

**MS691 Legal papers relating to estates in Jamaica****1805-1836**

Papers relating to slavery, namely Stephen Drew's Jamaica tontine and the estate of Adam Smith of Bossue, Manchester, Jamaica, comprising: Papers of Troward & Merrifield, 94 Pall Mall, London, solicitors to the trustees of the Dry Sugar Works Estate tontine, including in-letters, drafts and copies of out-letters, drafts and copies of minutes of meetings of subscribers, letter-books, accounts, lists of subscribers, nomination forms, and some printed items, including a printed prospectus, 1805-1821.

Papers apparently of J.W. Bromley, solicitor of 1 South Square, Gray's Inn, 1832-1836, relating to claims and counterclaims to compensation for the negroes on the estate of Adam Smith of Bossue, Manchester, Jamaica, whose will was proved on 4 Sep 1815. A printed form, dated 1836, of the Commissioners of Compensation, gives details of the settlement: William Shand, acting trustee under will of Adam Smith, claimant to compensation for 39 slaves, admitted counterclaim of William and Thomas Smith, executors and devisees in trust under will of Adam Smith (N.B. Copies of a number of letters to and from a William Shand in Jamaica are among the papers of Drew's Tontine.)

109 items

A tontine is an investment plan in which participants buy shares in a common fund and receive an annuity that increases every time a participant dies, with the entire fund going to the final survivor or to those who survive after a specified time.

Stephen Drew, formerly of the island of Jamaica but then of Stoketon, near Saltash, Cornwall, was the agent of the tontine on the Dry Sugar Work Estate (1435 acres), in St Catherine's parish on the Rio Cobre River, one mile from Spanish Town. The tontine was to begin in May or June 1805, but Drew did not reach Jamaica until November 1805. In December 1806 the trustees gave power of attorney to Messrs Pinnock & Shand of Jamaica, to proceed against Drew, as his management was unsatisfactory. By September 1808 the estate was in the hands of a receiver; in November 1808 Pinnock estimated the value of negroes and stock at £10,800, exclusive of the freehold. Probably by about that time Drew had received £18-19,000, the trustees retaining little more than £1000. From 1809 Pinnock & Shand acted as managers of the estate,

being occupied in selling the negroes, and trying to sell the land. In 1821 the tontine was still not wound up, and a bill was pending in Chancery against the trustees, for an account of the estate.

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|----------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>MS691/1</b> | <b>Resolutions of the Subscribers to Mr Drew's Tontine at a Meeting at the Thatched House Tavern, St James Street</b><br>Mansel Dawkins Mansel in the chair.      | <b>1805 March<br/>26</b> |
|                | 1 item  |                          |
| <b>MS691/2</b> | <b>Copy resolutions of the Subscribers to Mr Drew's Tontine at a Meeting at the Thatched House Tavern, St James Street</b><br>Mansel Dawkins Mansel in the Chair. | <b>1805 March<br/>26</b> |
|                | 1 item  |                          |
| <b>MS691/3</b> | <b>Proposals for Raising by Tontine the sum of £20,000 to be laid out in the cultivation of an extensive and lucrative Estate in Jamaica</b>                      | <b>1805 March</b>        |
|                | 1 item  |                          |
| <b>MS691/4</b> | <b>Resolutions of a meeting of the Subscribers at the Thatched House Tavern</b><br>Mansel Dawkin Mansel in the Chair. Includes the appointment of trustees.       | <b>1805 April<br/>11</b> |
|                | 5 pages   |                          |
| <b>MS691/5</b> | <b>Copy resolutions of a meeting of the Subscribers at the Thatched House Tavern</b><br>Mansel Dawkin Mansel in the Chair. Includes the appointment of trustees.  | <b>1805 April<br/>11</b> |
|                | 6 pages   |                          |
| <b>MS691/6</b> | <b>Subscribers List</b>   | <b>1805 April<br/>11</b> |

Names of subscribers and the amount of shares they have taken.

1 item

**MS691/7 Advertisement relating to the creation of the tontine** **1805 April 11**

To be sent to newspapers, with a list of the newspapers below, including the Times, the Chronicle and the Observer.

1 item

**MS691/8 Letter to the Subscribers** **1805 April**

From Troward & Merryfield, announcing the names of the trustees.

2 pages

**MS691/9 Certificate of nomination for annuity from tontine** **1805 April**

1 item

**MS691/10 Draft minutes of a meeting of the subscribers** **1805 May 7**

1 item

**MS691/11 List of subscribers to be made and nominations to be sent** **1805 May 9**

1 item

**MS691/12 Declarations** **1805 April - May**

The declarations are of who the tontine is subscribed to on behalf of.

