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JAMAICA PLACE-NAMES.

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JAMAICA PLACE-NAMES

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JAMAICA PLACE-NAMES.

The study of place-names is worthy of attention as being intimately connected with history. Many of the ascriptions here given are historical; others are but tentatively put forward, after as much research as was possible. The writer will be glad to receive notes, either amending or adding to the names traced in the following paper.

It seems most convenient to consider the place-names of Jamaica under the following heads:—

- I—The Island.
- II—Other Arawak names.
- III—Spanish names :
 - (a) Towns and villages.
 - (b) Rivers.
- IV—Corrupted Spanish names.
- V—English names.
 - (a) Parishes.
 - (b) Governors.
 - (c) Early Settlement.
 - (d) Owners.
 - (e) Forts.
 - (f) Places named after inhabitants.
 - (g) Places named after natural features.
 - (h) Places named at the time of Emancipation.
 - (i) Kingston streets.
- VI—Jamaica in other lands.

In considering the origin of the place-names of Jamaica, one naturally begins with the name of the island.

Some of the early Spanish historians—putting as they frequently did X for J—wrote the name *Xaymaca*, but it appears in its present form as early as 1511 in Peter Martyr's "Decades." He called it *Jamaica* and *Jamica*. The island is unnamed in Juan de la Cosa's map of 1500.

Its first appearance in cartography is on the map made by Bartolommeo Colombo, Columbus's younger brother, to illustrate the Admiral's fourth voyage, where it is spelled *Jamaicha*. In Cantino's map (1502-04) it appears as *Jamaiqua*: in Caneiro as *Jamaiqua* and in Waldseemüller's map of 1507 as *Jamaiana*. In the so-called Admiral's map of 1507 it appears as *Jamaqua*: the name does not appear in Ruysch's map of 1508, but in the Ptolemaeus edition, Strasburg 1513, it is given as *Jamaiqua*, and in the Waldseemüller map of 1516 it is also *Jamaiqua*.

In the Maggiolo map of 1519 it is *Jamaica*, but in the Maggiolo map of 1527 it is *Jamaicha*: in Ribero's "Antilles" of 1529, and in Mercator's map of 1541 it is *Jamaica*: but in Herrera's map of 1601, it goes back to the old form *Xamaica*, and as late as 1734 in Charlevoix's "L'isle Espagnole," it appears as *Xamayca*. Amongst Englishmen who wrote of it from personal knowledge immediately after the British occupation, Commissioner Butler (1655) wrote it *Gemecoe* and *Gemegoe*. Daniell (1655) calls it *Jamico*, Gwakin (1657) wrote it *Jammaca*, and General Fleetwood (1658) wrote it *Jamecah*.

Columbus on his return from his first journey was told by the natives when off Tortuga, that if he sailed in a certain direction two days he would arrive at Babeque, where he would find gold. Columbus mentions Babeque many times in his journals, but he never found it, at least under that name. The "Historie," of 1571, identifies it with Espanola but this is doubted. Las Casas thought that it might refer to Jamaica.

In common with most other West Indian native names Jamaica has come to us through a Spanish source: and the native pronunciation was possibly

afterwards changed to Jamaica, after James, duke of York. In this connection it is somewhat sad to note that not one of the Greater Antilles retained the name given to it by Columbus. Española, Santiago and Juana, went back to their native Hayti, Jamaica and Cuba; and St. Juan Bautista became Porto Rico. Of the smaller islands, the names of Trinidad, Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat and Guadeloupe still remind us of their great discoverer.

James Knight, in the rough draft of his history of Jamaica (1742), in the British Museum, gives the following derivation of the word Jamaica:—"In the original it was Jamajaco. Jamo in the Indian language is a country, and Jaco is water."

John Atkins, in his "Voyage to the Guinea, Brazil, and the West Indies" (1737), says that "Jamaica was altered by King James, it being a compound of his name and 'ca' an island." He was possibly not far wrong in regard to the "island". The West Indian word for an island, *cai*, (or the Biscayan word *cay*) is supposed to appear in Lucayos (Bahamas) "Men of the island," in the Caicos islands, and also in various cays or keys in the West Indies; albeit modern etymology makes *cay* or *key* the same word as the Welsh *cae*.

Long wrote in 1774 that "It is not improbable that Jamaica is a name of Indian extraction, perhaps derived from Jamacaru, the Brazilian name of the prickly-pear, which over-spreads the maritime parts of the south side, where the aboriginal Indian discoverers of this island might have first landed," but this derivation has found no supporters amongst later writers.

Bryan Edwards, writing in 1793, says "The early Spanish historians wrote the word *Xaymaca*. It is said to have signified in the language of the natives, a country abounding in springs."

