

Stroud Scarlet Cloth, Trade, Enslavement, Empire and War Enslavement

Click on this link www.sootallures.wixsite.com/topographersarms/post/a-different-optic-on-stroudwater-and-abolition and study points 1,2, 3, 4 and 6.

Stroud scarlet cloth provided the uniform for the army in the 18th and 19th centuries: 'the redcoats.' Write a summary of redcoat action from points 1,2,3,4 and 6.

Trade: The East India Company and Longfords Mill

Read the following sections. What questions would you like to ask of the sources? Discuss whether you think a new information board about the East India Company should be placed in the landscape. If you do, design one with third person commentary and contemporary quotation. If you think a new information board is not needed, write a persuasive speech with your reasons.

The text below is taken from this link where you will find relevant pictures; www.amplifystroud.com/2021/02/18/clothing-colonialism-stroud-and-the-east-india-company.

Much of Stroud's history is the product of centuries of growth in its textile industry. Fast-flowing rivers in the area's steep valleys were used to power mills, which turned sheep's wool into high quality fabric destined for sale in distant parts of the globe. Over the centuries, the town and its mills grew, with canals and railroads gradually constructed between the Five Valleys and beyond to cities such as London, Bristol, and Exeter; connections that continue to serve and benefit the Stroud area today.

The town's famous Stroudwater Scarlet broadcloth is instantly recognisable in the military uniforms of the British Empire's forces, and records show it being traded across the Atlantic in North America and as far east as China. However, one particular business link stands out in its importance in the growth and maintenance of Stroud's textile industry.

This link was with the British *East India Company* (EIC), which, after being founded and granted its royal charter in 1600, shipped British goods alongside European military tactics and technologies across the Indian subcontinent and China while shipping profits and loot back to Britain.

The importance of this link for Stroud's development is hard to overstate. In October 1815 alone the EIC ordered almost £40,000 worth of product from mill owners in the Stroud Valleys; £3,585,018 in today's money.

We can also see the importance this had for individual mills, with Longford's Mill near Minchinhampton – now converted into housing – apparently being the EIC's largest supplier of cloth (See www.stroudtextiletrust.org.uk/history-longfords-mill) in 1820 through fulfilling orders then worth £20,000. Chalford's mills similarly owed much of their business to the EIC, with Chalford Place previously being known as the Company's Arms, after the East India Company.

Resources by Stuart Butler. More information can be found on www.radicalstroud.co.uk

The Triangular Trade

We all know about the British army in its red uniform; we all know how Stroud cloth was traded all over the world. The question is, did it go to Bristol and then to Africa as part of the slaving triangular trade? I suggest metaphorically in a line in this piece that the evidence is missing - www.radicalstroud.co.uk/stroud-scarle. Can you find the line?

Stroud scarlet and the American Revolution

Click on this link and list the points that strike you as surprising. List them in order with the most surprising first. Explain your reasoning.

www.sootallures.wixsite.com/topographersarms/post/hercules-mulligan-cato-and-stroud-scarlet

Stroud scarlet and the Iroquois

Study this link and you will find a challenge at the end if you fancy it:

www.sootallures.wixsite.com/topographersarms/post/stroud-scarlet-and-the-iroquois