

## CHAPTER 13

### RESETTLEMENT PLANS

The period before the American Revolution saw several efforts to persuade the people of Anguilla to move to different locations. We shall deal with them separately below. So far as the records permit, we shall use the various official invitations to the Anguillians to emigrate as a framework for looking at the conditions of life and the struggles of the second and third generations of Anguillians.

#### **Antigua**

It will be recalled that after the 1689 evacuation to Antigua of the people of Anguilla by Lieutenant Edward Thorne, Governor Christopher Codrington Sr attempted in vain to persuade the Anguillians to abandon their homes and to resettle in Antigua.<sup>1</sup> We learn something about his scheme because Codrington was severely criticized by the planters of Nevis, and he wrote at length to the Committee explaining his intentions. It is that exchange of correspondence, preserved in the Colonial Office records in the British National Archives in London that we must rely on. The Nevisians, he wrote, were jealous of Antigua as they wanted the Anguillians to work on their own sugar estates.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 6: War and the Settlers.

While Codrington and the Nevisians wrangled over which one was more entitled to the refugees from Anguilla, most of the Anguillians quietly returned from Antigua to their island, and the impoverished settlement of Anguilla continued to grow. Developments in the early part of the eighteenth century were, therefore, all part of the continuing saga over the survival of the settlement. Nothing in this respect changed with the birth of the new century.

After the death of his father, Governor Christopher Codrington Jr arrived in Antigua in 1701 and assumed the government of the Leeward Islands. He continued his father's policy of attempting to resettle the Anguillians in Antigua. He characterised them as a thorn in the side of the Government of the Leeward Islands, and a drain on the revenue.<sup>2</sup> He devised a scheme to tax the undeveloped land of large landowners in Antigua. He persuaded the Assembly in Antigua to pass the appropriate law. His hope was that the tax would prove so burdensome that the owners would willingly part with some of the land that they were not using. These recovered areas of land he proposed to dole out in parcels of five or ten acres to small farmers from Anguilla and Virgin Gorda. He hoped by this measure to draw off

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<sup>2</sup> CO.152/4, No 11, folio 29: Codrington to the Committee on 11 January 1701.

a great many of the inhabitants of those two islands, whom he considered were perfect outlaws.

There is no record whether this tax measure imposed on the Antiguan landowners in fact resulted in any land being made available to any planter from Anguilla. If any Anguillians did take up the offer, it was certainly not in large numbers. The census of Antigua taken in 1753 shows only one or two members of each of the Welch, Roberts, Carty, Gibbons, Richardson and Coakley families living there. Deputy governor George Leonard and his family were Quakers. His family, which held a cotton estate in Antigua during the 1720's, appear to have all departed thirty years later. This was the period when the Quakers of Antigua and Anguilla were flocking to the Quaker colony of Tortola, so it is fair to conclude that is where George Leonard's family ended up.

### **The Windward Side of St Kitts**

With the outbreak of Queen Ann's War in 1702, the need to strengthen the major islands of the colony, such as Antigua and St Kitts, against French attacks grew urgent. The colonial authorities in Antigua considered the males of Anguilla and Virgin Gorda as so many potential militia members wasted on those unimportant islands. The St Kitts planters joined in looking on the Anguillians as cheap labour wasted on their scruffy and unproductive island. In 1702, the Council of St Kitts learned that

Monsieur de la Gennes, the commander of the French forces in their part of St Kitts, had sent for the French forces from St Martin and St Barts to reinforce him. The St Kitts Council, therefore, petitioned Governor Codrington expressing their fear that the French were about to attack the island.<sup>3</sup> They requested that the people of Anguilla and Virgin Gorda should be ordered to remove to St Kitts. They offered to send the necessary sloops to bring over the Anguillians to settle the windward side of St Kitts. Codrington Jr was able, however, to drive the French from St Kitts in 1702, almost without firing a shot.

Nothing more is heard of this plan to use the Anguillians to strengthen the settlement on the windward side of St Kitts. Edward Lake's 1704 patent from Codrington refers specifically to the need to give encouragement to the settlement of Anguilla by granting land at peppercorn rents.<sup>4</sup> This suggests that the planters of St Kitts were not successful in their effort to have the Anguillians removed to St Kitts to work on their plantations.

