The Morant Bay Rebellion in Jamaica

Remains of the Morant Bay Court House, 2015
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Introduction

Often referred to as a watershed moment in Jamaica’s history; the Morant Bay rebellion of 1865, left an indelible mark on Jamaica’s political and social history. Over the years researchers have tried to analyze and rationalize the event and its aftermath to varying degrees.

In this the 150th anniversary of the Morant Bay Rebellion, the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) put together a bibliography of materials with these varying perspectives.

Purpose

The main purpose of this bibliography is to identify and highlight in a single publication, resources held at the National Library of Jamaica on the Morant Bay Rebellion. Though the NLJ holds no monopoly on resources related to the rebellion, its holding represent a significant percentage of primary content on the rebellion. The volume of newspaper articles and official/government documents are invaluable resources to any research on this event. The NLJ envisages that this bibliography will be of great assistance in guiding researchers.

Scope

An attempt was made to collect all resources specific to the rebellion, held at the National Library of Jamaica; books, pamphlets, journal articles, newspaper articles, manuscripts, photographs, audio/visual resources, maps and government/official documents. However, there are a few limitations. The bibliography represents a complete list of books published specifically on the rebellion. In general, materials were excluded if the rebellion was not the primary focus. Therefore, books making brief references or having one or two chapters were excluded; except Gardner’s History of Jamaica, published in 1873. Many of the books published relating to the rebellion was however, published in the 19th century, therefore not many contemporary books are listed. Manuscripts were also selected based on specific focus on the rebellion and not based on brief references.

The scope of newspapers was limited to those published in 1865/1866. From these years three titles were selected for detailed listing of related articles; the Falmouth Post, Jamaica Tribune and the Gleaner. Therefore, not all newspapers of 1865 are listed under the heading newspapers.

Very few photographs/images of the rebellion were found. Photographs were mainly portraits of some of the key persons in the rebellion, as guided by our collection process.
Collection Process

The search for resources began with the National Library’s card and online catalogues. Keywords such as “rebellion” “Morant Bay” “uprising” and “riot” were used and combined in various ways to elicit results. Searches for known authors and titles were also done. Searches were also done on key persons in the rebellion, such as “Gordon,” “Eyre” and “Bogle.” Shelf-checking of the general section under which materials on the Morant Rebellion are classified, was also done i.e. 972.9204. The checking of the shelves and pamphlet boxes was significant in finding items that may have been inadvertently left off the list.

The majority of items identified for the Morant Bay Rebellion bibliography, especially newspaper and official/government documents” were taken from an internal document titled “Jamaica Unshackled 1831-1938.” This is a list of sources identified over ten years ago for digitisation and eventual access through the library’s first digital collection, Jamaica Unshackled.

Another major step in the collection process was checking indexes and significant publications on the topic for references. Heuman’s, The Killing Time was the main secondary source used to identify materials that may not have been discovered yet. Manuscript Sources of the West Indies by Kenneth Ingram was checked for sources at the National Library of Jamaica which may have been missed in a catalogue search.

The indexes of the following major publications were also checked:

Jamaica Journal
Caribbean Quarterly
Jamaican Historical Review

Annotation

There are few annotations. Where provided, it is italicised and represents an attempt to indicate content or provide additional bibliographic information where the title is insufficient.

Arrangement

Entries are arranged alphabetically by author, or title where no author is named, and are placed in categories according to the format. A call number is included for easy retrieval at the library. Entries highlighted in blue are available online.

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Edited by: Mrs. Genevieve Jones-Edman – Coordinator, Research & Information Department; with assistance from Mrs. Janielle Wilson-Rowe - Librarian, Research & Information Department
Audiovisual

*Call No: 147*

Books

*Call No: 972.9204 Ja ins*

*Call No: 972.9204 Ja ble*

Buxton, Charles. *Insurrection in Jamaica: the case against governor Eyre, collection from official documents.*
*Call No: O 972.9204 Ja bux*

*Call No: 972.9204 Ja coc*

*Call No: 972.9204 Ja Eyr*

---. *Commentaries upon Martial Law, with special reference to its regulation and restraint...*. London: Stevens and Sons, 1867.
*Call No: 972.9204 Ja Finlason*

*Call No: 972.9204 Ja finlason*

---. *Justice of a colonial governor or some considerations on the case of Mr. Eyre*. London: Chapman and Hall, 1868.
*Call No: 972.9204 Ja Finalson*

---. *A Review of the Authorities as to the repression of riot or rebellion*. London: Stevens and Sons, 1868.
*Call No: 972.9204 Ja Finlason*

*Call. No. B Ja Gor*

*Call. No. B Ja Gor*

*Call No: 972.92 Ja gar*
Gorrie, John. *Martial law in Jamaica; compiled from the report of the royal commissioners illustrations of, and other blue books laid before parliament.* London: Jamaica Committee, 1867.

