

RACE, MEMORY AND PLACE: THE BLACK PRESENCE IN THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND

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“British heritage is the heritage of a nation of nations, shaped through waves of migration and diaspora, wide-ranging imperial histories and contemporary flows of globalization” (Littler, 2001:1)

AIMS

Through uncovering 'forgotten' histories of the North East, the project not only aimed to ensure race becomes centralized within heritage debates, but it also aimed to encourage a reimagination of British culture and history that has always been highly multicultural.

METHODOLOGY

This research took a qualitative approach, utilising research, archives and interviews with various activist, political figures, community leaders, business owners and residents of the Afro Caribbean community within the North East

KEY FINDINGS

Newcastle Black History is one that is not only rich, but highly unique, unpacking and detailing events and people within archival work is difficult as Don O'Meara explores within an interview. But there continues to be scope for further research in this area. Similarly, commemorative events have lacked an in depth and thoughtful discussion of personalities within the North East beyond a small circle of black figures.

IAN MACDONALD



“My work aims to support the creation of a society where difference becomes just descriptions and not a tool of power, I want to expose power relations . It is by getting these stories out that create conversations and challenges myths” (MACDONALD,2019).

KHADIJAH IBRAHIM



“The Black body is an archive of narratives; it's DNA tells stories of trauma” (IBRAHIM 2019).

DON O'MEARA



Black History has not been suppressed , “there is not enough people with an emotional connection with the history to push forward the research “ (O'MEARA,2019).

CHRIS MULLARD



“I believe that in some cases the only way to achieve one's aims is by revolution...we have to be aware of forces, political and social, that are pressurizing all of us to look at things in a very small, myopic way” (MULLARD,2019).

NEW DEVELOPMENT: IS IT ALL ABOUT INSTITUTIONALIZATION ?

A new area of focus that has developed within the research has been the institutionalization of remembrance, ideas exploring who controls the narrative of racial remembrance? The people, events and stories that are neglected within mainstream remembrance? And the sustained opposing theme of tension and solidarity between BAME communities and institutions.

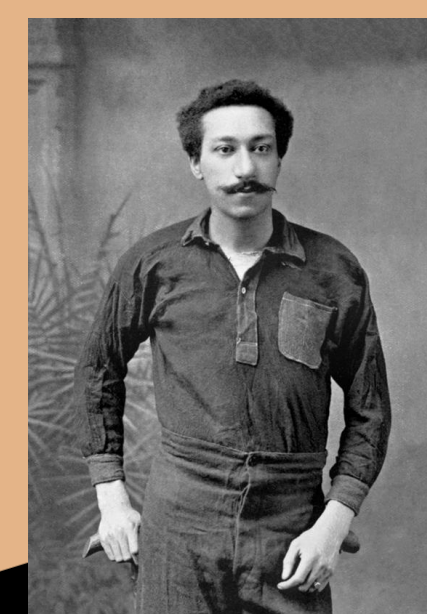
KEY FIGURES IN THE NORTH EAST

Ida B Wells (1862-1931)



Ida Bell Wells-Barnett was an African-American investigative journalist, educator, and an early leader in the civil rights movement. She regularly travelled to Newcastle.

Arthur Wharton (1865-1930)



Recognised as the first black football player, Wharton was born in Darlington.

Dr Robert Wellesley-Cole (1907-1995)



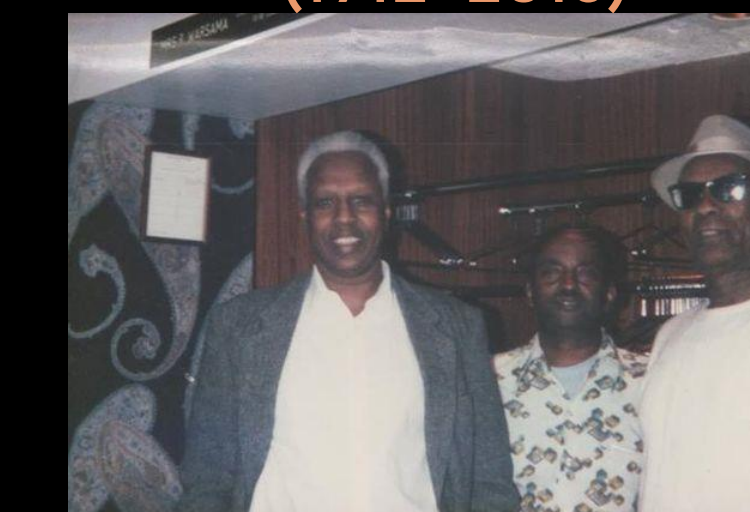
Arrived in 1943, Cole became the first African to own a Medical practice. He later became leader of Newcastle International Club ; President of the Society for the Cultural Advancement of Africa; Director of the West African Students Union (WASU).

Koi Obuadabang Larbi (1941)



Oversaw the 'West Indies House' a 'home away from home' for West Indian and West African sailors.

Abdillahi Warsama (1912-2016)



Warsama founded Kenya Café Curry house making him one of the first black business owners in Middlesbrough, the café became Club Bong a multicultural hub.