Bridges, who as a rule displays a more fertile imagination than Long without half his trustworthiness as a historian, says, writing in 1828, "In the speech of Florida, *Chaübaan* signified water, and *makia*, wood (Lescarbot I.6. c.6.). The compound sound would approach to Chab-makia; and, harmonized to the Spanish ear, would be Chamakia, or some such indistinct union of these two significant expressions, denoting a land covered with wood, and therefore watered by shaded rivulets, or in other words, fertile." This suggested origin has been usually adopted by later writers. Why he sought in Florida the meaning of words of Jamaica, Bridges does not explain. Carib and Arawâk are probably the only two languages which Columbus heard spoken in the Greater Antilles. Wood, in Arawâk, is *ada*; woods are in Arawâk, *konoko*, and in Carib *eotch*; and water is in Arawâk *winiab* (Hillhouse) or *comiaboo* (im Thurn), and in Carib *tona*.

Bryan Edwards points out that Fernando Columbus's "Historie" states that the Indian name of Antigua, was Jamaica, and he adds, "It is a singular circumstance that this word which in the language of the larger islands signified a country abounding in springs, should in the dialect of the Charaibs have been applied to an island that has not a single spring or rivulet of fresh water in it." Until further research proves the contrary Jamaica must remain, what it truly is, the land of woods and streams.

Apart from the name of the island itself, there are few names of native origin left. Maima a native settlement on the north side may perhaps still survive in Mammee Bay. Guanaboa in St. Catherine, may be perhaps formed from the Cuban Indian word meaning any kind of palm, or the native Indian word for sour-sop, *guanabana*. Guanaboa occurs as the name of a district in Hayti.

Names resembling Liguanea (the plain on which Kingston stands) are met with throughout the West Indies; e.g. the plain of Leogane in Hayti, and the island of Leguan at the mouth of the Essequibo, and the island of Mayaguana in the Bahamas: they may be connected with Iguana the Indian word for lizard. Stedman, writing in 1796 in his "Revolted Negroes of Surinam," speaks of "the Leguana or Iguana lizard of Guiana."

There is some difficulty in discriminating between the native Indian and Spanish origin of West Indian names: and too great a faith in the laws of philology are apt to lead one astray. Place-names are not infrequently rather evolved in accordance with the rules of phonetics.

On this subject Long wrote, "From the resemblance which the language of these islanders bears, in some respects, to the Spanish, I am apt to suspect that many of their words have been altered by the Spanish mode of pronunciation.

obvious, where the letter *b* is used indiscriminately for *v*, agreeably to their idiom. This perversion may easily lead us to ascribe a Spanish or Moorish origin to the names of places, such as rivers, mountains, head-lands, etc., which in fact are of Indian derivation. Thus the article *gua*, so commonly met with both in these islands and on the Southern continent, was often prefixed or appended to the Indian names of places and things; and even of their provincial *caciques*. Of the latter were Gua-rionexius, Gua-canarillus, Gua-naboa, and others. Of the former a vast multitude occurs, as Gua-nama, Xa-gua, Gua-há-gua, Camayá-gua, Aicay-azá-gua, Má-gua, Nicará-gua, Verá-gua, Xará-guo, Gua-ríco, Ni-gua (Chigger), etc., which may seem to confound them with derivatives from the Spanish or Moorish word *agua* (water). So the terminations, *ao*, *ana*, *coa*, and *boa* or *voa*; as, Manabax-ao Cib-ao; Gu-ana, Magu-ana, Yagu-ana, Ligu-ana, Zav-ana, (Savannah) Furac-ana (Hurricane), Caym-ana, Guaiac-ana (Guaiacum) Haba-coa, Cuana-boa, and so forth. The names therefore occurring in our island of Liguana, Cagua, Tilboa, Guanaboa, Guadibocoa, and others of similar finals, are with mere propriety to be traced from the Indian than the Spanish dialect."

Of Spanish names given to towns and villages, St. Jago de la Vega (St. James of the plain) still survives in custom, although supplanted officially by Spanish Town. So also do Ocho Rios, Savanna-la-Mar (the plain by the sea) and Oracabessa. Esquivel, named after the first Governor (ab. 1501), soon became Old Harbour after the British occupation. Oristan, which stood where Bluefields now is, was named after a town in Sardinia, when subject to the crown of Spain. Melilla, which was probably situated in St. James, was named after a town on the coast of Barbary, then in the possession of Spain. Sevilla-Nueva (new Seville) stood where St. Ann's now is.

Of the Spanish names of rivers, many survive; the principal being Rio Alto (deep river, Rio Cobre (copper river), Rio Grande, Rio Minho, Rio Bueno (the good river), Rio Magno (the great river), Rio Novo (new river), Rio D'oro (golden river), Rio Pedro (Peter's River). It is thought that Rio Pedro may be a corruption of Rio Piedra (Stony River). The Rio Minho is said to have been named after a river in Portugal, or as Long says in another place, after some mine in the neighbourhood. It is thought by some that it should be Rio Mina, the river by the mine. Others are named after rivers in Spain.