*Bound with Charge of the Lord Chief Justice of England to the Grand Jury at the Central Court...*

**Call No:** 972.9204 Ja Coc


**Call No:** B Ja Gor


**Call No:** 972.9204 Ja heu


**Call No:** B Ja Eyr

Jamaica Committee. *Facts and documents relating to the alleged rebellion in Jamaica and the measures of repression, including notes of the trial of Mr. Gordon.* London: The Jamaica Committee, 1866.

*Bound with Charge of the Lord Chief Justice of England to the Grand Jury at the Central Court...*

**Call No:** 972.92 Ja jam

Lindo, Abraham. *Dr. Underhill’s testimony on the wrongs of the Negro in Jamaica, examined in a letter to the editor of the Times.* London: Effingham Wilson, 1866.

**Call No:** 972.92 Ja jam


**Call No:** B Ja Eyr


**Call No:** 972.9204 Ja price


**Typescript**

**Call No:** 972.9204 Ja rya


**Call No:** 972. 9204 Ja sem


**Call No:** 972.9204 Ja sem


**Call No:** 972.9204 Ja und


**Call No:** 972.9204 Ja und
**Government/Official Documents**

*Further correspondence relative to the affairs of Jamaica 1867.* London: George Edward Eyre and William Spottiswoode, 1867.

**Call No:** O 972.9204 Ja gre

*Papers laid before the royal commission of inquiry by Governor Eyre 1866.* London: George Edward and William Spottiswoode, 1866

**Call No:** O 972.9204 Ja pap

*Papers relative to the affairs of Jamaica: presented to both houses of parliament by command of her majesty, February 1866.* London: George Edward Eyre and William Spottiswoode, 1866

**Call No:** O 972.9204 Ja pap

*Papers relating to the disturbances in Jamaica: part 1, presented to both houses of parliament by command of her majesty, February 1866.* London: Harrison and Sons, 1866.

**Call No:** O 972.9204 Ja pap

*Papers relating to the disturbances in Jamaica: part II, presented to both houses of parliament by command of her majesty, February 1866.* London: Harrison and Sons, 1866.

**Call No:** O 972.9204 Ja pap

*Papers relating to the disturbances in Jamaica: part III, presented to both houses of parliament by command of her majesty, February 1866.* London: Harrison and Sons, 1866.

**Call No:** O 972.9204 Ja pap

*Report of the Jamaica Royal Commission 1866: part 1, presented to both houses of parliament by command of her majesty, February 1866.* London: Harrison and Sons, 1866.

**Call No:** O 972.9204 Ja gt b


**Call No:** O 972.9204 Ja gt.b

**Acts passed in consequence of the late rebellion in The Laws of Jamaica 1865-1866:**

“An Act to indemnify the governor, and all other officers and persons concerned in suppressing the late rebellion in this island.” Page 895-897

“An Act to enable the governor of this island to declare martial law over the whole or any portions of the island, by and with the advice of the Privy Council.” Pages 897-898

“An Act to provide for expenses attending the extinguishing of the rebellion.” Page 898

“An Act to provide for the forfeiture of the real and personal estates of persons guilty of treason or felony in the late rebellion.” Pages 898-899

“An Act to revive the Act of the Twenty-Third Victoria, chapter three, for regulating the issuing of, and the proceedings under a special commission of oyer and terminer for the trial of certain offences committed in the island generally, and for other purposes.” Pages 899-900
“An Act to amend the Act to authorize the infliction of corporal punishment in certain cases of larceny and offences.” Pages 900-901

“An Act to prevent the administering or taking unlawful oaths.” Pages 903-905

“An Act to provide for the trial and punishment of offences committed during the martial law, and within a limited period thereafter.” Pages 905-906

“An Act to alter and amend the political constitution of this island.” Pages 906-916

“An Act to authorize, in certain cases, the removal from this colony of aliens and other persons, not being natural born or naturalized subjects, and for other purposes.” Pages 919-922

