



14 April 2005

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Dear Dr. Davis

I inexplicably forgot to post this Cannon information to you (as I had promised several months ago). I combed my maritime history research notes (mostly from Liverpool muster rolls and newspapers). Though some of the Cannons listed below may not be your relatives, I included all for the records of the Cannon Family Association or other interested parties.

George Cannon does not appear on a voyage with any other Cannon, such as William Cannon. The two men still may have been close relatives, though, since George worked on John Dawson's brig *Eliza* 1790-93 and William worked on Dawson's brig *Alert* 1794-95. Thus it is reasonable to suggest that George recommended younger relative William to Dawson.

It is interesting that Peter Cannon worked as first mate on the *John Tobin*. John Tobin, born in the Isle of Man, worked as a captain in the Liverpool slave trade before settling as a resident merchant. Tobin helped to pioneer the Nigeria-Liverpool palm oil trade in the 1810s and 1820s.

George Cannon was the most prominent Cannon who sailed as a mariner out of Liverpool. Like other young men from the Isle of Man, he ventured to Liverpool to find maritime work. A "Geo Cannon" appears in 1779 on the muster roll of the Liverpool-Jamaica ship *Rawlinson*. "George Cannon" appears next on the Liverpool West India ship *James* in 1787-1789, working undoubtedly as a "seaman." If Frances Wilkins (*Manx Slave Traders*) is correct that George studied at the Mathematical School at Peel between 1768 and 1784, his mathematical skills would have given him facility in navigation—so explaining his rapid promotion to mate by the early 1790s.

It is possible that the "Geo Cannon" of 1779 differs from the George Cannon who appears on the *James* in 1787.

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Many mariners shifted from the West India to slave trade, hoping (if they survived) to profit from the increased financial rewards offered by slaving merchants. Though shipowners paid similar wages to sailors in all overseas trades, officers in the slave trade earned additional monies through "privilege slaves" and commissions. Merchants granted first mates, for example, the proceeds from the sale of 1-2 slaves in the Americas (c.1790 slaves sold for an average of £35).

Note that my information does not suggest that a disproportionate number of Cannons entered the Liverpool slave trade. Rather, 90% of my Liverpool research concentrates on the slave trade—I have only cursory notes on mariners in other Liverpool overseas trades. My hunch is that these men or other Cannons worked on board Liverpool ships that traded in the Irish Sea, North Sea, Baltic, Mediterranean and Atlantic world. I would probably have noticed Captains Cannon in my Liverpool research c. 1770-1810. Thus I assume that only George and William Cannon captained Liverpool vessels during the forty-year period I have studied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen D. Behrendt". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Stephen D. Behrendt

Key: PRO = Public Record Office, Kew, London (now called the National Archives)  
BT = Board of Trade

### 1) David Cannon

Vessel	Slaving brig <i>Fair American</i>
Rank	9 <sup>th</sup> out of 27 crew [probably a seaman]
Vessel owner	Thomas Lake and Company
Sailed from Liverpool	12/1/1783
Died	Died 3/13/1784 at Old Calabar, Nigeria
Source	PRO, BT98/44, No. 196, Liverpool muster roll 1784; Family History Library, Film 870298

### 2) Francis Cannon

I have a note that Francis Cannon appeared on a 1778 Liverpool muster roll (but no further information).

Source: BT98/38, No. 152, Liverpool muster roll 1778; Family History Library, Reel 870294

### 3) George Cannon

George studied at the Mathematical School at Peel between 1768 and 1784 (Frances Wilkins, *Manx Slave Traders: A Social History of the of Isle of Man's Involvement in the Atlantic Slave Trade* (Kidderminster, Wyre Forest Press, 1999, pp. 87-88). A "Geo Cannon" first appears on a Liverpool ship in 1779 when he is listed 23<sup>rd</sup>. Then in 1787 a (different?) George Cannon is listed 10<sup>th</sup> out of 34 crewmembers on the West India produce (mostly sugar) ship *Rawlinson*. Perhaps—given his mathematical training—he worked as a navigator on this voyage.