## **Barbuda**

In 1706, Colonel Daniel Parke of Virginia was appointed Governor-in-Chief of the colony of the Leeward Islands,

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<sup>3</sup> CO.152/4: Codrington to the Committee: Petition of the St Christopher Council.

<sup>4</sup> Anguilla Archives: Edward Lake's 1704 patent. See also Chapter 5: The Second Generation.

on Governor Codrington's transfer to Tobago. He too entertained designs on the persons of the Anguillians. He also considered the Codrington family had no right title to the island of Barbuda. He conducted a long-running battle with them. At one time, he toyed with the idea of re-settling the Anguillians in it. He put this suggestion forward to the Privy Council as one of his justifications for wanting to confiscate Barbuda.<sup>5</sup>

Daniel Parke was not a popular man. There were several complaints against him made to the authorities in London. These complaints related mainly to his avariciousness and his sexual harassment of the wives of the Antigua merchants and planters. In 1709, he replied to 22 Articles of Complaint made against him by the Antigua planters. He wrote to the Council that he hoped to bring up from Anguilla, Virgin Gorda and Tortola between 150 and 200 families to settle on Barbuda. At present, he wrote, those families were lost to the Crown of England. What little cotton they made, they sold to the Danes. He claimed that these Anguillian families were formerly driven off from Antigua and St Kitts by the large sugar planters forcing them off their land. As they led a very hard life in Anguilla and the Virgin Islands, he was sure that they would be glad to come and settle on Barbuda. There, he theorised, they would be much better

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<sup>5</sup> CO.152/8: Parke to the Committee: Reply to the Articles of Complaint.

off, raising horses, cattle and corn for sale in Antigua, and cotton for export to Britain.

Before Parke could take any steps to carry out his plan for the re-settlement of the Anguillians on Barbuda, he was killed in 1710 by an angry Antiguan mob from the business and planter community. That was the last that was heard of his Barbuda project. The life he described of these, the second generation of Anguillians, was one of extreme deprivation. Even allowing for the fact that he had a reason to exaggerate, in that he was arguing to save his career, it is certain that by the early eighteenth century, conditions in Anguilla were severe, and that life on Anguilla was punishing. It was to continue so until the mid-1720s when the long drought at last broke.

### **The French Lands on St Kitts**

The beginning of the eighteenth century in the Caribbean saw the accession to the throne of Queen Anne, 1702-1714. Her reign was marked by the War of the Spanish Succession, 1702-1713, referred to locally as Queen Anne's War. During this war, insignificant Anguilla escaped invasion, unlike Nevis, St Kitts, Antigua and Montserrat, the four major islands in the Colony of the Leeward Islands. Thanks to Marlborough's successes in the European war theatre, the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 saw the British in a strong position. They could refuse to hand back certain war-time conquests, including the

French part of St Kitts. In this treaty, the French ceded permanently to the British their half of that island, thus ending eighty years of troubled joint occupation.

For a while, it seemed that the Anguillians might be settled *en bloc* on a part of these St Kitts lands. General Walter Hamilton was appointed Governor-in-Chief in 1715. Hamilton was to have a greater impact on Anguilla's destiny than any previous Governor-in-Chief. He was an intelligent and dynamic administrator. During the five years he held office, he bombarded the 'home government' with information about his Colony of the Leeward Islands and his ideas for its development. In the year 1716, he mooted for the first time his plan for resettling the Anguillians on the conquered French lands.

In his April 1716 dispatch, Hamilton included a petition from Abraham Howell, on whom he conferred the honorary title of 'Governor of Anguilla', and which we will look at in more detail in the next Chapter.<sup>6</sup> Howell had ceased being deputy Governor of Anguilla since 1689, and George Leonard was supposed to be the replacement deputy Governor. But Leonard spent most of his time in Antigua and Howell was left to represent the interests of the Anguillians. Howell's petition asked him to allow the Anguillians to settle St Croix. Governor Hamilton had a better idea. He urged the Committee that

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<sup>6</sup> CO.152/11, No 6: Hamilton to the Committee on 10 April 1716.

instead they be encouraged by granting them small plantations in the former French part of St Kitts. This, he said, would be vastly to the benefit of the British Crown and the strengthening of the chief British islands of the Leewards. He repeated the proposal in almost identical terms in October of the same year.<sup>7</sup> Not hearing anything from the Committee, he reminded them again in a dispatch of July 1717, written at Antigua, his home island.<sup>8</sup> From a colonial point of view, he was right to be concerned. Settlement of British citizens in St Croix would mean that they would be lost to the British and become Danish citizens. While the Anguillians remained in Anguilla, it was always possible to call the men up and force them to join an Antiguan or a St Kitts militia force.