Call No: 346.1 Ja jam 1865-1866

*Votes of the Honourable House of Assembly of Jamaica in a session begun on the 17th day of January, 1866 (during the administration of his Excellency sir Henry Knight Storks, K.C.B., C.M.G., governor), and prorogued on the 18th of the same month. Being the seventh session of the present assembly.* Jamaica: George Henderson, 1866. Pages 1-7

Call No: J28L438 1865-66

*Votes of the Honorable House of Assembly of Jamaica in a session began on the 7th day of November, 1865 (during the administration of his Excellency Edward John Eyre, Esquire, governor), and prorogued on the 22nd day of December, 1865, being the sixth session of the present assembly.* Jamaica: George Henderson, 1866. Pages 1-222 and appendix No. XVI, Pages 71-108

Paul Bogle
Journal Articles


**Call No: J846**


**Call No: S59**


**Call No: J538**


**Call No: J967**


**Call No: J846**


**Call No: J538**


**Call No: C363**
Manuscripts

**Memorial of the Jamaica Baptist Union, presenting grievances and refuting charges made against the union and its ministers in relation to the Morant Bay rebellion.** 1866. MS. National Library of Jamaica, Kingston.

**Call No: MS 15**


**Call No: MS 33**


**Cuttings from contemporary English newspapers, chiefly from the Times Newspaper.**

**Call No: MS 74**

Jamaica, commission appointed to enquire into claims for compensation in respect of losses incurred during the late rebellion. 1866-7. MS. National Library of Jamaica, Kingston.

**Call No: MS 85**


**Call No: MS 279**

George William Gordon – including a photograph of his last letter to his wife, Mrs. Lucy Gordon, immediately before his execution. 1865. MS. National Library of Jamaica, Kingston.

**Call No: MS 892a**


**Letters: from Eyre defending his actions in Jamaica, 5 January 1867; from Eyre to Mr. Cave, soliciting his support for a new position 6 Feb 1869; from Eyre to Mr. Giffard, concerning a possible indictment 17 April 1867**

**Call No: MS 900**


Retired commander – Royal Navy.

**Call No: MS 1685**

Underhill, E. **Copy of letter of Rev E. Underhill to Mr. E. Cardwell re conditions in Jamaica.** 1865. MS. National Library of Jamaica, Kingston. Xerox copy

**Call No: MS 1811 /1501**


**Call No: MS 1828**
Map

Parry, John
A map of the county of Surrey in the island of Jamaica, shewing its topographical features - the lines of march of the troops and Maroons and the situation of several villages burnt or partially so during the disturbances in October: and November: 1865
Jamaica: engineer to the county of Surrey, 1866.

Call No: 727.4cba 1865

Newspapers

Falmouth Post and Jamaica General Advertiser

The governor and the press
To the editor of the Falmouth Post
Tuesday, July 18, 1865
(Vol.31, No.56 pages 1&3)

The legislation of the island. Friday, July 21, 1865
(Vol.31, No.57 page 1)

The governor and the St. David’s deputation. Tuesday, July 25, 1865
(Vol.31, No.58 page 1)

The anniversary of freedom. Tuesday, Aug. 1, 1865
(Vol.31, No.60 pages 1-2)

From the Jamaica Guardian, General Lamotte. Tuesday, Aug. 8, 1865
(Vol.31, No.62 page 1)

Rumours of popular outbreaks. Friday, Aug. 11, 1865
(Vol.31, No.63, pages 1-2)

The legislature of the island
The claims of coloured persons. Tuesday, Aug. 15, 1865
(Vol.31, No.64, pages 1-2)

Prevention of crime in the island. Friday, Aug. 18, 1865
(Vol.31, No.65 pages 1-2)
Our legislatures and their privileges. Tuesday, Sep. 19, 1865 (Vol.31, No.74 pages 1-2)

The Honourable Edward Cardwell on the conditions of Jamaica Tear-dropping in Vere
Friday, Sep. 22, 1865 (Vol.31, No.75 pages 1-2)

The ensuing session of the legislature. Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1865 (Vol.31, No.78 Pages 1-2)

The increase of crime and its punishment. Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1865 (Vol.31, No.79 pages 1-2)

The government and the legislature. Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1865 (Vol.31, No.80 pages 1-2)

The governor of the island. Friday, Oct. 13, 1865 (Vol.31, No.81 pages 1-2)

