes both the arguments in support and in opposition to abolition, and the actions of the members of the abolition movement. Volume 1 contains the early history of the abolition movement until July 1788, and volume two describes the abolition movement from 1789-1808. The manuscript includes edits throughout.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections September 2015
Use Restrictions
Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).

Acquisition
Unknown.

Processing Information
Processed by Kara Flynn; completed September 2015.

Related Materials
Related Materials
MC 1033 Rhoads family papers

Controlled Access Headings
Geographic Name(s)
• Great Britain

Subject(s)
• Antislavery movements -- History
• Quaker abolitionists
• Quakers--Great Britain
• Quakers--History
• Slavery and the church -- Society of Friends
Collection Inventory

Vol. 1 Undated

Vol. 2 Undated

Scope and Content note

Includes a diagram of a slave ship, which shows how slaves were packed into the slave ships. Published by J.P. Parke, Philadelphia, 1808.