Amongst districts we have Santa Cruz (Holy Cross); as well as Pedro both in St. Ann and in St. Elizabeth. The former is said to have been named after Pedro Esquivel, the Spanish Governor.

The following derivation of Spanish names in Jamaica is given by Long:—

Notes by the present writer are added between square brackets.

Auracabeza. Aura, air or breeze; Cabeza, head or high land. [This is now Ora Cabessa in St. Mary. Others derive it from Oro Cabeza, the golden head.]

Alta Mela. Deep Gap (Alta Mela, Savannah, St. James.)

Agua Alta Bahia Deep water Bay, corruptly Wag-Water. [Still known as Wag Water.]

Los Angelos. The Angels. [Angels in St. Catherine was the first terminus of the railway.]

Rio Bonito. The Pretty River.

Cabo Bonito. The Pretty Cape. [in St. Catherine.]

Cabarita Punta, Kid or goat point. [In Westmoreland, where there is a river of the same name: there is another Cabarita point in Old Harbour Bay, and a Cabarita Island in Port Maria Harbour.]

Rio de Camarones. Perhaps from Gambaro, a crab, from the abundance of black crabs hereabouts.

Cobre Rio. Copper River, or Cobra Port, Snake river. [Still known as Rio Cobre.]

Caborido. Quasi Caba Arido, the dry or withered cape (Part of Healthshire highlands.)

Carvil or Caravel Bahia. Caravela signifies a light round kind of a ship formerly used by the Spaniards.

Diablo Monte. Devil's mount. [Now called Mount Diavolo,]

Escondido Puerto. The hidden harbour.

Flora Ria. Flower River.

Fortaleza Punta. Fort Point.

Jarisse Punta. Cross-bow of arrow, probably refers to some action with the Indians.

Javareen. Rustic expression, signifying a wild boar.

Lacovia. *Quasi* Lago-via, or the way by the lake. [A village in St. Elizabeth.] Elsewhere Long suggests it may be a corruption of *La agua via*, the watery way.

Liguanea. Lia-withe-guana, the name of an animal, probably one frequent in that part of the island. [That part of Lower St. Andrew, bordered by the Long mountain, the St. Andrew mountains and the Red hills.]

Moneque, or Monesca Savannah. Savannah of monkeys. [Now confined to the village of Moneague.]

Mari bona. Maria-buena, Mary the good. [Maria Buena Bay is in Trelawny.]

Multi-bezon Rio. Multi, many; buzon, conduit.

Macari Bahia. Macari, a tile, such as is made for floors, which the Spaniards universally used here and probably manufactured them near this bay, the soil being proper for that purpose.

[Long adds as a foot-note to Macari, "Or perhaps it may derive more properly from the indian word Macarij (which signifies bitter), and allude to the tree commonly called the Majoe, or Macary-bitter which grows in great abundance along this part of the coast, and with whose leaves, bark and root, which are all of them extremely bitter, some very notable cures in cases of inveterate ulcers, the yaws, and venereal distempers, were some years ago performed by an old negress named Majoe, in commemoration of whom it took its name." Macary Bay is in Vere. Majoe Bitter, or Macary Bitter (*Picramnia Antidesnia* Sus.) is a shrub about eight feet high, with small whitish green flowers, and berries first scarlet, then black.]

Mantica Bahia. Butter (now Montego bay.) This part abounding formerly with wild hogs, the Spaniards probably made here what they called hog's butter (lard) for exportation. In a very old deed of conveyance of land in St. James a road is marked as leading to Lard Bay.]

Ocho Rios said to mean eight rivers. [In St. Ann, it was more commonly called Chareiras in Long's time; and indeed as late as 1841, William Rob wrote "Ocho Rios, called to this day by the old inhabitants 'Cheireras' its early and appropriate name "the Bay of the Water-Falls", but has now gone back to Ocho Rios. It is not unlikely that the present form Ocho Rios and the derivation from eight rivers is wrong, and that the real name is Chorréra, a spout. There is a Chorréra River in Cuba, near Havannah.]

Perexil Insula, Samphire Island.

Sombrio Rio, Shady river. [now called the Sambre.]

Yalos. Frosts (whence, perhaps corruptly, Yallahs) the high white cliffs having the appearance of a frosty covering. [Now called Yallahs. Long was probably wrong in connecting Yallahs with Yalos. The Hatô de Ayala extended from Bull Bay nearly to Morant Bay, and the name is probably a personal one. Pedro Lopez de Ayala was a celebrated poet and politician in the fourteenth century; Pedro de Ayala was Spanish envoy to the court of St. James in 1498; and, curiously, Spain's representative to-day at Havana bears the name, de Ayala. There was a Captain Yhallahs, a privateer who flourished in Jamaica in and about 1671, and the locality may have been named after him.]

