Tiffany- Intro

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**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

enslaved, town, indentured servants, ships, london, convict, servants, colonial era, people, south, colonies, river, maryland, travel, colonial america, slave owners, atlantic ocean, colonial, tradesmen, servitude

00:00

Welcome to Historic London Town.

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Just a few miles from the Chesapeake Bay

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along the South River in Maryland, sits London Town.

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Founded in 1683, well over 300 years ago,

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 London Town was originally a colonial tobacco port,

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made up of over 100 acres of land

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and home to a variety of people both free and unfree.

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During the colonial era, Maryland was a British colony and subject to British rule.

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Ships sailed across the Atlantic Ocean

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linking the colonies with the rest of the world.

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Travel of both people and cargo was an important part of its economy.

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Ferries travelled across the South River connecting London Town and Annapolis,

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 and ships anchored off the docks for trade.

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London Town's residents were varied

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some were merchants, wealthy businessmen or ship's captains.

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Others were carpenters, boatwrights or coopers,

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seamstresses, tailors, tavern owners, fishermen or millers.

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Many of these people used the labor of indentured servants,

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convict servants and enslaved people to operate their businesses,

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all of whom were considered bound people,

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but their experiences of their servitude differed widely.

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Indentured servants chose to enter their servitude for a set number of years

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in exchange for an agreed upon advanced sum of money

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or passage across the Atlantic Ocean for their time.

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Convict servants were individuals found guilty of committing a crime in Great Britain,

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and were sentenced to transportation,

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which meant being shipped across the ocean to the colonies

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and made to work for seven years of unpaid labor.

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After completing their time convict servants were free.

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A large portion of the enslaved people in colonial America

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were kidnapped from Africa and sold as slaves to colonists.

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Others born to those already enslaved in the colonies

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were considered property from birth,

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children were often sold to from their parents

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tearing families apart for the profit of slave owners.

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The enslaved were forced to work for their entire lives

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with no compensation and very little chance of freedom.

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During the colonial era, London Town supported trade and travel

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and was home to a number of

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enslaved people, servants and tradesmen.

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Though these individuals lived in the same place,

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they had access to different things,

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and experienced life on the South River in vastly different ways.

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Today, only a small portion of the original town remains.

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It serves as a link to our shared colonial past.