

Equiano married Susannah Cullen at St. Andrew's Church in Soham and the couple had two daughters: Johannah and Anna Maria Vassah. It may surprise you to learn interracial marriages weren't uncommon at the time. However,



I struggle to imagine it was easy. Slavery was yet to be abolished thus must have surely cast aspersions upon people's ideas of a Black person's place in society; I find it hard to imagine Equiano being accepted in their neighbourhood. I imagine Susannah facing incomprehension and ostracism for her choice of husband. I imagine young Afro-European Johannah and Anna Maria facing the racism that accompanies the hatred of miscegenation—the anguish of both parents. But maybe I am



asserting presentism on the past. I love the knowledge that Susannah became a subscriber to Olaudah's book; that they settled down and started a family together. I imagine the supportive conversations they must have engaged in throughout Equiano's mission to bring about abolition but also, the mundane but joyous conversations that occupy so many couples. All imagined in the absence of archival evidence, of course, but this imagined past helps open up the world to imagine possible futures.

