

**JAMAICA: ITS HISTORY,
CONSTITUTION, AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.
WITH GEOLOGICAL AND
METEOROLOGICAL NOTES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649063482

Jamaica: Its History, Constitution, and Topographical Description. With Geological and Meteorological Notes by John Jarrett Wood

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN JARRETT WOOD

**JAMAICA: ITS HISTORY,
CONSTITUTION, AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.
WITH GEOLOGICAL AND
METEOROLOGICAL NOTES**

P R E F A C E .

For years past I have been urged to prepare a Class-book of Jamaica for the use of Schools. After much hesitation—hoping that some one with more leisure than I had to bestow on the work would undertake it—I began to compile a History and Description of the Island, which I had nearly completed when two other volumes appeared. On perusing them I find that they do not supply the want of this volume, neither will *it* hinder *their* usefulness: therefore I have ventured to put this before the public.

The boundaries of Parishes, &c. have not been given, because such knowledge is more easily acquired by a class before the map.

No questions have been appended, because it is considered a very profitable exercise to require a class, with book in hand, to frame questions on the chapters and subjects in succession, and then, when questions have been framed on given portions, to lay the book aside and proceed to answer them in the pupil's own style. This should be done in the usual Exercise Books.

My maps are obtainable, mounted and varnished, or in sheets, or in book form; and it is hoped that these and the book will prove highly interesting and acceptable to the youth of Jamaica, among whom I have so long laboured.

M136116

I claim no merit for myself in the compilation, except for some judgment in culling, as the book might have been extended to double the size, and thus rendered unfit for the purpose intended. My daughters, too, have wrought at the compilation both of the book and map; and as to the former we have been mainly indebted to *Martin's History of the West Indies*, and to the *Jamaica Handbook*. My labour has been chiefly that of a "gatherer and disposer of other men's matter," but it is hoped that the plan adopted will render the work both entertaining and useful.

If my efforts in the Schools for forty-two years past, and this little work—as well as any labour I may be still spared to perform—shall be found to have contributed a little towards the social elevation and progress of the youth of Jamaica and its dependencies, I shall not have lived in vain.

JNO. JARRETT WOOD.

"MARGARET VILLA,"
ST. ANDREWS, JAMAICA,
December, 1883.

CONTENTS


HISTORY OF JAMAICA.

	PAGE
CHAP. I.—FROM 1494 TO 1661	1
Do. II.—FROM 1662 TO 1710	12
Do. III.—FROM 1711 TO 1830	24
Do. IV.—FROM 1831 TO 1865	39
Do. V.—FROM 1866 TO 1883	54
Do. VI.—POLITICAL CONSTITUTION	70
Revenue	82
Judicial Establishment	83
Trade	84

DESCRIPTION OF JAMAICA.

CHAP. VII.—LOCATION, AND NAMES OF PARISHES	89
Do. VIII.—PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL STRUCTURE	91
Do. IX.—ECONOMIC GEOLOGY	92
1. Soils	92
2. Road Material	94
3. Building Stone	94
4. Flag Stones	95
5. Marbles	95
6. Porphyries	96
7. Granite	96
8. Ochres	97
9. Quartzitic Sand	97
10. Clays	97
11. Carbonaceous Shales	97
12. Water	97
13. Other Mineral Species	98
14. Metallic Minerals	99

	PAGE
CHAP. X.—MOUNTAIN RANGES	100
Do. XI.—ELEVATIONS	104
Do. XII.—RIVERS AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION	105
Do. XIII.—CAVERNS	110
Do. XIV.—MINERAL SPRINGS	111
Do. XV.—DESCRIPTION OF PARISHES:—	
1. Kingston	113
2. St. Andrew	123
3. St. Thomas	126
4. Portland	129
5. St. Catherine	132
6. St. Mary	136
7. Clarendon	137
8. St. Ann	139
9. Manchester	142
10. St. Elizabeth	143
11. Trelawny	145
12. St. James	146
13. Hanover	149
14. Westmoreland	150
CHAP. XVI.—ELEMENTARY EDUCATION	151
Need of Industrial Homes	155
Do. XVII.—STATISTICS OF ACREAGE AND POPULATION	156
Do. XVIII.—METEOROLOGY	157
Do. XIX.—DEPENDENCIES:—	
Cayman Islands	159
Turks and Caicos Islands	161
Morant and Pedro Quays	162



THE HISTORY OF JAMAICA.

CHAPTER I.—FROM 1494 TO 1661.