Vessel	West Indiaman <i>Rawlinson</i>
Rank	23 <sup>rd</sup> [probably a seaman or boy]
Sailed from Liverpool	5/6/1779
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Jamaica > Liverpool
Returned to Liverpool	3/20/1780
Source	PRO, BT98/40, No. 56, Liverpool muster roll 1780; Family History Library, Film 870295

Vessel	West Indiaman <i>James</i>
Rank	10th out of 34 crew [probably a mariner]
Sailed from Liverpool	12/22/1787
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Jamaica > Liverpool
Returned to Liverpool	9/7/1788
Source	PRO, BT98/48, No. 302, Liverpool muster roll 1788; Family History Library, Film 870301

### 3) George Cannon (continued)

Vessel	West Indiaman <i>James</i>
Rank	14th out of 27 crew [probably a mariner]
Sailed from Liverpool	12/16/1788
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Jamaica > Liverpool
Returned to Liverpool	7/24/1789
Source	PRO, BT98/49, No. 384, Liverpool muster roll 1789; Family History Library, Film 870302
Vessel	Slaving brig <i>Eliza</i>
Rank	4th out of 9 crew [perhaps a second mate]
Vessel owner	John Dawson
Sailed from Liverpool	3/22/1790
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Anomabu and Cape Coast Castle (Gold Coast, Africa) > Jamaica
Arrived	Jamaica, May 1792, with 119 slaves
Source	PRO, BT 98/54, No. 159, Liverpool muster roll 1794; Family History Library, Film 870307
Vessel	Slaving brig <i>Eliza</i>
Rank	4 <sup>th</sup> [perhaps a second mate]
Vessel owner	John Dawson
Sailed from Jamaica	6/8/1792
Voyage destination	Jamaica > New York City > Cape Coast Castle and Anomabu (Gold Coast) > Jamaica > Liverpool
Arrived	Jamaica, 5/8/1793, with 167 slaves
Returned to Liverpool	9/2/1793
Source	PRO, BT 98/54, No. 159, Liverpool muster roll 1794; Family History Library, Film 870307
Vessel	Slaving ship <i>Good Intent</i>
Rank	1st mate out of 23 crew
Vessel owner	George Case and Company
Sailed from Liverpool	7/9/1794
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Angola > Grenada > Liverpool
Arrived	Grenada, February 1795, with 227 slaves
Returned to Liverpool	7/12/1795
Source	PRO, BT 98/55, 29 July 1795, Liverpool muster roll 1795; Family History Library, Film 870308
Vessel	Slaving ship <i>Helen</i>
Rank	1st mate out of 30 crew
Vessel owner	George Case and Company
Sailed from Liverpool	6/26/1796
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Angola > Barbados > Antigua; captured by the French on the Middle Passage; recaptured and taken to St. Kitts
Returned to Liverpool	12/7/1796
Source	PRO, BT 98/57, No. 120, Liverpool muster roll 1797; Family History Library, Film 870310

### 3) George Cannon (continued)

Vessel	Slaving ship <i>Iris</i>
Rank	1st mate out of 40 crew; took over command of ship when Captain John Spencer died on 30 August 1798
Vessel owner	Ralph Fisher and Company
Sailed from Liverpool	6/7/1798
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Angola and Bonny (Nigeria) > Jamaica > Liverpool
Arrived	Jamaica, 11/7/1798, with 414 slaves
Returned to Liverpool	4/12/1799
Source	PRO, BT 98/59, No. 195, Liverpool muster roll 1799; Family History Library, Film 870312

Vessel	Slaving ship <i>Iris</i>
Rank	Captain (with 43 crew, 10 died)
Vessel owner	Ralph Fisher and Company
Sailed from Liverpool	7/5/1799
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Angola > Jamaica > Liverpool
Arrived	Jamaica, 8/9/1800, with 408 slaves; vessel condemned at Jamaica
Returned to Liverpool	11/24/1800
Source	PRO, BT 98/61, no 135, Liverpool muster roll 1801; Family History Library, Film 870316