The Privy Council took up with the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury the matter of resettling the Anguillians on the French Lands in St Kitts. In October 1717, they urged the Treasury to accept Governor Hamilton's suggestion.<sup>9</sup> They recommended that about 3,000 acres should be reserved to be distributed without any payment, in small plantations of from eight to ten acres each, for the encouragement of the poor families of the Leeward Islands to resettle there to improve the defence of the island. They urged that

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<sup>7</sup> CO.152/11, No 56: Hamilton to the Committee on 3 October 1716.

<sup>8</sup> CO.152/12/1, No 62: Hamilton to the Committee on 7 October 1717.

<sup>9</sup> CO.153/13, folio 134: Privy Council to the Treasury on 16 October 1717.



Governor Hamilton be authorised to promise the inhabitants of Anguilla that they would be given portions of the land.

That same month, the Committee wrote back to Governor Hamilton.<sup>10</sup> They were as yet unaware that half the population of Anguilla had already, in desperation, gone off under the leadership of Abraham Howell in their third abortive attempt to settle on Crab Island.<sup>11</sup> The Committee considered what he wrote about the poor inhabitants of Anguilla. They explained to him that the Lords of the Treasury were responsible for the disposal of the French lands in St Kitts. They had recommended to the Treasury that as many of the Anguillians as could be persuaded to settle in St Kitts be given small plantations, after the poor inhabitants of St Kitts were provided for. They warned the Governor that he would do well to encourage the people of Anguilla to remain where they were. He was to endeavour as much as possible to prevent any of them from removing to any foreign settlement. The Anguillians must await His Majesty's decision on the method and manner of the disposal of the former French lands in St Kitts. It was too late. All the Anguillians who considered moving from Anguilla to greener pastures had already left for Crab Island with Abraham Howell.

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<sup>10</sup> CO.153/13, folio 144: The Committee to Hamilton on 24 October 1717.

<sup>11</sup> See Chapter 10: [Crab Island Revisited](#).

In the end, few Anguillians are recorded as acquiring parcels of this land in St Kitts. For better or for worse, they escaped the Council's closing strictures to the Governor, and took their fate into their own hands. As we have seen, in early August 1717, unable to plant their lands because of the severe drought which persisted for decades, and suffering from starvation and want, half of the Anguillian men emigrated under the leadership of Abraham Howell to Crab Island.

On hearing of this exodus to Crab Island, Hamilton visited Anguilla on 11 November 1717. In his dispatch to London concerning his visit, he described the island, as we have seen, as being so worn out that the inhabitants could hardly feed their families from it.<sup>12</sup> He repeated the lament that the people of Anguilla, Virgin Gorda and Tortola were not yet granted land out of the French half of St Kitts, which would greatly strengthen the population of the chief islands and increase the revenue. As it was, they were, in his view, altogether useless as contributors to the revenue.

As more and more Anguillians emigrated to Tortola and St Croix, Governor Hamilton continued to urge that land in the French part of St Kitts be allocated to the Anguillians. In July 1719, he wrote warning that they were inclined to remove to the other smaller islands of the

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<sup>12</sup> CO.152/12/1, No 67: Hamilton to the Committee on 6 January 1718.

Virgins for want of land in better places.<sup>13</sup> He pleaded that he could not prevent this continuing emigration to the Dutch and Danish islands unless the Council would allow him to distribute some of the lands in the French part of St Kitts among them. He concluded that the Anguillians must desert that island. It was so barren that it would not grow even 'indian provisions', ie, corn and cassava, sufficient to feed them. Hamilton was to continue to pursue this idea for several more years.

It was not until 19 November that the Committee in London received Governor Hamilton's dispatch of 26 August concerning the exodus to Crab. William Popple, the Secretary to the Committee, wrote to Charles Stanhope, the Secretary to the Treasury, setting out the known facts.<sup>14</sup> He enquired laconically, with no apparent appreciation of the urgency of the situation in Anguilla, whether there was any hope that General Hamilton might be able to suggest to the Anguillians that they would be taken care of when the French part of St Kitts was disposed of. The Treasury does not appear to have responded.

