

The Legend of Bill Richmond



**Bill Richmond, was the
first Black sports
celebrity**



**Richmond was born in
Staten Island, New York in
1763.**

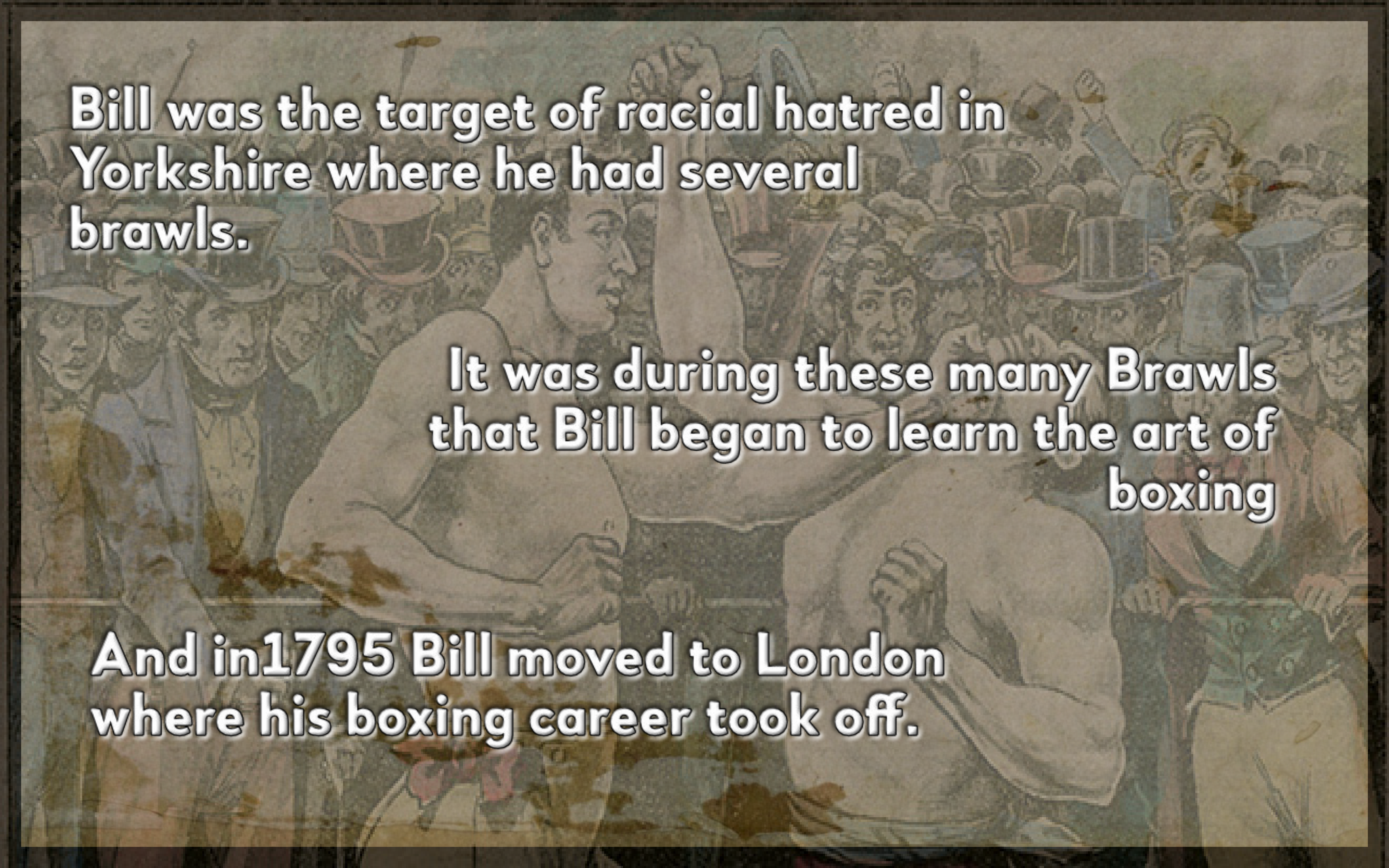
**He became
arguably one of
the most
accomplished and
respected boxers
of the early
nineteenth
century.**



Bill escaped a life of poverty when a British soldier and noble Hugh Percy in 1777 took a young Bill into his care. Percy had been struck by the wit and intelligence of Bill.



Percy took Bill to England and paid for his education after which he set the young lad up as a cabinet-making apprentice.



Bill was the target of racial hatred in Yorkshire where he had several brawls.

It was during these many Brawls that Bill began to learn the art of boxing

And in 1795 Bill moved to London where his boxing career took off.

Boxing at this time had few rules and even fewer opportunities for people of colour



However Bill excelled winning epically long fights

One fight against Jack Holmes lasted 26 rounds



He also beat Jack Carter and in 1809 and went on to defeat George Maddox in a fight that lasted 52 rounds.

Bill had a career record of 19 fights and 17 wins after beating top contenders in bouts that made headlines in newspapers.



Bill continued to fight until the age of 55 but retired from the ring in 1818.

He bought a fashionable public house, the Horse and Dolphin, near Leicester Square and ran a boxing academy where he taught young men how to fight. .



Some of his pupils were the
essayist William Hazlitt and
boxer Tom Molineaux.

Bill died in London on 28th
December, 1829

Bill Richmond
we salute you

