

Gleaner
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Sir Hans Sloane's Interest in Jamaica

Amongst a number of old deeds recently acquired for the West India Reference Library of the Institute of Jamaica, is one signed by Sir Hans Sloane, which, together with another also signed by him which has been in the possession of the library for some years, gives particulars with regard to his interest in properties in Jamaica.

When the Duke of Albemarle came out as Governor, Dr. Sloane accompanied him in order to look after the health of the Duchess, who later—as the Duchess of Montagu—was popularly known as “the mad duchess.”

During his comparatively short residence in Jamaica, he collected a large number of botanical specimens, which ultimately formed the nucleus of the British Museum.

He married in 1695, Elizabeth, daughter of Alderman Langley and widow of Ffulk Rose of Jamaica. She died in 1724. From 1675 to 1693 Rose represented St. Thomas-in-the-Vale in the House of Assembly.

By one deed, dated 15th July, 1703, Dr. Hans Sloane of the parish of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, London, and Elizabeth his wife of the first part, Elizabeth Rose (who was engaged to be married to John Fuller) eldest daughter of Ffulk Rose of the 2nd part, John Fuller, the younger, of Waldron in Sussex of the 3rd part, Anne Rose (who was engaged to Thomas Isted, of the Middle Temple, London), of the 4th part, it appears that Ffulk Rose, by his will dated 27th October, 1693, gave to his daughter Elizabeth his property Knollis in St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, with all the negroes and stock thereof; to his second daughter Anne Rose he gave Mickleton in St. Thomas-in-the-Vale and his lands at Maggoty called Warren's Land and Hipposly Land; and he bequeathed to his daughters (Elizabeth and Anne) jointly all his houses and lands in St. Jago de la Vega, and his lands in the Red Hills. To his wife he gave a third part of the profits of his estates for her life. It was arranged that on the marriage of the daughters taking place their husbands were to assume control of their respective properties and manage them for the benefit of all concerned but that a majority of the parties concerned should have a controlling voice in their administration.

John Fuller was probably a connection of the Fullers of Jamaica, the first of whom Thomas, came out with Penn and Venables.

By the other deed, dated 13th July 1715, Phillipa Rose, the 4th daughter of Ffulk Rose of the 1st part, Hans Sloane and Elizabeth his wife of the 2nd part, and Sir Gilbert Heathcote and William Heathcote as executors of the late John Heathcote of the 3rd part, it appeared that Ffulk Rose had bequeathed, in case his wife should be with child with a daughter, to such girl the sum of £1,500. The girl was born and was named Phillipa, and whereas Ffulk Rose has bequeathed to each of his children £60 per annum for maintenance and education until they came to the age of ten years, and afterwards the sum of £80 per annum, he appointed as trustees Samuel Bernard, Matthew Gregory, Edward Broughton, his brother Captain Fran-

cis Rose, and Sir Robert Needham, Elizabeth, wife of Ffulk Rose, on the death of her husband, proved the will, and took upon herself the duties of executrix. The trustees, upon the marriage of the widow with Hans Sloane, brought an action in the High Court of Chancery, against Hans Sloane and his wife and the four daughters of Ffulk Rose, and it was ordered that a third part of the estate was to be set out for the benefit of Sloane and his wife, and that the rest of the estate, subject to a small annuity, should be divided equally amongst the 4 daughters as each attained her majority or got married. It appeared from this order that there was due to Phillipa Rose the sum of £3,744 7s 5³/₄d. and by further orders it appeared that there were also due to Phillipa the sum of £4,513 0s 5d and £1,500. When on the 22nd April, 1715, Phillipa attained the age of 21, and became entitled to receive her portion, it was agreed between herself and Hans Sloane and his wife and William Heathcote (acting on behalf of the late John Heathcote) that the accounts submitted were true, and in consideration of the receipt of ready money to the extent of £3,001 11s 3d she released and discharged the trustees appointed by the will of Ffulk Rose.

Of the Trustees, Samuel Bernard acted in Jamaica in many capacities—Treasurer, Member and Speaker of the Assembly, Assistant Judge and Chief Justice. Matthew Gregory was member of the Assembly for many years. He was great grandfather of Monk Lewis. Edward Broughman was Receiver-General, Member of the Assembly for St. George, and later for St. James and St. Mary.

Francis Rose was member of the Assembly successively for St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, St. George and St. Catherine and became Speaker. Called to the Council he became its president. His name still lives in Rose Hall, in St. Thomas-in-the-Vale. Sir Gilbert Heathcote was for many years Agent for Jamaica in England.

Sir Robert Needham, of Poole Park, Shropshire, was the father of three Needhams who were members of the Assembly, and in other respects served the island. George, one son, coming to Jamaica by way of Antigua, settled at Shenton, in St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, and represented that and other parishes in the Assembly. He and Broughton took part in the memorable storm in a teacup over Tower's utterance of the “dangerous and treasonable words” *Salus populi suprema lex.*

F. C.