Place names in St. Ann

- **Annandale -** originally a Scottish place name, it was owned by a Scotsman who built a great house there in the 18th century. It was later purchased by another Scotsman, the late Sir Thomas Roxburgh, and has been owned by his family for over 100 years.

- **Brown's Town -** is the largest inland market town in St.Ann and is situated in the western interior part of the parish. Its previous name was Hamilton Town, which is the first name of its founder Hamilton Brown. He was an Irishman (1776-1843) who started out humbly as an estate book-keeper and rose to become a large landowner, representing the parish in the House of assembly for 22 years.

- **Discovery Bay -** was originally called Dry Harbour or Puerto Seco, renamed Discovery Bay by Mr. Hal Peat in 1947, to commemorate the first place where Christopher Columbus set foot on Jamaican soil.

- **Drax Hall -** was first established as a sugar estate, but later was put into coconuts and cattle. It is named after Charles Drax, a migrant from Barbados who in his will dated 1721, "made all his estate known as 'Walton' in the said parish of St. Ann, and if that estate be insufficient, other estates to be added." This endowment was for a free school which began in the vestry of the court house of that parish in 1795, and which was called "The Drax Free School.

- **Dry Harbour -** was the *Puerto Seco* of Christopher Columbus, it so called on account of there being no fresh water, stream or well.

- **Fern Gully** - Fern gully originated as a river course in an underground tunnel in the limestone. It was first planted out in the 1880's by a superintendent of Public Gardens. It is so named because on the banks of the gorge through which the road winds, many ferns grow. Over time, the water eroded the roof, which eventually disintegrated.

- **Flamstead** - an English place name found in St.Ann. A recent owner of Flamstead in St. Ann claims that Flamstead was owned by Admiral Flamstead. Research, however, has revealed that in naval history there was an Admiral Flamstead, but as far as is known now, he was never stationed in Jamaica.

- **Llandovery** - the name originated in north east Caramar then, Wales. This property once had on it a sugar estate. The Llandovery Falls are also here, famous because they were depicted on Jamaica's first one penny-stamp.

- **Madras** - originated from a city in India. It is a reminder that indentured Indians came here in 1845 to replace the freed Africans slaves.

- **Penshurst** - presumably named after Penshurst castle in Kent, England, was sold by John Scarlett of Worthy Park to the Rev. George Henderson, Baptist minister, near the close of the 19th century, and is now owned by the Rev. and Mrs. John M. Bee, late of Brown's Town Baptist Church. That church originated with the discovery of a cave on Penhurst by a slave called Finlayson early in the 19th century.

- **Prickly Pole** - named after the kind of palm, the prickly pole palm, which once grew plentifully here.

- **Runaway Bay -** is so named because it is claimed that this was the port from which Ysassi, the last Spanish governor (pursued by the English) left the island. This was after he fought for five years to recapture the island from the English. Ysassi escaped to Cuba, arriving there on May 9th 1660. This made an end of Spanish occupation of Jamaica, and the island was officially ceded to England by the Treaty of Madrid.

- **Seville -** or New Seville as it was called, was founded by Jamaica's first Spanish governor Juan De' Esquivel in 1509, and named after Seville in Spain. This is where Columbus made his first Jamaican landfall in 1494.

- **Sturge Town -** is named after Joseph Sturge, a Quaker philanthropist. It is located in the Dry Harbour Mountains of St. Ann and was one of the first free villages in Jamaica. The original village consisted of 120 acres, it was established by the Reverend John Clarke, a Baptist Minister with the assistance of Joseph Sturge; leader of the anti-slavery movement, who had visited Brown's Town in 1837 in the course of his investigation of the Apprenticeship system.

- **Try See -** the site of a free village in its early history and named by former slaves who received land. Try See is part of the phrase "*Try and see what can be done*".

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