As early as 1716, short-term grants were being made of tracts of land in the French part of St Kitts. In April 1716, Governor Hamilton dispatched an 'Account' of

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<sup>13</sup> CO.152/12/4: Hamilton to the Committee on 15 July 1719.

<sup>14</sup> CO.153/13: Popple to Stanhope, Secretary to the Treasury, on 19 November 1719.

these early grants.<sup>15</sup> This showed only two planters with Anguillian connections holding any part of the French Lands. They were Philip Driscall with twenty-four acres, and Peter Edney with seventy acres, thirty-three slaves and five horses. Their names appear in the early lists of inhabitants of Anguilla and Crab Island. It would not appear that any other Anguillians were able to acquire holdings in the French Lands. Hamilton died in 1720. The pressure on the Lords of the Treasury to apportion some of the French Lands in St Kitts to the Anguillians eased.

After William Poppel's letter to Charles Stanhope of 19 November 1719, the correspondence concerning the proposal to offer the Anguillians land in St Kitts comes to an end. There is no indication in the Colonial Office records that the Lords of the Treasury ever decided, even in principle, to allocate land in St Kitts to the Anguillians. The idea was most likely scrapped on the death of its most ardent advocate, Governor Hamilton, and his replacement in 1720 by Viscount Lowther. John Hart, who followed Lowther in 1721, did not take up the proposal either. Nothing more is heard of the idea.

The land in the French part of St Kitts was eventually auctioned off in large parcels, far beyond the price of Anguillian small farmers, to the major sugar

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<sup>15</sup> CO.152/11, No 6: Hamilton to the Committee on 10 April 1716, enclosure No 3: An Account of the Grants of Land to the French Part of St Christopher.

planters of St Kitts. In any event, the long drought in Anguilla that caused the emigrations of 1688 and 1717 appears to have ended by 1725. With adequate rainfall to maintain the subsistence agriculture that was all that the stony soil of Anguilla could manage, the pressure from the Anguillians to allow them to emigrate lessened.

During the eighteenth century, Anguilla was not considered a separate colony in the Leeward Islands. It was informally classed as one of the Virgin Islands. Family relations continued to be maintained with St Kitts, from where the original settlers arrived in 1650. We see evidence of this in Joan Richardson's 1753 will.<sup>16</sup> She was the widow of the late deputy governor, John Richardson. From her will, we learn that she removed from Anguilla to St Kitts sometime after the death of her husband in 1741. Her maiden name was Edney, so that she was possibly the sister, or at least a relative, of Peter Edney mentioned above. She probably moved back to St Kitts to live with her daughter and principal beneficiary, Dorcas Scanlon. All the witnesses of her will are Kittitian names of the period. One of them was Anthony Sommersall who swore the affidavit of due execution of the will in Anguilla in 1754, after her death. Throughout our period Anguillians continued to maintain and develop relationships not only with St Kitts and Tortola but also

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<sup>16</sup> Anguilla Archives: Joan Richardson's 1753 Will.

with French St Martin and St Croix. The small-scale internationalist mindset these relationships fostered continues to affect the Anguillian psyche to this day.

### **The Bahamas**

We have seen in the earlier chapter on piracy that, towards the end of 1718, Governor Woodes Rogers of Nassau attempted to entice the Anguillians away to his colony.<sup>17</sup> In July 1719, there was talk in Anguilla of removing wholesale to the Bahamas. The drought was still severe and was not to break until about 1725. Numbers of small homesteaders were giving up and moving away from the island. As Governor Hamilton reported in his dispatch of 15 July 1719, there were about 1,700 people in Anguilla.<sup>18</sup> He described them as industrious and careful. He said he believed that they would be of excellent use if they could be settled on the other main islands of the Leewards. He also noted that there were over 100 effective fighting men amongst them, meaning they could prove very useful for the Leeward Islands militia in time of war, if they were not lost to far away islands. He regretted that, because of the delay in granting them land in the French part of St Kitts, they were now talking of removing to the Bahamas. He need not have been concerned. There is no evidence that any

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<sup>17</sup> Chapter 8: Pirates.

<sup>18</sup> CO.152/12/4: Hamilton to the Committee on 15 July 1719.

