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**The Lesser Antilles in the Age of European Expansion**

edited by Robert L. Paquette, Stanley Lewis Enqerman

John C. Appleby



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**The West Indies: Patterns of Development, Culture and Environmental Change ...**

By David Watts

Council of State also moved aggressively at this time to control the trade of the other settlements in the Lesser Antilles. In December 1650 **Martin Noell** became the first of several merchants to receive a license to trade at Nevis and Montserrat; in line with the merchants' earlier demands **Noell** was also issued with letters of marque by the council.<sup>55</sup>

According to the governor and council of Barbados, the cumulative purpose of these measures was to turn the planters of the island into "slaves to the Companie [of London merchants]."<sup>56</sup> As many planters now identified such merchants as "great extortioners," they reacted by either ignoring or evading the Navigation Act of 1651 in an attempt to keep open commercial contact with the Dutch. The government seizure of sixteen Dutch ships at Barbados in 1655 suggests, however, the triumph of metropolitan control over such local resistance.<sup>57</sup>

Among other influential planters, the Royalist Humphrey Walrond had a mixed career, being banished from Barbados in 1652 following his tussle with Drax; but he then returned in the 1660s, after the Restoration, to serve as Deputy Governor under Willoughby. The initially powerful Noell clan of agent-planters (p. 200), including Thomas (who married into the Hilliard family), the merchant Martin (a friend of Drax), and two other brothers, also did not fare so well: they lost most of their large estate in St James parish through mismanagement and a family feud. Eventually, Martin and one other brother were awarded large tracts of land in Jamaica (Deerr, 1949; see also p. 544). Modyford, who along with Peter Colleton, had succeeded in bringing about the accord between Ayscue and the Barbados planters in 1651–2 (p. 190), not only developed a large estate himself, but also became the first Cromwellian Governor of the island during the last few years of the Protectorate, gaining a knighthood as he did so. After the Restoration, both Modyford and Colleton additionally

siderable amounts of money as they did so. Thus, after the battle of Dunbar in 1651, when 9,000 Presbyterian prisoners were taken, many Scots were sold to Martin Noell, an agent who also handled Royalist, English and Scots captives after the battle of Worcester later that same year. Other prisoners



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**History of Jamaica, Volume 1: Reflections on its Situation, Settlements ...**

By Edward Long, Howard Johnson

**EXTRACT** FROM CROMWELL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONERS, Major-general FORTESCUE, Vice-admiral GOODSON, Major ROBERT SEDGEWICK, and DANIEL SERLE, 1656.

**WHEREAS** we have published and made known, unto the governors and people of the English islands and plantations in America, such terms and conditions as shall be granted to those who shall remove from thence to the island of Jamaica; and have also, by patent under the great seal, granted to **Martin Noell**, merchant, of London, twenty thousand acres of land, parcel of the said island, with several privileges to be enjoyed by him, his heirs, and assigns, copies of which are herewith sent you: you are hereby authorized and required, to cause the same to be executed and observed on our part in all things, according to the true meaning and purport of them respectively; and to see what is to be done on their part be

likewise performed.

You are hereby authorized to admit any other of the people of this commonwealth, or the dominions thereof, who are Protestants, to inhabit and plant upon any part of the said island, where you shall think convenient to allot them, upon the terms and conditions granted to the said Mr. Noel; and accordingly to assign and set forth land, and allow them the like advantages in all things: and what you shall do herein, pursuant to these instructions, we shall ratify and confirm.

You shall cause the terms and conditions to be published and proclaimed in the islands and plantations of the English in America, and use such other means as you shall find necessary for inciting people to come and plant upon this place, &c.

The patent, mentioned in the preceding instructions to have been granted to Mr. Noell, is not to be found among the records preserved in the island, the oldest of them not reaching so far back by many years. We cannot therefore judge with precision of the particular terms on which the lands were, under the proclamation of 1655, granted out to the settlers: indeed, for the most part, they were held under orders of survey issued by the commander in chief, or plats surveyed: and these orders and plats were assignable from one person to another, in the same manner as notes of hand. So little attention was paid to the law formalities usual in conveying and transferring landed property; and many tracts in the island are at this day held under no other original title than such indorsed or assigned orders; a form of which orders I have subjoined for the satisfaction of the reader.

JAMAICA, ff.

Whereas Mr. J. S. hath transported himself and family unto this island, with an intent to settle and abide here, and to that end hath requested me to grant him an order for his proportion of land at Port Morant, by the sea side, next adjoining to the plantation of J. D. being South-West by a great pond there, close to the sea-side; I do therefore hereby assign and appoint him two hundred acres of ground (according to a proclamation heretofore made) in the place afore-mentioned, to run it out as he shall think fit; and I do hereby require, that no person or persons belonging to the army, or [s] kingdom of England, molest or trouble him in the prosecution of his settlement, but rather to aid and assist him herein; provided this be not prejudicial to any former order by me made. Dated this 12th January, 16<sup>60</sup>/<sub>71</sub>.

EDW. D'OYLEY.

Recorded, the day and year above-written, in the secretary's office, at the general's house,

Per ARTHUR TOWN, secretary to the general.





