

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2009

Setting the truth free

OLAUDAH EQUIANO

(1745 - 1797)

(also known as Gustavus Vassa)

Olaudah Equiano began his early life in the region of "Assaka" near the River Niger and is believed to be an Igbo.

Despite his enslavement as a young man, he purchased his freedom and worked as a seaman, merchant and explorer in South America, the Caribbean, the Arctic, the American Colonies and the UK.

Equiano decided to convert to Christianity and was baptized in St Margaret's Church, Westminster, in February 1759

He was one of the most prominent Africans involved in the British movement for the abolition of the slave trade, (1807).

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