

## **Some Place Names in St. Elizabeth**

**Aberdeen**'s name can be credited to Alexander Forbes a Scotsman, who named it from his home country. A sugar estate, the town later adopted the name. It is located between Appleton sugar estate and the Cockpit County.

**Accompong**- entomology is from the Ashanti word Nyamekopon, which means 'the lone warrior.' It was also the name given to a brother of Captain Cudjoe, the second Maroon leader.

**Balaclava** is named after the site of the battle of Crimean War of 1854-6. It is also thought to be a commemoration of the work of Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole who treated the wounded in that war.

**Ballards Valley**, namesake was Colonel Thomas Ballard of the Army of Occupation (1655) who was gifted land in the parish.

**Breadnut Valley**'s name is derived from a breadnut tree (*Brosimum alicastrum*).

**Canoe Valley**- is so named for the production of canoes in the area made from the abundance of cotton trees that are endemic to the area.

**Cheltenham** – is an adaptation of Cheltenham in England.

**Cockpit Country** is named from limestone formations of crater-like pits, which are common in the area, and are reputed to be bottomless.

**Cuffie Pen** named from maroon leader Captain Cudjoe 's brother.

**Elim** is thought to have being derived from Elim in the Bible. It was named by the foster brothers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century who lobbied for the arrival of Moravian Missionaries.

**Font Hill** is named from 'Fonthill Manor' a former sugar plantation owned by Sir William Beckford of England, Lord Mayor of London in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Giddy Hall** was originally named Gideon Hall, a namesake of the first owner. It is unknown when it was renamed Giddy Hall.

**Goshen**- derived from the bible 'means the best of the land.' It got its name because of its affiliation with Scottish missionaries.

**Guthries Delfie** – honour's Colonel Guthrie an officer of the Jamaican Military who was commissioned by the Government to conduct the peace negotiations with the Maroons.

**Gutters-** located at the border of St. Elizabeth and Manchester is said to obtain its name because of the difficulties experienced from the large accumulation of water after a heavy rainfall.

**Hampton** – this is the home of the all Girls School in St. Elizabeth. It is thought to have being adopted from a place in England

**Hodges-** is the namesake of Joseph Hodges.

**Holland-** an estate, and now an entire area, was named by its owners who named it after their home in England.

**Bigwood** currently a village, this area was initially a property named after its first owner Joe Williams Bigwood.

**Lacovia** – said to have La Caoba a Spanish word which comes from the Taino word for Mahogany. Referred to informally as ‘Coby’, it is also thought to be from the Spanish word la-agua-via a word affiliated with lakes.

**Lancaster-** Thought to be a transplant from either England or USA. It was an estate, owned with Bogue, Elim and Mesopotamia by William Foster and his brother Joseph Barham Foster.

**Littiz** – adopted from Moraviaby Moravian Missionaries (1754). They initially named the church and the estate and village subsequently nearby took its name.

**Lovers Leap** – the legend is that a pair of lovers leapt over 1600 feet to their death instead of risking being split up.

**Maggotty-** is said to have being coined from the Spanish derivative ‘mogote’ which means bundle or heap. The word is thought to originally mean either a boundary stone or small heap making some division of land.

**Middle Quarters-** its origin is uncertain. One explanation is that a quarter session of a court was held there. Another explanation is that it was originally Privateers Quarters; the land was given by Henry Morgan’s Privateers to transform them into legitimate farmers.

**Morningside-** has been transferred from Scotland and is thought to have being named from Scotsmen who had settled in St. Elizabeth.

**Mount Carmel** is said to be an adoption from Pennsylvania, USA; named by missionaries.

**Mount Charles** is the namesake of Charles Phipps, from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Nain** is another adoption of Labrador by Moravian Missionaries who served in the parish in 1754.

**New market** is named from Newmarket in England .

**Parkers Bay-** named in honor of Captain William Parker of the Army of Occupation (1655) who resided in St. Elizabeth in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

**Pedro Plains-** this is thought to have being named after Pedro Esquville the first Spanish Governor. Another explanation is that it was named after Pereda one of the initial Spaniards to settle in the parish.

**Pepper Pen-** now commonly known as Pepper is adopted from a nearby popular livestock/stud farm.

**Pisgah-** is adopted from the bible.

**Roses Valley-** is partially the namesake of owner William Rose, a former estate owner.

**Sangster's Heights-** was named to commemorate former Prime Minister, Donald Sangster, a native of the parish who died in 1967.

**Tombstone-** located at the junction of Maggoty and Lacovia. One explanation is that it is named from the remains of two young men who killed each other in a duel initiating from a quarrel.

**Warminster-** is thought to have being adopted from an urban district in England. It was said to be owned by a William Adlamn.

**Whitehall-** is the namesake of owner James Whitehall from 1793- 1808.

### **Sources Used**

Cundall, Frank. *Place-names of Jamaica*. Kingston: Institute of Jamaica, 1939. Print.

Higman, B W, and Brian J. Hudson. *Jamaican Place Names*. Kingston, Jamaica: University of the West Indies Press, 2009. Print.

Senior, Olive. *Encyclopedia of Jamaican Heritage*. St. Andrew, Jamaica, W.I: Twin Guinep Publishers, 2003. Print.

Sibley, Inez K. *Dictionary of Place-Names in Jamaica*. Kingston: Institute of Jamaica, 1978. Print.