

DAVID ELTIS' CLASS EXERCISE FOR SEARCHING VOYAGES DATABASE AT www.slavevoyages.org

I found the following letter in the archives of the Huntington Library in San Marino, California a few years ago. It was sent by Robert Hibbard, the manager of the large sugar plantation called Hope Estate in Jamaica to the owner of the plantation, the Duke of Chandos, living in London. Although neither the name of the ship or captain is mentioned in the letter, the date and geographic information it contains provide clues that will allow you to identify both in www.slavevoyages.org. The first person to send the correct identification to deltis@emory.edu will receive a signed copy of *The Atlas of Transatlantic Slave Trade* when it is published early next year.

Kingston, Jamaica
10th November, 1787

Received, London 7th Jan., 1788

My Lord,

I forward by this conveyance the duplicate of my letter to your Grace of the 27th of September, since which our Seasons have continued mild and noble, and, as no Hurricanes ever happened at so late a Period of the year as we are now arrived at we conceive ourselves perfectly secure.

A few days after the Date of my last letter there arrived here to our Address a very fine cargo of 600 slaves from the Gold Coast of Africa. As she brought us an account that no other could be expected from that part of the coast for a very considerable time, and as Provisions are remarkable cheap and in the greatest plenty, I thought it an opportunity not to be lost and (as our wants were rather pressing) I extended our purchase from ten to twenty. I was further encouraged to do this by having the opportunity of selecting previous to the day of the sale, the choicest Negroes in the Cargo. This is a privilege scarce ever permitted, and could not have been obtained but in a cargo of our own. The Negroes I chose are 20 prime young men all of whom are now settled in proper houses on the estate, and seem perfectly satisfied with their Situation.

The price was £69 Currency each, equal to £1,380 for the whole. The payment for Slaves is generally made the crop after the purchase, and the amount of interest after one month, but with respect to payment I shall await your Grace's further discretion.

Your Grace's most obedient servant,
Robert Hibbard