Luidas. Perhaps from Luzida; gay, fine. [Lluidas Vale is in St. Catherine.]

Martha Brea. Martha, a woman's name; Brea, tar; perhaps a nickname of some Spanish sailor's Dulcinea like the English vulgar appellation *Jack Tar*. [Martha Brea village and river are in Trelawny. The same word occurs in La Brea, the village by the pitch lake at Trinidad.]

No traces are to be found to-day of the following:—Alta Mela, Rio de Camarones Caborida, Carvil Bahia, Escondido Puerto, Flora Rio, Fortaliza Punta, Guada Bocoa, Jarisse Punta, Javareen, Multi Bezon Rio, Perexil Insula.

Of corruptions of Spanish names the best known are:—Agualta (Agua alta, the deep river); Bog Walk (boca d' Agua, water's mouth); and Mount Diablo. Cagua became with the English Caguay, then Cagway when it was re-named Port Royal.

Those who see in Porus a survival of the name of Columbus's companion Porras

of the soil, "pitted with holes". In the English edition of Ferdinand Columbus's "Historie", we read that the Morant Cays were called by Columbus *Los Poros* because "not finding water in them they dug pits in the sand;" but in the Italian edition (Venice, 1571) they are called "le pozzi" (the pits), and in the Spanish edition of 1749 they are called "Las Poças" (the pits). It is possible that in the case of Porus, as in that of the Morant Cays, there has been a confusion between *Poros* and *Poças*: and that the town in Manchester should be called Poças.

The Spaniards called the Black River, *el Caovana* (the Mahogany River).

When the English took the island in 1655, they soon began to divide it up into parishes and the names given to them are of interest:—

St. Catherine was named, it is thought, after Catherine of Portugal the wife of Charles II, who was king of England when the parish was formed. In the first act in which it is mentioned the correct spelling of the name is used, Katharine.

The Parish of *Clarendon* was named in honour of the celebrated chancellor, Edward Hyde, first earl of Clarendon.

St. James was named after the duke of York, subsequently James II.

St. Ann, after his wife, the eldest daughter of lord Clarendon. If R. by is right in this, the correct spelling of the name of the parish would be *St. Anne*, as indeed Long and others spell it.

The Parishes of *St. George* (now part of Portland), *St. Andrew*, and *St. David* (now part of St. Thomas) are derived from the patron saints of England, Scotland and Wales. Roby thinks that the name of *St. George* might have received additional appropriateness from the fact that George was the christian name of the duke of Albemarle, Sir Thomas Modyford's relative and patron; as also of colonel Nedham, his son-in-law. He also points out that although *St. Thomas* was so called before the arrival of Sir Thomas Modyford, Doyley's immediate successor in the government was Thomas Hickman, lord Windsor after whom it may have been called. But many of the parishes in the sister colonies were named after saints, and we need probably seek no further than the desire to establish church districts in the newly acquired lands, for the origin of the names of several of Jamaica's parishes.

The Parish of *Port Royal* obtained its appellation from its port. The name of the latter was changed from *Cagua* about three years after the Restoration probably in honour of that event—although a writer during Sir Charles Lyttelton's governorship (1662-64) says it was called *Port Royal* from the excellency of the harbour.

The Parish of *St. Mary* was probably so called from the port (*Puerto Santa Maria*) thus named by the Spaniards: but Roby points out that Modyford's daughter's name was *Mary*, and it was immediately next to the parish of *St. George*, the name of her husband being, as we have seen, *George Nedham*.

St. Elizabeth was probably named in honour of Elizabeth, Lady Modyford, the daughter of William Palmer, whose tombstone is in the cathedral.

Vere was named after Vere, daughter of Sir Edward Herbert, attorney general to Charles I, and first wife of Sir Thomas Lynch, who, with her two sons, died on her passage from England to this island in 1683.

St. Thomas-in-the-Vale was probably named after Sir Thomas Lynch.

St. Dorothy, Roby conjectures, received its name in compliment to Dorthy Wale who had probably a large estate there.

Kingston is the common form of King's Town.

Westmoreland obtained its name from being the western-most parish of the island, while *Hanover* was named after the English reigning family. The Assembly wished to confer on the new parish the name of *St. Sophia* in honour of the mother of George I, but in this it was over-ridden by the Council.

The four remaining parishes received their names from Governors in the island at the date of their formation; *Portland*, *Trelawny*, *Manchester* and *Metcalf* (now merged into *St. Mary*).

When in 1758, the island was divided into three counties, the middle one was appropriately called *Middlesex*; the western-most was named after the most western county in England, *Cornwall*, and the eastern division was called *Surrey*, probably because, like *Surrey* in England, its chief town was *Kingston*.

In addition to the parishes above named, the names of former Governors have been commemorated in the following manner:—

Sir Thomas Modyford (1664-70) in Modyford's Cully at Dry River in St.

