

slave ship and traded them in Virginia for provisions. By 1661, Virginia had passed a law allowing any free person to own slaves. But what if the voyage of the Silver Falcon had gone to plan and it had reached the colony first? What if the first African in Virginia had been a free man, a skilled mariner, a man of worth, with the

eloquence and confidence to speak up for his rights? Could John Anthony's mere presence have re-set the thinking of the first colonists, so that ever after they saw Africans as co-workers and fellow human beings, never as possessions? Could one sailor, a man from Dover, have changed the course of North American history?

Saving the Roman Forts

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November 2021 will be the 50th Anniversary of the successful battle to prevent the total destruction of two major Roman forts under the York Street bypass. Our team of Kent Rescue Unit had battled for 140 days to discover and record two important Roman forts ahead of the construction of the York Street bypass. The earlier was that of the Classis Britannica naval fort with dozens of buildings and other structures surviving to a remarkable extent. This is the only Roman naval fort surviving across the Roman Empire.

The second fort, one of the late-Roman shore-forts, had been sought for over four hundred years, but eventually eliminated from the record doubt. Again, we found long lengths of the defensive fort walls, bastions and great defensive ditches had survived. Sadly, all were to be destroyed by the construction of the new bypass planned to be cut very deeply into the slope of the hill.

Such was the quality of the structures that the unit had to launch a fierce battle for preservation against strong opposition. However, good support came from across Kent and from the New Dover Group, the latter encouraged by Jack Woolford and Doug Crellin. Finally, the unit appealed to

the Government and won the battle on the very last day of operations and the A20 bypass was then raised six feet. A victory for Dover, Kent, and Britain. Our young active reporter of the day, Terry Sutton, raced to the site with the news of the victory and gave it front-page coverage in the good-old Dover Express. I have been an avid reader every week since then! Our excavations have continued across Dover ever since and have covered more than forty sites including the famous Roman Painted House. Most of the sites have already been published in four large volumes still on sale at the Roman House.



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