57 items

<b>MS691/13</b>	<b>List of subscribers and their nominees</b>	<b>1805</b>
	2 items	
<b>MS691/14</b>	<b>List of subscribers</b>	<b>1805</b>
	List of names and addresses.	
	2 items	
<b>MS691/15</b>	<b>List of subscribers with the number of shares</b>	<b>1805</b>
	1 items	
<b>MS691/16</b>	<b>List of subscribers, by class</b>	<b>1805</b>
	First class list includes HRH Princess Charlotte, and number of shares held by each subscriber.	
	21 pages	
<b>MS691/17</b>	<b>Request for delivery of debenture</b>	<b>1805</b>
	By J Manby.	<b>September</b>
	1 item	<b>26</b>
<b>MS691/18</b>	<b>Calling of meeting of subscribers</b>	<b>1805</b>
	Meeting to take place in Pall Mall, 12 November 1805, for some subscribers to relinquish their interests.	<b>November</b>
	5 items	
<b>MS691/19</b>	<b>Note from Subscribers' Meeting</b>	<b>1805</b>
		<b>November</b>
		<b>12</b>

1 item

**MS691/20 Record of votes at Subscribers' Meeting 1805  
November  
12**

1 item

**MS691/21 Further Visit Observations 1805**  
Observations on conditions of selling in the event of  
deficiency.

1 item

**MS691/22 Draft Resolution 1806 May  
16**

From a meeting of the trustees.

1 item

**MS691/23 Draft Resolution 1806 May  
16-17**

From a meeting of the trustees.

1 item

**MS691/24 Draft Resolutions 1806 May  
22**

Of a meeting of the trustees.

1 item

**MS691/25 Notes of payments 1806 May**

1 item

<b>MS691/26</b>	<b>Notes of payments</b>	<b>1806 May</b>
	1 item	
<b>MS691/27</b>	<b>Notes of payments</b>	<b>1806 May</b>
	1 item	
<b>MS691/28</b>	<b>Resolution of a meeting of the trustees</b>	<b>1806 June 18</b>
	1 item	
<b>MS691/29</b>	<b>Letter from George Cooch, subscriber</b>	<b>1806 August 31</b>
	Requesting that his debenture be delivered to the bearer of the letter.	
	1 item	
<b>MS691/30</b>	<b>Letter relating to the Deed of Trust for the tontine</b>	<b>1806 September</b>
	1 item	
<b>MS691/31</b>	<b>Draft letter on behalf of the trustees</b>	<b>1807 May</b>
	To Stephen Drew, raising concerns over the estate.	
	1 item	
<b>MS691/32</b>	<b>Copy correspondence relating to shares in the estate</b>	<b>1807 November</b>

Between Troward & Merrifield and R Halliday.

1 item

- MS691/33** **Answers to the Trustees' Letter of 5 October 1807** **1807**  
**December**  
List of names of shareholders and the date of their reply, with notes beside some names that the shareholder is dead.  
1 item
- MS691/34** **Draft of letter on behalf of the trustees** **1807**  
Relating to the conduct of Stephen Drew.  
9 pages
- MS691/35** **Certification that John Edward Lee and Mary Lee were alive on 1 May 1808** **1808 June**  
**16**  
By Joseph Brown, Chaplain to his Majesty, Castletown.  
1 item
- MS691/36** **Request for account of Stephen Drew and tontine** **1809**  
**January 9**  
From Mr Lambert, on behalf of W Peart, Settle.  
1 item
- MS691/37** **Letter to Troward and Merrifield, relating to payments of commissions** **1809**  
**January 17**  
From Manning, Anderdon & Bosanquet, Fenchurch Street.  
1 item
- MS691/38** **Letter from Thomas Farrar, Exchequer Offices, Somerset Place to Troward & Merrifield** **1809**  
**January 12**

Relating to an action at law to recover subscriptions.

1 item

**MS691/39 Copy letter from Thomas Farrar, Exchequer  
Offices, Somerset Place to Troward & Merrifield** **1809  
January 12**  
Relating to an action at law to recover subscriptions.

1 item

**MS691/40 Acknowledgment of meeting the trustees** **1809  
January 17**

1 item

**MS691/41 Copy letter from Thomas Farrar** **1809  
January 17**  
Relating to copy of the Attorney General's opinion.

1 item

**MS691/42 Letter relating to dealings with Lieutenant  
Halliday** **1809  
January 21**  
From P Strachan, Bristol to Troward & Merrifield.

1 item

**MS691/43 Note from Mr Troward to Mr Merrifield** **1809  
February 6**  
Relating to the resolutions passed when the tontine  
was set up.

1 item

**MS691/44 Letter from Thomas Bold, Brecon** **1809  
February 16**  
To Troward & Merrifield, requesting information on  
the tontine.