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### Port Royal, Jamaica

By Michael Pawson, David Buisseret

In chapter 2 we noted the case of Lieutenant-Colonel William Ivy, who moved to Clarendon from Port Royal in 1665; he was among the first of a long line of Port Royalers turned planter. At first these ventures were often unsuccessful; Sir **Martin** Noell's plantation was a spectacular failure,<sup>55</sup> and so was Cary Helyar's.<sup>56</sup> As time went by, however, successful merchants invested more and more in plantations, so that 'between

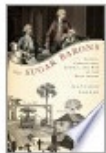


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### Scottish Emigration To Colonial America, 1607-1785

By David Dobson

It is no coincidence that the Scots Charitable Society was established in Boston on 6 January 1657 "for the relief of Scotchmen"; around that time many of the Dunbar and Worcester veterans would have been ending their years of servitude. Also a number of Scots shipped to the **Caribbean** may have been prisoners of war. On 3 September 1655 the English Admiralty ordered a number of English, Scots, and Dutch mariners, then imprisoned in Plymouth Castle, to be sent to Barbados. The following year **Martin Noell** contracted to transport twelve hundred men from Knockfergus, Ireland, and Portpatrick, Scotland, to Jamaica. Finally in July 1656 Antiguan merchants successfully petitioned the English government for three hundred Scots.<sup>57</sup> The Scottish prisoners of war who were sold into virtual slavery in New England were initially looked down upon by the English settlers. According to the Massachusetts Bay Militia Regulations dated 26 May 1652, "all Scotsmen, Negroes and Indians, inhabiting with or servants to the English, from the age of 16 to 60 years shall be listed and hereby enjoined to attend training." By 1655 their position may have improved, as the records treat them separately and distinctly from Negroes and Indians. At the second session of the General Court of the Colony of New Plymouth held on 2 July 1655 "it was ordered that all such Scots as are in any townships in this Government shall bear arms and train as others, excepting such



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### The Sugar Barons: Family, Corruption, Empire, and War in the West Indies

By Matthew Parker

#### Slaves in Barbados....

The main suppliers were the Dutch, but English traders who had thrived in the servant trade, like William Vassall, Thomas Kendall and **Martin Noell**, simply switched their operations to dealing in slaves. Just as Bristol had been the centre of the servant trade, so now the city became a centre of the slave trade. Aggressive New England merchants muscled in, too. The first slave-trading vessel from there had arrived at Barbados as early as 1643. By the early 1650s, the leading planters, including Drax and his neighbour Middleton, had shares themselves in slave-trading vessels, if not outright ownership.

Thomas. Noell, was secretary of the island of **Barbados** also supported the expedition to the Antilles.

## barbados

The following List of West Indian Deeds recorded in the Close Rolls at the Public Record Office has been carefully made out by Mr. Gerald Fothergill. By the Island laws all deeds relating to bargains in land had to be recorded in the local Registry, but English owners for their own safeguard also recorded their dealings in London. Where the local records have been destroyed these Rolls are unique. Mr. Fothergill writes that the grantor index only starts showing places in 1661 and the grantees I William and Mary, so that before 1661 the actual rolls will have to be searched.

Amongst Many Deeds listed:

Edward Bradburne, & Martin Noell

Martin Noell, & Nathaniel Noell (Both sons of Martin Noell?)

From: "Ernest M. Wiltshire" <[murcot@synapse.net](mailto:murcot@synapse.net)>

Subject: NOELL/ Barbados

Date: Fri, 23 Jun 2000 00:02:38 -0400

The will is recorded of Sir Martin NOELL, Knt. in 1665 (Barbados). He appears to be a grandson of Viscount CAMBDEN, and the nephew of Viscount Cambden's heir, the Hon. Edward NOELL, from whom he had bought lands in Warwick & Yorkshire.

He mentions his wife Dame Elizabeth NOELL (her will dated after his, but also in 1665, and describes herself as widow).

Sir Martin leaves to his son Martin lands in Staffordshire & Ireland. He mentions his children, Martin, Nathaniel, Theodorus, Grace (wife of John SHAW), Elizabeth, James & Thomas. He also mentions his brother Thomas NOELL of Surinam, brother Mathew,

From 1655 when Jamaica was seized for the second and final time from the Spanish Crown on the instigation of Martin Noell and the group of wealthy London merchants around Cromwell.

Kilkenny. He selected 13 fellow Irishmen for the job and made his headquarters in the old castle of Aghadagh which lay in boglands in the barony of Idrone. the lease for the castle was made out to Major Boulton, of Colonel Pretty's regiment, who was to be Kavanagh's commanding officer and also provide communication between Henry's council and Kavanagh. The castle lay four miles due east of Leighlin Bridge on the River Barrow, which was a well known spot used by the Tories for ambushing convoys from Kilkenny to Carolow. Major Kavanagh's forces was used in a counter-insurgency role, fighting the Tories on their own terms and showing no mercy. The capture, execution or transportation of Tories in no way deterred their activity. Many ! of them were still sent to the West Indies (Barbados). On March 26, Martin Noell, Thurloe's brother-in-law, contracted to transport 1,200 men from Knockfergus, Ireland, and Portpatrick, Scotland, to Jamaica at 5 pounds 10s. per head."

**the time the desultory trade in Negroes was being started with the Spaniards at Barbadoes, Richard White,** of Spain, came to England as an agent for two Spaniards, Domingo Grillo and Ambrosio Lomoline.[82] These two men had been granted the asiento in Spain, that is, the privilege of furnishing the Spanish colonies with Negro slaves. In order to wrest some of this trade from the Dutch West India Company the Royal Company entered into a contract with White, in the year 1663, to furnish the Spanish assientists with 3,500 Negroes per year for a definite number of years. According to this contract the slaves were to be delivered to the vessels of the assientists in Barbadoes and Jamaica; one of the company's factors was to be placed on board such ships; and the necessary safe conducts were to be procured for their voyage to and from the port of Cadiz.[83] Sir Ellis Leighton, secretary of the Royal Adventurers, obtained permission for Grillo's agents to reside in Jamaica and Barbadoes.[84] Sir Martin Noell, one of the most important West Indian merchants, as well as a prominent member of the African Company, seems to have been intrusted with the collection of the money due on this contract