- in Clarendon.
- The Earl of Carlisle ((1678-80) in Carlisle Bay in Vere.
- Sir William Beeston (1692-1701) in Beeston Street, Kingston.
- Peter Beckford (1702), or some member of his family, in the Beckford streets in Kingston, and Spanish Town.
- Peter Heywood (1716-17) in Heywood Street, in Kingston.
- Sir Nicholas Lawes (1718-22) in Laws (sic) Street, in Kingston.
- Henry, Duke of Portland (1722-26) in the Titchfield lands at Port Antonio.
- Edward Trelawny (1738-41) in Trelawny Town, which was so called by Colonel Guthrie, after he had taken and burnt Cudjoe's settlement, in February 1738-9.
- General George Haldane (1759) in Fort Haldane, near Port Maria, now a ruin.
- Henry Moore (1760-62) in Moore Town in Portland.
- William Henry Lyttelton (1762-66) in Hagley Gap in St. Thomas, named after Hagley, the home of the Lytteltons in Worcestershire. (Mr. Jekyll in his "Jamaican Song and Story" says that he was told locally that Hagley Gap was so-called because it was "a hugly place"!)
- Roger Hope Elletson (1766-67) in Elletson road, Kingston.
- Sir Basil Keith (1774-77) in Keith Hall in St. Catherine.
- Colonel John Dalling (1772-81) in Fort Dalling.
- Alexander, Earl of Balcarres (1795-1801) perhaps in Balcarres Hill in Portland; but Crawford Town was so called before the Earl of Balcarres came to the island.
- Lieutenant-General Nugent (1801-1806) in Nugent street, Spanish Town; in Nugent lane, Kingston; and in Fort Nugent, east of Kingston.
- William, duke of Manchester (1808-27) in Mandeville; and in Manchester street, Spanish Town; and perhaps Manchester square, Kingston.
- Major-General Henry Conran, (1813) in Conran lane, Spanish Town.
- Peter, marquis of Sligo (1834-36) in Sligo Ville in St. Catherine.
- Sir Charles Metcalfe (1839-42) in Metcalfe Ville in St. Ann.
- The earl of Elgin (1842-46) in Elgin street, and Lord Elgin street, Kingston.
- Captain Charles Darling (1857-62) in Darlingford in Portland, and Darling street, Kingston.
- Sir Anthony Musgrave (1878-83) in Musgrave Avenue, Kingston.
- Sir Henry Norman (1883-89) in Norman road, and Norman crescent Kingston, and Norman Range.
- Sir Henry Blake (1889-98) in Blake road, Kingston.

The only Colonial Secretary whose name, so far as the writer has been able to ascertain, has been commemorated is that of the present Governor, in Olivier road, Constant Spring; and Olivier Park, Port Antonio.

The names of some of the soldiers of fortune who came out with Penn and Venables, survive. To name but a few, Colebeck Castle (in St. Catherine); Long Ville (in Clarendon); Hope (in St. Andrew); Raymonds (in Vere); Ballard's Valley (in St. Mary); and Ballard's River (in Upper Clarendon), and Halse Hall (in Clarendon).

Both colonel Colebeck and colonel Long rose to be speaker of the Assembly. Colonel Raymond was shot for mutiny. Colonel Ballard was one of the first Council. Major Halse came on with Penn and Venables from Barbados. Nicholas Lycence, member for St. Thomas 1671-2, gave his name to Lycence, or as it afterwards became, Lyssons.

Cow Bay, and Bull Bay recall the old days of the "cow killers" or buccaneers; cow, being by them applied to all kinds of horned cattle.

Stokes Hall in St. Thomas-in-the-East, recalls the time of Governor Stokes, who in 1656 settled in that part of the island with a party of Nevis planters.

Surinam quarters, in St. Elizabeth, were settled in 1675 by planters from Surinam, when that colony was exchanged with the Dutch for New York.

Juan de Bolas, a mountain in Clarendon, recalls the deed of that leader of the rebellious negroes, who surrendered to the English soldiers soon after the conquest

with their chief Cudjoe, was one of those who made terms with Governor Trelawny in 1738.

Catherine's Peak (often miscalled St. Catherine's Peak) near Newcastle, was named after Catherine Long (sister of the historian, and wife of Henry Moore lieutenant governor) who in 1760 was the first lady to ascend that peak.

Culloden and Auchindown, in St. Elizabeth, date from the time of the arrival of the ill-fated Darien refugees.

Temple Hall, in St. Andrew, (and possibly Temple lane, Kingston) is named after Thomas Temple of Francton, Warwickshire, who was father-in-law to four Jamaica Governors:—Sir Nicholas Lawes, Sir Charles Lyttelton, Sir Thomas Lynch, and Sir Hender Molesworth.

Passage Fort recalls the time when there was much taking of passage from Spanish Town to Port-Royal.