Vessel	Slaving ship <i>Minerva</i>
Rank	Captain (with 23 crew, 1 drowned outward passage)
Vessel owner	James Ackers and Company
Sailed from Liverpool	9/29/1802
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Bonny (Nigeria) > Nassau, Bahamas > Liverpool
Arrived	Bahamas, 4/19/1803, with 212 slaves
Returned to Liverpool	8/15/1803
Source	PRO, BT 98/63, No. 354, Liverpool muster roll 1803; Family History Library, Film 870319

#### 4) John Cannon

Vessel	Slaving ship <i>King Pepple</i>
Rank	5 <sup>th</sup> out of 37 crew (probably a second mate)
Vessel owner	William Boats and Company
Sailed from Liverpool	5/1/1790
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Bonny (Nigeria) > Montego Bay, Jamaica
Discharged	Discharged at Montego Bay, 12/31/1790
Source	PRO, BT 98/51, No. 127, Liverpool muster roll 1791; Family History Library, Film 870304

### 5) Michael Cannon

Vessel	Slaving ship <i>John</i>
Rank	9 <sup>th</sup> out of 45 crew (rank unknown)
Vessel owner	John Bolton and Company
Sailed from Liverpool	7/20/1801
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Bonny? (Nigeria) > Surinam > Demerara
Died	Cannon died in Demerara (Guianas) 4/28/1802
Source	PRO, BT 98/62, No. 353, Liverpool muster roll 1802 (not microfilmed; not available at the Family History Library)

### 6) Peter Cannon

Vessel	West Indiaman <i>John Tobin</i>
Rank	1 <sup>st</sup> Mate
Sailed from Liverpool	2/20/1812
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Barbados > Liverpool
Returned to Liverpool	6/2/1812
Source	PRO, BT98/70, No. 347, Liverpool muster roll 1812; Family History Library, Film 866617

### 7) Thomas Cannon (1)

I have a note that Tho<sup>s</sup> Cannon is listed 10<sup>th</sup> (of 26) crew on the Liverpool ship *Europe*, which departed for Africa 18 November 1785. The vessel (not a slaver) returned to Liverpool directly from Gabon on 29 June 1786 with African produce (mostly redwood). I do not know if Cannon survived the voyage.

Source: BT98/46, No. 242, Liverpool muster roll 1786; Family History Library, Reel 870299

### 8) Thomas Cannon (2)

Vessel	Slaving ship <i>Lord Nelson</i>
Rank	"Taylor" (and listed 10 <sup>th</sup> out of 45 crewmembers)
Owner	Samuel Newton and Company
Sailed from Liverpool	8/15/1804
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Cape Mount (Liberia) > Surinam
Discharged	Discharged when impressed into His Majesty's Navy (vessel unknown) at Surinam on 3 February 1805
Source	PRO, BT 98/65, No. 229, Liverpool muster roll 1805; Family History Library, Film 870323

### 9) William Cannon (1)

I have a note that William Cannon appeared on a 1778 Liverpool muster roll (listed fourth, so presumably a mate) on the ship *Knight* that arrived in Liverpool from New York (but no further information).

Source: BT98/38, No. 63, Liverpool muster roll 1778; Family History Library, Reel 870294

### 10) William Cannon (2)

Vessel	Slaving brig <i>Alert</i>
Rank	6 <sup>th</sup> of 30 crewmembers
Vessel owner	John Dawson
Sailed from Jamaica	9/7/1794
Voyage destination	Liverpool > Cape Coast Castle (Gold Coast) > Lagos (Nigeria) > Havana > Liverpool
Returned to Liverpool	7/31/1795 (assumed Cannon returned with the brig)
Source	PRO, BT98/55, 29 August 1795, Liverpool muster roll 1795; Family History Library, Film 870308

W. Cannon, master of the *Leander*, arrived at Liverpool in late March 1807 from Limerick, Ireland, with 1671 quarters oats consigned to merchants Bennett and Blundell.  
(*Manchester Mercury and Harrop's General Advertiser*, 7 April 1807, p. 2)

W. Cannon, master of the *Leander*, arrived at Liverpool in September 1807 from Quebec with 5672 bushels wheat 7c 5q staves 5c deal ends, consigned to merchants R and G Hamilton. (*Manchester Mercury and Harrop's General Advertiser*, 22 September 1807, p. 3)