1 item



- MS691/45 Letter from P Strachan** **1809 April 2**  
To Troward & Merrifield, relating to the difficulty of answering enquiries about Lieutenant Halliday.  
1 item
- MS691/46 Letter from Manning, Anderson & Bosanquet** **1809 August 13**  
To Troward & Merrifield, relating to the employment of an agent to inspect the estates in Jamaica.  
1 item
- MS691/47 Copy letter from Mr Pinnock to Mr Hampson** **1809 April 14**  
Discussing the legal action against Stephen Drew.  
1 item
- MS691/48 Letter to John Lewis** **1809 April 28**  
From the Exchequer Offices, Somerset Place, enclosing debentures.  
1 item
- MS691/49 Instruction to pay the bearer £92, 7 shillings and 5 pence** **1809 May 6**  
1 item
- MS691/50 Order to discuss bill in the case of Mansel vs Halliday** **1809 May 9**  
1 item

- |                 |   |                         |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| <b>MS691/51</b> | <b>Letter from Manning, Anderdon &amp; Bosanquet</b><br>To Troward & Merrifield, relating to payment of an agent.<br>1 item       | <b>1809 May<br/>23</b>  |
| <b>MS691/52</b> | <b>Letter from Troward &amp; Merrifield to Percival Lewis</b><br>1 item   | <b>1809 June 7</b>      |
| <b>MS691/53</b> | <b>Letter from Troward &amp; Merrifield to John Lewis</b><br>1 item   | <b>1809 June</b>        |
| <b>MS691/54</b> | <b>Letter from Priail &amp; Bienvenu to Troward &amp; Merrifield</b><br>Referring to the upcoming subscribers' meeting.<br>1 item | <b>1809 June<br/>28</b> |
| <b>MS691/55</b> | <b>Letter from George Gordon to Troward &amp; Merrifield</b><br>Referring to the upcoming subscribers' meeting.<br>1 item         | <b>1809 June<br/>29</b> |
| <b>MS691/56</b> | <b>Draft advertisement for a meeting of the subscribers</b><br>1 item   | <b>1809 June</b>        |
| <b>MS691/57</b> | <b>Note relating to advertising of subscribers' meeting</b>   | <b>1809 June</b>        |

1 item

**MS691/58 Letter from John Hanna relating to the subscribers' meeting 1809 July 1**

1 item

**MS691/59 Draft letter to George Pinnock, Jamaica 1809 July**  
Informing him of the decision of the subscribers' meeting.

1 item

**MS691/60 Letter from Manning & Co to Troward & Merrifield 1809 July 5**

1 item

**MS691/61 Letter from Thomas King to Troward & Merrifield 1809 July 7**  
Relating to the upcoming subscribers' meeting.

1 item

**MS691/62 Letter from Thomas Bold to Troward & Merrifield 1809 July 10**  
Relating to the upcoming subscribers' meeting.

1 item

**MS691/63 List of views of subscribers who are unable to attend subscribers' meeting 1809 July**

1 item

**MS691/64 Letter from John Dowbiggin 1809 July**

Relating to the upcoming subscribers' meeting.

1 item

**MS691/65** **Draft authority to the trustees to proceed against Stephen Drew or to compromise the matter in dispute by arbitration or otherwise** **1809 July**

1 item

**MS691/66** **Draft authority to the trustees to proceed against Stephen Drew or to compromise the matter in dispute by arbitration or otherwise** **1809 July**

1 item

**MS691/67** **Letter from Stephen Drew** **1809 July**  
**17**

To Troward & Merrifield, enquiring about the resolutions made at the subscribers' meeting.

1 item

**MS691/68** **Letter from J Hargreaves to Troward & Merrifield** **1809 July**  
**20**

Relating to the subscribers' meeting.

1 item

**MS691/69** **Letter from John Lewis** **1809 July**  
**23**

To Troward & Merrifield.

1 item

**MS691/70** **Letter from Stephen Drew** **1809 July**  
**26**

To Troward & Merrifield, relating to the court action about the tontine.

1 item

**MS691/71 Copy correspondence**

**1809 July**

From: Troward & Merrifield; Manning, Anderdon & Bosanquet; Stephen Drew; trustees.

1 item

**MS691/72 Draft letter to Mr Pinnock**

**1809  
August**

Relating to the resolution passed at the subscribers' meeting, to sell the estate.

1 item

**MS691/73 Draft letter to Mr Pinnock**

**1809  
August**

Relating to the resolution passed at a meeting of the subscribers, to sell the estate.

1 item

**MS691/74 Copy letter from George Pinnock**

**1809  
October 29**

Relating to the sale of the estate.

1 item

**MS691/75 Letter from Claude Carter**

**1809  
December  
20**

To Troward & Merrifield, requesting an account of the state of Drew's tontine.

1 item

**MS691/76 Observations**

**1809**

Account of events relating to the tontine from Stephen Drew's arrival in Jamaica to the current court action.