Port Henderson, hard by, is named after a former owner, John Henderson, Colonel of militia, who was presented at court in February 1784. He died at his estate in Scotland in 1811. It was founded in opposition to Passage Fort, as it afforded better accommodation for ships.

Half-Way Tree, was so called as being half-way between Greenwich on the harbour and Stony Hill, where the barracks were situated.

The chief town of Westmoreland was formerly called Queen's Town (now Cross Path) and contained a church and many inhabitants, but in 1730 Savanna-la-Mar (the plain by the sea) rose into fame.

Gordon-Town was formerly the property of a family of that name, but was not, as some suppose, connected with George William Gordon, of Morant Bay fame.

Dallas Castle (which still survives as a district in St. Andrew) was owned by a scion of the family of Dallas, in the state of Alabama, whose descendants played their part in Jamaica history.

Kettering was a township founded by William Knibb, the missionary, and named after the birth-place of himself, and of the Baptist Mission in Northamptonshire.

Walderston, in Manchester, is named after the Rev. Mr. Walder, its founder.

In many old maps of the island, notably Robertson's (published in 1804) the names of the owners are given, rather than the names of properties, and in many instances, these proper names exist to this day: and to-day the negro peasantry will often be able to tell you the name of the owner when they are ignorant of the name of the estate or house.

Moses Kellet, who represented Clarendon in the Assembly in 1746-51, was the owner of Kellets in Clarendon.

Seaford Town, in St. James, is named after Lord Seaford, who there established a settlement of German immigrants.

For Beckford Town in Westmoreland, now little more than a name, the land was given by Richard Beckford one of the family of that name, which numbered in it some of Jamaica's most wealthy planters.

Some one with classic taste named Catadupa, a word originally applied to the cataracts of the Nile, and once used both in French and English for a waterfall.

John Alexander, a Scotchman, called his estate in St. Ann, in the early part of the nineteenth century, Alexandria: and the eastern idea led to the naming of Aboukir Rosetta, Tobolski and Egypt, some of them perhaps in honour of Sir Ralph Abercromby, whose birthplace lies near Alexander's.

Towns in Jamaica have not always adopted the names given to them. When it was proposed, after the destruction of Port Royal in 1692, to fix on a new port, Old Harbour was selected, and it was decided to call it West Chester, but the claims of Kingston's site prevailed, and Old Harbour remained Old Harbour.

When Black River and Port Maria were declared ports of entry they were re-named Gravesend, and Newport, but their old names have survived.

Manning's Hill in St. Andrew Hills, and Salt Hill, Morce's Gap, and Hardware Gap, (which should be Hardwar Gap) in the Blue Mountains, recall the names of former owners:—Edward Manning, who for many years represented Kingston in the Assembly; Daniel Salt, John Morce, at one time Serjeant-at-Arms of the House of Assembly, and also Deputy Postmaster General, and John Hardwar, who was Auditor General in 1782. Hardwar Hill is rightly so called in Norie's "West Indian Directory" (1845). Rackham's Cay recalls the last of the piccaroons.

Augusta possibly after Princess Augusta Sophia, daughter of George III. most of the others were as we have seen, named after Governors.

Some places are named from their inhabitants, either animal or vegetable. Of these the best known is John Crow Ridge (called in Long's time Carrion Crow Ridge).

Annotto Bay and Manchioneal Bay were probably so called because of the quantity of anatta and manchioneal growing there: and Alligator Pond from the number of crocodiles (often mis-named alligators) found there.

At the mouth of Old Harbour Bay are great and little Pelican Bays: and in St. Catherine is Manatee Bay. Under this heading too, come the two dependencies of Jamaica.

The Cayman Islands, some think are so called from the crocodiles seen there when first discovered by the Spaniards. Uring, writing in 1749, says, "Columbus who discovered them called them Las Tortugas on account of the turtle swarming in their coasts." Some think they received their present name because Grand Cayman resembles a crocodile in shape. Others again hold that the Islands are Cayo Mano (Grand Cayman resembling an outstretched hand): Cayo Braco (Cayman Brac resembling a handless arm): and Cayo Chico (Little Gayman). Henry Whistler, who came out with Venables in 1655, alludes to one of them as *Kie of manus*, but he evidently was no authority on nomenclature being a man of but little education.

There can be little doubt, however, that the Brac of Cayman Brac is identical with the obsolete Anglo-Saxon word "brack", a cliff, crag or rock.

To-day the Turk's head cactus (*melocactus communis*), to which the Turks Islands owe their name, is seldom seen in Grand Turk, but is plentiful at the Caicos.

Long, after ridiculing the tale copied by many writers that the rain drops which fall at Magotty turn into magots, goes on to suggest the derivation of "*maga* (an enchantress) and *oteo* watching on a high place; alluding probable to the pinnacle of *Monte Diablo*, over which the thunder clouds so frequently break, as together with its horrid aspect, to make it seem a proper residence for a witch, under patronage of the devil, to whom the mountain was dedicated."

