



Press Release

28 July 2003

Caribbean heritage website launched

The last 200 years of Caribbean migration to England are explored on a new interactive website, "Moving Here", www.movinghere.org.uk, to be launched on 30 July at London's City Hall

"Moving Here" makes over 150,000 digitised sources from 30 museums, libraries and archives in England available online for the first time. You can download free scans of original documents and images such as:

- Selected ships' passenger lists including the SS Empire Windrush
- Rare photographs of Caribbean slaves from 1869
- The KEYS - a collection of journals spanning 1930s and 1940s produced by leading Black intellectuals and activists
- Police files
- Military service records for Walter Tull, the first professional black footballer, and Caribbean RAF pilots from WW2
- Vanley Burke's photographic collection of Birmingham life, mainly from 1970-1980
- Calypso and jazz music.

Visitors can read about the history of Caribbean migration to England, get guidance on tracing their family history, send images as e-postcards and contribute their own stories of migration to the website. ,

A young passenger on the *SS Colombie* in the summer of 1960, wrote:

"My father and various other elderly relatives came to the docks to see us off. I wondered if I would ever see them again, England seemed so far away both in terms of distance and money."

Sam Walker, Director of Black Cultural Archives, said:

“Moving Here is another in a long list of activities which is helping to dispel the myth which requires the absence of black people in British history. Black Cultural Archives is proud to be part of this illuminating and very necessary project.”

Sarah Tyacke, Chief Executive of The National Archives, said:

“Moving Here is a step forward because for the first time all this material has been digitised so that you can see it in your living room. Archives are moving away from their ‘dusty and musty’ image by making these documents available at the click of a mouse.”

Trevor Phillips, Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, said:

"England has a long history of immigration and I commend Moving Here and The National Archives on creating a website which recognises and celebrates the contribution of immigrants to all sections of our society."

Historian Simon Schama said:

"It's a TERRIFIC idea, both moving and important."

“Moving Here” has been funded by the New Opportunities Fund and also provides information for the Irish, Jewish and South Asian communities in England. Further material will be added to the site by the end of September.

-Ends-

Notes for Editors:

- **For press enquiries or images, or to attend the launch at 2:15pm on 30 July at London’s City Hall, please contact Clea Relly or Jaclyn Boshoff at The National Archives Press Office on 020 8392 5277 or e-mail press@nationalarchives.gov.uk**
- The National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk is the lead partner on “Moving Here” and the central “Moving Here” team is based at the offices in Kew. The National Archives museum and research rooms are open to the public 6 days a week. It holds over 1000 years of documents including sources for family history research. The National Archives was created in April 2003 when the Public Record Office and the Historic Manuscripts Commission came together to form one organisation.
- **The Moving Here partners are:** Birmingham City Archives; Black Cultural Archives; Bradford Heritage Unit; British Library; Croydon Museum & Heritage Service; Jewish Museum, London; Hackney Museum; Haringey Museum and Archive Service (incorporating Bruce Castle Museum), Imperial War Museum; Hull City Archives; Lancashire Record Office; Leeds Museums & Galleries; Liverpool Record Office; London Metropolitan Archives; London School of Economics; Luton Museum Service; Manchester Central Library; Manchester Jewish Museum; Museum of London; The National Archives; National Maritime Museum; North West Film Archive; Oxfordshire Museums; Public Record Office of Northern Ireland; Royal Geographical Society; Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives; Victoria & Albert Museum; Walsall Local History Centre; Wandsworth Museum and Local History Service; West Yorkshire Archive Service

* www.EnrichUK.net is a gateway to the collection of websites like www.movinghere.org.uk supported with National Lottery money by the New Opportunities Fund. Their contents range

across the very best in culture, history, art, science, and social and economic development of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and make a major contribution to lifelong learning.

* The New Opportunities Fund is the biggest of the National Lottery good cause distributors, providing Lottery funding for health, education and environment projects across the UK, with a particular focus on improving quality of life, particularly in disadvantaged communities. To date the New Opportunities Fund has committed over £2 billion in funding to schemes across the UK. The Fund supports sustainable projects that will:

- Improve the quality of life of people throughout the UK
- Address the needs of those who are most disadvantaged in society
- Encourage community participation
- Complement relevant local and national strategies and programmes

Funding for programmes is divided between England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales on the basis of population weighted to reflect levels of deprivation.

Further information about New Opportunities Fund can be accessed at www.nof.org.uk Press Office 020 7211 1888 email pressoffice@nof.org.uk Out of hours media line 07867 500572.