1 item

**MS691/77 Note to Mr Sparke, Bristol 1809**

1 item

**MS691/78 Draft Power to sell the tontine estate 1809**  
By the Trustees of Stephen Drew's tontine.

3 pages

**MS691/79 Account of events relating to Stephen Drew's tontine 1809**

1 item

**MS691/80 Notes from a meeting of the trustees of the tontine 1811 January 22**

1 item

**MS691/81 Minutes of a meeting 1812 April 4**

1 item

**MS691/82 Letter to the trustees of the tontine 1812 September 29**

From Troward & Merrifield, inviting them to a meeting of trustees.

1 item

<b>MS691/83</b>	<b>Copy letter to George Merrifield</b> From agent in Spanishtown, Jamaica. 1 item	<b>1820 March 12</b>
<b>MS691/84</b>	<b>Copy correspondence and accounts relating to the tontine</b>  1 item	<b>1820</b>
<b>MS691/85</b>	<b>Draft account</b>  1 item	<b>1820</b>
<b>MS691/86</b>	<b>Notes on correspondence</b>  1 item	<b>Undated</b>
<b>MS691/87</b>	<b>Draft letter from Troward &amp; Merrifield</b> Relating to action taken regarding the tontine. 1 item	<b>Undated</b>
<b>MS691/88</b>	<b>Draft letter from Troward &amp; Merrifield</b> Relating to action taken regarding the tontine. 1 item	<b>Undated</b>
<b>MS691/89</b>	<b>Draft letter from Troward &amp; Merrifield</b>	<b>Undated</b>

Relating to arrangements to be made with Mr Shand.

1 item

**MS691/90 Draft note of account Undated**

1 item

**MS691/91 "Jamaica Tontine" Undated**

Cover sheet, unattached to any other item.

1 item

**MS691/92 Draft note of account Undated**

1 item

**MS691/93 Draft note of account Undated**

1 item

**MS691/94 Draft note of account Undated**

1 item

**MS691/95 Draft note of account Undated**

1 item

**MS691/96 Draft note of account Undated**



1 item

**MS691/97 Draft note**

**Undated**

1 item

**MS691/98 Copy Act relating to King William's tontine**

**[1692]**

1 item

**MS691/99 Letter to Mr Bromley**

**1835  
February 24**

From Willowby & Horne. Relating to the estate of George Hogarth, died 31 March 1832; the estate of Adam Smith, deceased; the estate of John Burn, deceased.

1 item

**MS691/100 Draft letter to Mr Bromley**

**1835 March**

From Willowby & Horne. Relating to a compensatory claim for "negro emancipation".

1 item

**MS691/101 Letter from Mr Bromley**

**1835 June  
4**

Relating to a counterclaim in respect of certain slaves.

1 item

**MS691/102 Letter from Mr Bromley**

**1835 July 7**

Relating to a counterclaim in respect of certain slaves.

1 item

- |                  |  |                                  |
|------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>MS691/103</b> | <b>Letter from Mr Bromley</b>  | <b>1835<br/>September<br/>17</b> |
|                  | Relating to a counterclaim in respect of certain slaves.   |                                  |
|                  | 1 item   |                                  |
| <b>MS691/104</b> | <b>Commission of Compensation</b>  | <b>1835 July<br/>25</b>          |
|                  | Counterclaim of William Smith, Shedlaw, Northumberland and Thomas Smith, Buckton, County Durham in respect of certain slaves registered in the colony of Jamaica. With schedule of counterclaim, detailing number of slaves and estimated value. |                                  |
|                  | 1 item   |                                  |
| <b>MS691/105</b> | <b>Copy affidavit and note of counterclaim</b>   | <b>1835<br/>August 12</b>        |
|                  | By Dan Cameron, made at Edinburgh.   |                                  |
|                  | 1 item   |                                  |
| <b>MS691/106</b> | <b>Letter to the Commissioners of Compensation</b>   | <b>1835<br/>August 12</b>        |
|                  |  |                                  |
|                  | 1 item   |                                  |
| <b>MS691/107</b> | <b>Authorisation to Joseph Bromley to prosecute counterclaim on behalf of William Smith, Shedlaw, Northumberland and Thomas Smith, Buckton, County Durham</b>  | <b>1835-10-04</b>                |
|                  | Addressed to the Commissioner of Compensation, Jamaica.  |                                  |
|                  | 1 item   |                                  |

**MS691/108 Copy affidavits for the Commissioners of Compensation** **1835**  
By Alexander Forbes, Aberdeenshire.

1 item

**MS691/109 Particulars of Claim** **1836**  
Addressed to the office of Commissioners of Compensation, with information on the claim and the counterclaim, with names of parties and numbers of slaves.

1 item