Of names given owing to natural features, there are numbers in Jamaica;—the Blue Mountains; the Red Hills; the Great, White, Swift, Dry, and Milk Rivers; Green Island; Dry Harbour; Dry Mountains; the Round Hill (in Vere), and so on.

The Y. S. River (pronounced Wyers) is, Long tells us, so called from the Gallic word Y. S. which signifies crooked or winding.

Another authority says the name of the property was Wyess, and its commercial mark for shipping purposes was Y. S.

Labour-in-vain Savannah in St. Elizabeth is a name perfectly descriptive of its nature.

The struggle for and the success of Emancipation, have left their names on many a free negro settlement; some of which it is to be feared, have not realized their early promise:—Clarkson Ville, Sturge Town, Wilberforce, Buxton, Liberty Hill and others.

Some names are typical of the simple faith and language of the negro, such as Wait-a-bit and Come-see. Me-no-sen-you-no-come in Trelawny must have been named by folk of recluse habits. Others are not euphonious—Fat Hog Quarter, Running Gut (which Lawrence Archer, in his "Monumental Inscriptions of the British West Indies" thinks may probably be a corruption by some seafaring man of *Harangutta*, a branch of the Ganges), Starve Gut Bay; and one rather wonders whether they are not vulgar corruptions of different designations. We find, however, similar names in the other islands:—*Dos d'Ane* in Dominica; and *Mal d'Estomac* in Trinidad. On the other hand *Kick-em-Jenny*, the rock between St. Vincent and Grenada, is said to have been originally called *Cay qu'on gêne*—the is et that bothers one, from the roughness of the neighbouring sea.

Many names of townships and properties have been translated from the old country—Oxford, Ipswich, Cambridge, Newmarket, and the like,—and the number of Bellevues, Belvideres, Contents, speak little for the inventive faculties of those who named them.

A fair number of the streets of Kingston have personal names. To those named after Governors we have already made reference.

There was a Thomas Allman, clerk to the Agent Victuallers at Jamaica, who was wanted for forgery and embezzling £1,283, in 1743: but Allman Town, which came

Barry Street reminds us of colonel Samuel Barry, who was one of the first Council named in 1661, and owned the land on which Kingston was built. The land called Colonel Barry's Hog Crawle was sold to Beeston, who had it laid out in lots for the building of Kingston.

Byndloss lane bears the name of a family which in the seventeenth and early eighteenth century supplied seven members to the Assembly—the earliest being colonel Robert Byndloss, member for Cagua in 1663.

Barnes Gully recalls Joseph Barnes, mayor, custos and representative in the Assembly, of Kingston, who died in 1829.

Bowrey Road reminds us of a recent island chemist, from whose property the road was formed.

Hibbert street also recalls a family closely connected with Jamaica in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, one member of which built Head-Quarter House, formerly known as Hibbert-House.

Marescaux road, north of Kingston, reminds us of the late manager of the Colonial Bank.

Orange and Hanover streets refer to reigning houses of England.

It is probable that Pechon street was named after major John Bonnet Pechon, who was assistant engineer on the military staff in 1809, and later island engineer. He died in 1815.

Princess street is a corruption of Prince's Street, as it was called in Beeston's time. It is called *Rue du Prince* on a French translation of Lilly's map.

Sutton street was probably named after colonel Thomas Sutton, who was speaker of the Assembly at the time of the earthquake of 1692.

Temple lane in Kingston, as well as Temple Hall in St. Andrew, was named after Susanna Temple, the fourth wife of Sir Nicholas Lawes, sister of "la belle Temple" of de Grammont, the wife of Sir Charles Lyttelton.

Whence Tower street obtained its name is not known. One might assume that it was named after John Towers, who was member of Assembly for Clarendon in 1688, but that it appears in early records as Tower. The following has been suggested as the origin. In the early days of Kingston the town had a rector but no church. The rector lived in Tower street. It is thought that the rector's house may have been used as a church and had a tower and bell.

Wildman street is named after James Wildman, a member of the Council, in 1786, and later fellow member of parliament for Hindon with Monk Lewis, another Jamaica proprietor.

Though they apparently omitted to dedicate their parish church to a patron saint the people of Kingston named five of their lanes after the Apostles.

In Spanish Town, in addition to the streets mentioned in the list of governors, the origin of Adelaide street (after the Queen of that name), William street, (after the Prince who was later king), Brunswick street, (after the Duke of Brunswick) and Nelson lane and Wellington street are obvious.

