

## Bristol and Stroud continued

The GWR: Abolition compensation in 1834 helped fund the national railway boom of the 19th century industrial evolution. You will see this when you later look at the Gladstone family and Gloucester. The GWR from Paddington to Bristol and the branch line from Swindon to Cheltenham also need investigation about the impact of abolition compensation:

[www.sootallures.wixsite.com/topographersarms/post/the-enslaved-and-the-great-western-railway](http://www.sootallures.wixsite.com/topographersarms/post/the-enslaved-and-the-great-western-railway)

1. Look at the third stanza and list the people who were involved with GWR in Bristol and who benefitted from compensation.
2. Add up the numbers of enslaved people from whom they gained.
3. Add up the totals in 'old money' and then add up the totals in today's values.
4. Two other influential people are named. Further research: what is/was the Society of Merchant Venturers?
5. What do the lines about Christopher Claxton suggest?
6. Who was he friendly with? Why is that person so famous?
7. Do you think there should be an information plaque at Bristol Temple Meads with information about the impact of slavery compensation? Explain your reasoning.

Now look at these figures for the branch line from Swindon, on the main line GWR from Paddington to Bristol, that runs through Kemble, Stroud, Stonehouse, Gloucester and Cheltenham; Out of the £695,000 raised by subscription for the construction of the railway from Swindon through Stroud to Cheltenham, £212,000 came from the spa town of Cheltenham, home to so many beneficiaries from the abolition of slavery. It might be useful to research this.

Go to the UCL data base at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/search>. If you type in the Cheltenham details then you should be able to research further information about them. You could also type in Cheltenham into the relevant box to see if there are any new entries not included on the list you have just looked at. You might be able to discover where Cheltenham compensation money was invested.