

Place Names of Portland

- **Allan Avenue** –was named after the late Hon. Sir Harold Allan, Jamaican politician. He was a Member of the Legislative Council for the parish of Portland, 1935-1944, Member of the Privy Council, 1942-45; Member of the House of Representatives for Eastern Portland from 1944 until his death, and also Minister of Finance and General Purposes from 1945 until 1953. He was knighted by the Queen of England for his outstanding Service to Jamaica.
- **Altamont** –was named after the Earl of Altamont, son of the Marquis of Sligo, Governor of Jamaica, from 1834-36, in whose tenure a settlement of Scottish persons was established here.
- **Balcarres Hill** –was named after Alexander, Earl of Balcarres, and Governor of Jamaica, 1795-1801.
- **Boston** –was owned in 1811 by James Trecothick and may have been named after Boston in the U.S.A
- **Breastwork** –was so named because in 1730 a fortification was set up there by the English in their war against the Maroons.
- **Charlestown** - is a Maroon settlement named after Captain Charles Cudjoe, the second leader of the Maroons.
- **Chestervale** – In the eighteenth century it was a coffee plantation that was owned by Squire Sedgewick from Yorkshire, England who built a great house there. In the nineteen twenties, it was run as a guest house by a Miss Buck who had many distinguished visitors. Afterwards, it was owned by the Shekells, but it now houses the Chester Vale Youth Camp, set up there by the Government of Jamaica.(1971)

- **Clydesdale** – it was owned in the 19th century by Colonel MacClaverty. It is on the River Clyde, as is Clydesdale in Scotland. This Jamaican River supplied the power for working the huge waterwheel at the coffee works of this estate, at the side of which can still be seen the large barbecues on which coffee was dried. Clydesdale is now owned by the Forestry Department.
- **Cold Harbour** – It is possible that the name of this Harbour and estate could have come from England. Cold Harbour was bought from the United Fruit Company by a syndicate, and the whole area is now known as San San. It includes Frenchman's Cove Hotel and Goblin Hill Hotel; private and modern residences have also been erected there.
- **Darlingford** –is named after Sir Charles Darling, Governor of Jamaica, 1857-1862.
- **Drapers** – in Portland, is named after Drapers, the first owner. He was a Member of the Assembly for this parish in 1736.
- **Egg Hill** – It may have derived its name from its shape. In the 18th century, there was an estate there under absentee ownership of the Henderson family from England. It was afterwards inherited by Maria Henderson, who lived there. In 1877 the land was sold to local persons.
- **Modyford Gully** –is named after Sir Thomas Modyford, Governor of Jamaica (1664- 1670).
- **Muirton** – located in east Portland, it was purchased by Charles Henry Darling, who had come to Jamaica on the staff of a Governor and was elected Member of the Assembly in 1843. He resigned in 1846 to hold office under the crown, and sold Muirton to George William Gordon of Cherry Gardens. Muirton estate eventually fell into the hands of Major Barker Haalo, who sold it to a company of which D.G. Lindsay was Chief shareholder.
- **Seaman's Valley** –is so named because in 1728 when the English were fighting the Maroons in this parish, 200 seamen went to the help of the Militia and were massacred in this valley.
- **Wallenford** –was named after Matthew Wallen, an eminent botanist and a native of Ireland came to Jamaica as a naval officer.

Sources

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- Sibley, Inez Knibb. *Dictionary of Place-names*. Kingston: Institute of Jamaica, 1978. Print.