Gordon vs. kettelholdt
The government, the legislature and retrenchment
Riot and loss of life in St.Thomas in the East
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1865 (Vol.31, No.82 pages 1-2)

Riot and loss of life in St.Thomas in the East
Paul Bogle
Friday, Oct. 20, 1865 (Vol.31, No.83 pages 1-2)

Want of a permanent militia force

The massacres in St.Thomas in the East
Latest intelligence from St.Thomas in the East
Paul Bogle
Mr. G. W. Gordon
Tuesday, Oct. 24, 1865
(Vol.31, No.84, pages 1-2)

The necessity of checking unprincipled agitation
The St.Thomas in the East riots
Sufferers in St.Thomas in the East.
Friday, Oct. 27, 1865
(Vol.31, No.85 pages 1-2)

The rebellion
George William Gordon
Tuesday, Oct. 31, 1865
(Vol.31, No. 86 pages 1-3)

Arrest of Dr. Bruce
The required protection of life and property
Friday, Nov. 3, 1865
(Vol.31, No.87 pages 1-3)

Martial law
The legislative session
The winding up of the affairs of the rebellion
The volunteer movement
The editor of the County Union
Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1865
(Vol.31, No 88 pages 1-3)
The Island Press
More light from abroad on the condition of Jamaica
Friday, Nov. 10, 1865
(Vol.31, No.89 pages 1-2)

All of the newspaper
Saturday, Nov. 11, 1865
(Vol.31, No.90, 1865)

The Island Press
Proceedings of the legislature
Friday, Nov. 17, 1865
(Vol.31, No.91 pages 1-3)

The Island Press
Proceedings of the legislature
Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1865
(Vol.31, No.92 pages 1-3)

The attorney-general and Dr. Underhill
Friday, Nov. 21, 1865
(Vol.31, No.93 pages 1-3)

The Island Press
The bill for regulating places for worship
Tuesday, Nov. 28, 1865
(Vol.31, No.94 pages 1-3)

The Gleaner and DeCordova’s Advertising Sheet

Paul Bogle, the rebel
The gunboat ‘Onyx’
Latest particulars
The city guards
The Maroons
Oct. 19, 1865 (page 2)

Morant Bay (camp)
Prisoners captured
From Yallahs
Illegal assemblies
Oct. 20, 1865 (page 2)

The rebellion in St. Thomas in the East
Very latest
A secret society discovered
St. George’s
 Arrests in the city
The sufferers
The wolverine
Royal proclamation
Oct. 21, 1865 (Page 2)

Very latest- Gordon found guilty
Morant Bay (camp)
Latest intelligence from our special correspondent
More arrests in the city
The governor
The governor of Cuba
Volunteers
Oct. 23, 1865 (Page 2)
The widows and orphans
Oct. 24, 1865 (Page 2)

The conspirators plan
Capture of Paul Bogle
The parish of Hanover
Further arrests
Oct. 26, 1865 (Page 2)

St. Thomas in the East
Latest from Port Antonio
Paul Bogle
Court martial
The pickets
City Police Court
Oct. 27, 1865 (Page 2)

The traitor George W. Gordon
Rebel prisoners
Captain Briscoe
G.G. Manning
Oct. 28, 1865 (Page 2)

The St. Thomas ye East police
Outrage on the British flag
Government proclamations
Refugees saved
Aid for the sufferers
Oct. 31, 1865 (Page 2)

Prisoners to camp
Prisoners
Nov. 1, 1865 (Page 2)

A rebel captured
Seditious language
Hymns selected and marked by Paul Bogle
November 3, 1865 (page 2)

Mr. Sidney Levien
More arrests
The sufferers in St. Thomas ye East
Nov. 4, 1865 (Page 2)

A special edition of the Gleaner for the English and American packet mails – advertisement
News from Morant Bay
Brown’s Town
Nov. 6, 1865 (Page 2)

Demonstration for the Maroons
Brown’s Town
Nov. 7, 1865 (Page 2)

Meeting of the legislature
Our sister parishes
Nov. 8, 1865 (Page 2)

Reward offered
The Maroons
Captured
Address and reply
Proclamation
Nov. 9, 1865 (Page 2)

Reception of the Maroons
Nov. 10, 1865 (Page 2)
Monday as a holiday
Gordon’s placard
Nov. 11, 1865 (Page 2)

The parish of Westmoreland
Nov. 13, 1865 (Page 2)