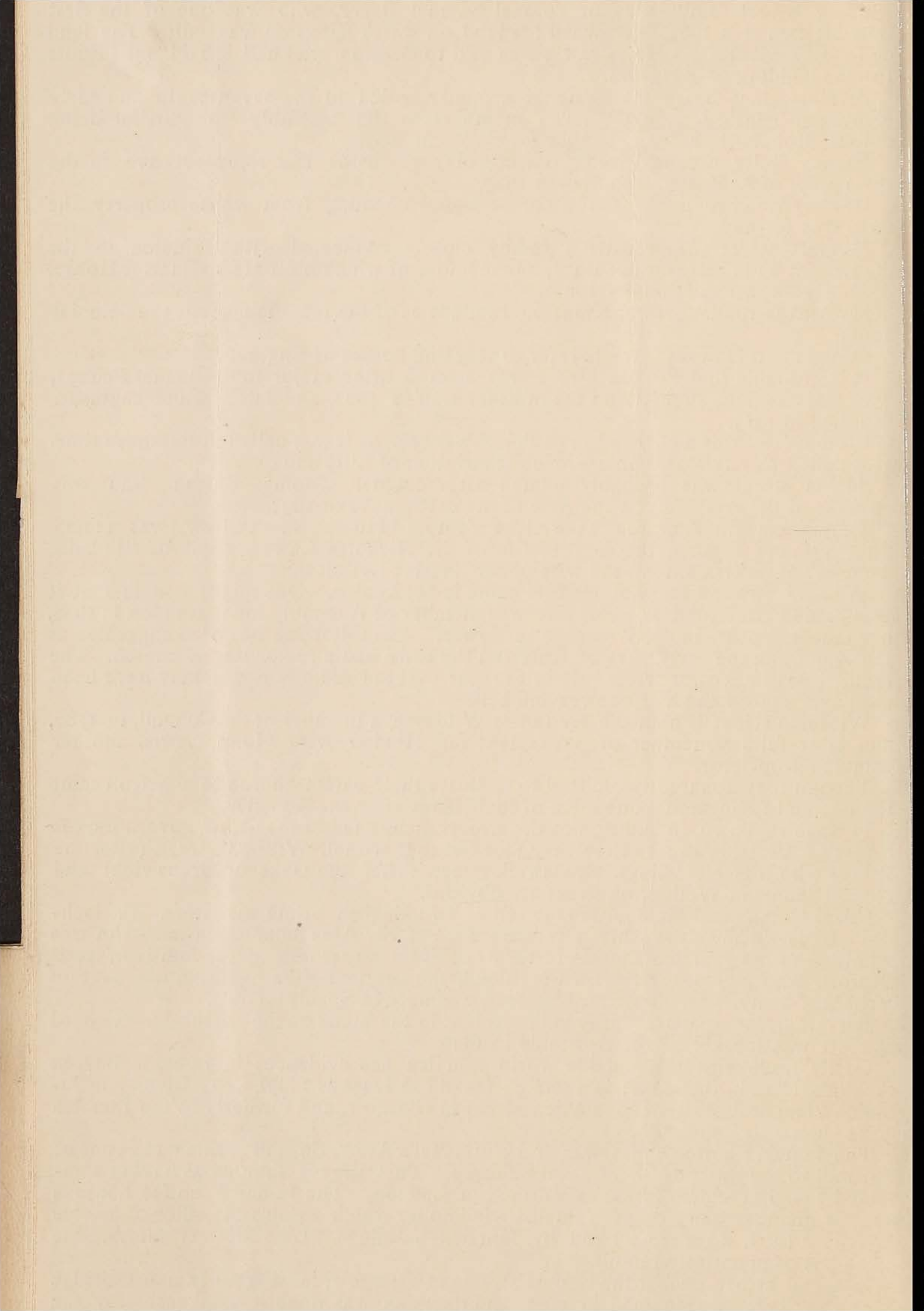
Canning lane and Melbourne lane tell of two English prime ministers. In Cochran Lane we have probably a reminiscence of Sir Alexander Cochrane who was admiral on the Jamaica Station in 1814-15. Ellis street tells of the family of lord Seaford who had properties in the island, the original Ellis having come over in Venables' army. The first Lord Seaford was born in Spanish Town.

Barrett street recalls a family long resident in the island on the northside. Richard Barrett was speaker of the Assembly in 1830.

Of its trade with the outside world Jamaica has evidences in Jamaica Bay, in Acklin's Island, Bahamas; in Jamaica (as old at least as 1699), Long Island; in Jamaica Plain near Boston; in Jamaica street in Glasgow, and formerly in the Jamaica coffee house in London.

The Jamaica coffee house was in St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill, which runs out of Cornhill to the west of St. Michael's church. This alley is famous as having contained the first coffee house established in London. The Jamaica coffee house is kept in memory there by the Jamaica wine house which adjoins the office of a wine merchant (E. J. Rose & Co.) and by Jamaica buildings. Like all city alleys, the place has been entirely rebuilt.

Jamaica street, one of the busiest streets in Glasgow, leading to Jamaica Bridge over the Clyde, was named in 1763, and its name was doubtless suggested by the



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