Anguillian families took up Governor Rogers' offer to relocate to the Bahamas.

### **Jamaica**

Jamaica was captured from Spain by Admiral William Penn and General Robert Venables in May 1655. Roughly 5,000 civilians and soldiers joined the fleet at Barbados and St Kitts. There may well have been some Anguillians among them, but there is no certainty. The following year, some 1,500 more departed from Nevis bound for Jamaica. Again, there may have been Anguillians amongst them. The governor of Jamaica was hungry for English settlers to develop the large areas of land that were available. The principal attraction of Jamaica was the offer of land. This was an opportunity to grow crops that could sustain a family to a greater extent than the precarious living offered by tobacco, cotton and the other minor staples available in Anguilla. Another incentive was the growth of the sugar boom in the Leeward Islands. Small farmers were squeezed out by the consolidation of small farms into sugar plantations. Many of these small land holders moved on to Jamaica or the mainland colonies in search of a better future.

In 1721, Governor Nicholas Lawes of Jamaica sent notices to Anguilla and others of the Virgin Islands promising land and offering encouragement to those that wished to emigrate. Hamilton in Antigua expressed his

annoyance at this attempt to poach his citizens to the Committee in London.<sup>19</sup> He wrote that he was struggling to keep up numbers in his colony as a protection from the French and Spanish forces. Governor Lawes, he complained, wrote a letter which was being handed about in a clandestine way in all parts of the Leeward Islands. The letter provided encouragement and offers of land to all persons who would come and settle on Jamaica. Lawes proposed to the people of Anguilla that if they moved with all their possessions to Jamaica, they would have much better land, a greater quantity of it, and be secure from the Spanish and other enemies. The result of Hamilton's complaint was a firm memorandum to Lawes from the Committee to the Treasury which was responsible for the capture of Jamaica.<sup>20</sup>

However, there is a suspicious dip in the population figures for Anguilla immediately after 1720.<sup>21</sup> In that year, Governor Hamilton recorded the population of Anguilla and the other Leeward Islands (see Illus 1).<sup>22</sup> There were in Anguilla, he reported, 133 white men, some 121 of them fit to bear arms. The other 13 were old or infirm. In addition, there were 164 white women, 251 white

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<sup>19</sup> CO.152/13: Hamilton to Popple on 19 May 1720.

<sup>20</sup> CO 153/14, folio 1: William Popple, Secretary to the Committee, to William Lowther, Secretary to the Treasury, on 2 August 1721.

<sup>21</sup> Chapter 18: Sugar Arrives.

<sup>22</sup> CO.152/13, folio 159: List of the inhabitants of the Leeward Islands on 18 July 1720.



children, and 879 black people. This adds up to 548 whites and 879 blacks or a total population of 1,427.

Four years later Governor Hart supplies the Committee for Trade and Foreign Plantations with another estimate of the population of the Leeward Islands (see illus 2).<sup>23</sup> This time, he gives the population of Anguilla as being 360 whites, of whom only 85 were fit for the militia, and 900 blacks, to a total of 1,260, down from 1,427 (see illus 3). This means that during the short period of 1720 to 1724, at the end of the forty-year drought, the population decreased from 1,427 to 1,260, or by over 150 persons. The evidence is that the harsh climatic conditions were forcing Anguillians to leave for other colonies with better prospects. The periodic emptying of the island in times of severe stress continues to the present day to be part of the dynamic that affects Anguillians. The early twentieth century saw hundreds of young people leaving for Cuba and the Dominican Republic to find desperately needed work in the cane fields. The oil refineries of Trinidad, Aruba and Curacao mopped up scores of otherwise unemployed young men. During the Second World War hundreds more were lured to the USA by offers of citizenship on joining the armed forces, helping to establish Perth Amboy, New Jersey, as the US capital of Anguilla. Hundreds more left after the

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<sup>23</sup> CO.152/14, folio 325: Hart to the Committee on 10 July 1724, [Answers to Queries](#).

war for the United Kingdom mainly settling in Slough, Bucks, as part of the Windrush Generation called on to work the factories that were short of local labour.