Reception of the Maroons
The Maroons
Nov. 15, 1865 (Page 2)

The capture of Paul Bogle
Our volunteer
Holy Trinity Church
Sidney Levien
Nov. 16, 1865 (Page 2)

The late rebellion
Nov. 17, 1865 (Page 2)

Arrest of a rebel
Sedition
Nov. 21, 1865 (Page 2)

Rebel arms and flags
Seditious language
Nov. 22, 1865 (Page 2)

Seditious language
Nov. 23, 1865 (Page 2)

Capture of rebels

Our allies
Nov. 28, 1865 (Page 2)

Another case of seditious language
Nov. 30, 1865 (Page 2)

**The Jamaica Tribune and Daily Advertiser**

Disturbances in St. Thomas in the East
Thursday, Oct. 12, 1865

The riot in St. Thomas in the East
Friday, Oct. 13, 1865

The riot in St. Thomas in the East
Departure of the Governor for St. Thomas in the East
Saturday, Oct. 14, 1865

The riot in the east
Special service
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1865

The rebellion in St. Thomas in the East
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1865

The rebellion-latest intelligence
Latest
Capture of rebels
Volunteer artillery
Proclamation
Thursday, Oct. 19, 1865

“In the House of Assembly”
Friday, Oct. 20, 1865

The rebellion in Saint Thomas in the East

Saturday, Oct. 21, 1865

The very latest from the scene of the insurrection

Very latest

Conviction of G.W. Gordon

Gallant conduct of three men of the 1st W.I. Regiment

Monday, Oct. 23, 1865

Rebellion in St. Thomas in the East - awful massacre of the white and coloured inhabitants

Execution of G.W. Gordon

The Guardian

The rebel Gordon

Morant Bay (camp)

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 1865

Capture of Paul Bogle

Arrest of Prisoners

Thursday, Oct. 26, 1865

Execution of G.W. Gordon

Friday, Oct. 27, 1865

The rebellion

Saturday, Oct. 28, 1865

The very latest from the scene of the insurrection

Very latest

Conviction of G.W. Gordon

Gallant conduct of three men of the 1st W.I. Regiment

Monday, Oct. 30, 1865

Rebellion in St. Thomas in the East - latest from Morant Bay

Address to Brigadier General Nelson

The rebellion in St. Thomas in the East

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1865

The rebellion in St. Thomas in the East

Monday, Nov. 13, 1865

A brave act

All honour to the Maroons!

Public visit of the Maroons to this city

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1865

The rebellion loan

Thursday, Nov. 16, 1865

Bill to provide for the expenses attending the extinguishing of the rebellion

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 1865

The rebellion in St. Thomas in the East

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 1865
Pamphlets

*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja dix*

*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja ins*

*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja ins*

*Jamaica and the recent insurrection there. Author unnamed but is identified as by a late resident in Jamaica. Article from an unknown source.*
*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja jam*

*Call No: Pam 025.171 Ja jam*

Lake, W.H. *Trial of Mr. George William Gordon for sedition and treason before a naval and military court martial accurately reported*. Spanish Town: Robert Osbourn, 1866.
*Call No: Pam 344 Ja gor*

Levien, Sidney. *A chronicle of the rebellion in Jamaica, in the year of our lord, 1865*. Montego Bay: 18??
*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja lev*

*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja noe*

*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja jam*

*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja jam*

Jamaica, its disturbances and its prospects. London, 1866. *Article taken from the Quarterly Review*
*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja jam*

*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja mor*
Reynolds, G. “The late insurrection in Jamaica”. 1866
*Article* taken “Atlantic Monthly
*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja rey*

*Call No: 972.9204 Ja rob*

*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja Har*

*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja jam*

*Xerox copy from the University of Michigan.*
*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja war*

Young, G.A. *Notes on recent events in the island of Jamaica and on the right of the crown to proclaim martial law*. London: Stevens and Sons, 1866.
*Call No: Pam 972.9204 Ja you*
Photographs

19th Century Victorian montage composed of photographs of some of the leading figures in Jamaica who were murdered by the rebels in the Morant Bay rebellion. n.d. National Library of Jamaica, Kingston.


Close up of the Morant square and court house four and a half years after rebellion. n.d. National Library of Jamaica, Kingston.


Portraits ranging from young to middle aged to old Edward John Eyre


