**Frances Barber**

(c. 1742/3 – 13 January 1801)

**Jamaica**

Jamaica is an island situated in the Caribbean Sea. Originally inhabited by the indigenous Taíno peoples, the island came under Spanish rule in 1494. Many of indigenous people were killed or died of diseases, after which the Spanish brought large numbers of enslaved Africans to Jamaica to work as enslaved labourers. The island remained a possession of Spain until 1655, when England (later Great Britain) conquered it, renaming it Jamaica. Under British colonial rule Jamaica became a leading sugar exporter, with a plantation economy dependent on the enforced labour of enslaved Africans and their descendants. The British emancipated all the enslaved Africans in 1838.

**London**

The 1700s was a period of rapid growth for London with built development and new roads to the west of the old City of London. By 1715, London's population reached an estimated 630,000 people. By 1760, London was the largest city in Europe with a population of 750,000, increasing to 1 million by 1800.

**Lichfield**

Lichfield is a city in the county of Staffordshire. The three-spired Lichfield Cathedral was built between 1195 and 1249. Lichfield started to develop a coaching trade as a stop-off on the busy route between London and Chester from the 1650s onwards, making it Staffordshire's most prosperous town. In the 1700s and up until the 1840s, Lichfield was a busy coaching city on the main routes from London to the north-west and Birmingham to the north-east.

**International events**

Seven Years War (1756–1763) was a conflict between Great Britain, Spain and France who fought in Europe and overseas with land-based armies and naval forces.

**Monarchs**

George II (r. 1727-1760)

George III (r. 1760-1820)

**African diaspora**

By 1700 the British slave trade was fully established, forcibly transporting black Africans to the recently established colonies of the West Indies and North America. In the process huge fortunes were amassed by traders and plantation owners. From 1700, many wealthy and successful plantation owners began to return to London with their fortunes and frequently with their personal enslaved household staff. By 1750 black men and women were a relatively familiar sight on the streets of London. Large numbers of black Londoners also arrived as a result of their work as sailors in the merchant navy and as soldiers and sailors in Britain's military. Following the end of the Seven Years War in 1763 and the American War in 1783 many black men, among them a large number of Loyalists (Pro-British) from North America, were discharged from the Navy forming a British black community. This community probably reached its greatest size in London in the mid-1780s. Black men and women worked in a range of urban occupations, in particular as household servants, porters, watermen, basket women, hawkers, and (sedan) chairmen. In London the Black population may have been around 10,000. Although it is difficult to give an accurate figure, they may have represented about 1% of the London population.