1. JAMAICA, an island in the Caribbean Sea, is situated between $17^{\circ} 43'$ and $18^{\circ} 32'$ N. lat., and $76^{\circ} 11'$ and $78^{\circ} 20' 50''$ W. long., about 5,000 miles south-west of England ; 100 miles west of Hayti or St. Domingo, and 90 miles south of Cuba ; 445 miles north of Carthagena ; 540 miles from Colon ; and 310 from Cape Gracias á Dios in the Mosquito Territory.

2. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the morning of the 3rd of May, 1494, during his second expedition to the Western Hemisphere, otherwise called the New World. The island was found to be densely peopled with Indians, resembling in appearance and language the inhabitants of the contiguous mainland. Numerous canoes put off from the shore to meet Columbus, and resistance was offered by a large party of armed Indians when the Spanish boats proceeded to obtain soundings in the haven, now called Port Maria.

3. The voyagers then entered another harbour, named by them Ora Cabessa, and on experiencing a similar demonstration of opposition, several *arbalates*¹ were discharged at the Indians, who fled on witnessing the slaughter of their companions, and permitted the quiet landing of Columbus, who took formal possession of the island for his sovereign, Ferdinand of Spain.

¹ Cross-bows.

4. Columbus named the island St. Jago (pronounced ~~Santiago~~ ~~santeshgo~~), in honour of St. James, the patron saint of Spain; but it has retained its original Indian name of Xaymaca, signifying, in the language of Florida, abundance of wood and water—hence it is often referred to as the Isle of Springs.

5. The Admiral remained ten days among the astonished natives, and then, on the 18th May, 1494, sailed for Cuba. On the 22nd June he again approached Jamaica, off Rio Bueno, and surveyed the coast (without landing) till the 20th August, when he reached San Miguel, now Cape Tiburon.

6. For eight years from this period nothing more was heard of Jamaica, and the peaceful Indians were yet a little while left in the tranquil occupation of their happy home. On the 14th July, 1502, Columbus, then on his fourth voyage, sailed from Hispaniola (Hayti) for Jamaica, but contrary and boisterous winds compelled his sheltering at Guanaja, or the isle of Pines.

7. The succeeding year saw the first European settlement on our present colony, the result of necessity rather than choice. Returning from the disastrous expedition to Veragua, Columbus (with his son and brother in two ships) was driven for shelter to Maxaca, on the S. coast of Cuba; whence, after imperfectly repairing his vessels, he again put to sea, but was forced by stress of weather, and in a sinking state, on an uninhabited part of the N. coast of Jamaica, where neither water nor provisions were procurable.

8. Once more the intrepid navigator turned his shattered prows to the faithless deep: the trade wind drove him down the coast to the westward, and at St. Ann's Bay, (called by the devout and weather-beaten mariner Santa Gloria), the sinking vessels were run on shore for the purpose of preserving the lives of the almost exhausted adventurers, who, protected by a reef of rocks, lashed the wrecks together, and beneath a canvas awning, found present shelter and repose.

9. Friendly communications were opened with the unsuspecting Indians, who supplied the shipwrecked seamen with

abundance of provisions in exchange for beads, bells, or other trifles. Columbus acted on the fears of the Indians by threatening them with the Divine vengeance unless his wants were all complied with ; and told them that an eclipse, which he knew was on the point of taking place, would be the signal of destruction.

10. Columbus despatched Diego Mendez, the secretary to the squadron, in company with a Genoese named Fieski, in two canoes (each furnished with six Castilians and ten Indians) to Ovando, the Governor of Hispaniola, then the capital of the Spanish western isles, distant 200 leagues from Jamaica, and with a strong adverse wind in their course.

11. Ovando, the Governor of Hispaniola, was the inveterate enemy of Columbus, and availed himself of the occasion of his rival's misfortune to heap insult and injury on the unfortunate Admiral ; a vessel was despatched from Hispaniola to mock the sufferers with condolence and ironical regrets of inability to afford assistance, the commander of the reconnoitering ship (which purposely lay outside the reefs of Santa Gloria) having been expressly selected on account of his being the personal enemy of Columbus.

12. The suffering Spaniards, under the impression that they were neglected by the Viceregal and Home Authorities by reason of their fidelity to Columbus, mutinied, at the instigation of the brothers Pooras (one a commander, and the other a military treasurer). Columbus was accused of witchcraft, and several attempts to assassinate him as he lay confined to his bed with the gout were only frustrated by the bravery and presence of mind of his brother Bartholomew.

13. The mutineers seized on ten canoes which the Admiral had been preparing, plundered the natives of provisions wherever they could be found, forced several to accompany them in their efforts to cross the sea to Hispaniola, and then threw the islanders overboard with their baggage, to lighten the fragile barques in which they several times endeavoured to gain the seat of supreme government.