*List of the Inhabitants in the Leeward Islands with the number of persons in free and in serv. condition that are therein the 18 day of July 1720*

	Free Persons				Servants				Total	Total
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Boys	Girls		
St. Christopher	245	324	620	575	123	54	28	15	785	7021
St. John	331	420	200	312	33	18	10	4	378	5680
St. Vincent	480	492	295	220	21	10	9	12	444	3772
Antigua	730	819	744	632	171	143	45	28	1109	12186
Anguilla	133	104	112	120	—	—	—	—	121	879
Spanish Town	32	50	30	102	—	—	—	—	88	364
St. Kitts	39	48	61	56	—	—	—	—	52	266
<b>Total</b>	<b>2407</b>	<b>2720</b>	<b>2134</b>	<b>2150</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>

1. Hamilton: List of the inhabitants of the Leeward Islands on 18 July 1720. (UK National Archives®)

The Anguillians of the 1720s and 30s moved in their sloops and schooners freely to and from the others of the Virgin Islands, not caring whether they were British, Dutch or Danish. This is evidenced by the frequent complaints from Antigua to London about them both settling in, and illegally trading with, the neighbouring Dutch and Danish islands.

Answer The Number of the Inhabitants White and Black  
in the Several Islands according to the Nearest  
Computation (viz)

	White	Black
St. Antigua	5200	10800
St. Christopher	4000	11500
Nevis	1100	6000
Mountserrat	1000	4400
Anguilla	360	900
Spanish Town	340	650
St. Iola	420	780
	<u>12420</u>	<u>44030</u>

2. Hart to the Committee on 10 July 1724. CO.152/14. (UK National Archives®)

The preferred destinations of emigrating Anguillians continued to be French St Martin and Danish St Croix. We will look at the Anguillian settlement of St Croix in a later chapter.<sup>24</sup> As for Governor Lawes' invitation, there is no record of any of them moving to Jamaica.

<sup>24</sup> See Chapter 15: The Settlement of St Croix.

	White Men
St. Antigua . . . . .	1400
St. Christophers . . . . .	1200
Nevis . . . . .	300
Mountserrat . . . . .	350
Anguilla . . . . .	85
Spanish Town . . . . .	78
Tortola . . . . .	100
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	3513

3. Governor Hamilton's estimate of the militia of the Leeward Islands in 1724. CO.152/14. (UK National Archives®)

### **British Guiana**

In the Anguilla of today, there is no oral history or other recollection of any of the attempts described above to relocate our ancestors to Antigua, St Kitts or the Bahamas as described above. There is no folklore about Crab Island, or the settlement of St Croix and Tortola. There is, however, an altogether fictitious story that is regularly heard on the radio, and at gatherings of Anguillians who discuss Anguilla's struggle to become self-sufficient and self-governing. That story is the supposed epic tale of the refusal of our ancestral Anguillians, newly freed from slavery in 1834, to be forcibly removed against their will by the British Government from Anguilla and 'deported' to the new

colony of British Guiana. We are assured of this fact by persons who appear to know that the colonial authorities put pressure on our forefathers to settle Guiana. They were told they must leave the drought-stricken and infertile land of Anguilla and emigrate to the lush and welcoming fields of Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo. However, so the story goes, the stalwart Anguillians stoutly resisted, refused to be moved, and clung patriotically to their beloved 'Rock'. As a result, we are informed, the British were blocked in their plan to strip Anguilla of its black 'indigenous' inhabitants and to repopulate the island with the white unemployed and homeless of Britain.

As usual, this myth springs from a genuine historical event. The records show that, after the Apprenticeship Period ended slavery in Anguilla in 1838, some three boatloads of newly freed Anguillians boarded ships and sailed to British Guiana. The correspondence between Sir William Colebrooke, Governor of the Leeward Islands, and Lord John Russell, the Secretary of State in London, reveals that Anguillians were lured by promises of free land, to be given to them if they would help to populate the supposedly uninhabited interior of Guiana.<sup>25</sup> Far from

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<sup>25</sup> CO.239/56, Despatch No 61/71 of 28 November 1838. Sir William Colebrooke, Governor of the Leeward Islands, to Lord John Russel, Secretary of State.  
CO.239/55, Despatch No 40/2040 of 10 July 1839: Colebrooke to Lord Russel.  
CO.239/59, Despatch No 34/1620 of 15 July 1840: Colebrooke to Lord Russel.  
CO.239/59, Despatch No 35/1624 of 18 July 1840: Colebrooke to Lord Russel.

encouraging the Anguillians to leave their island, the colonial government was concerned at the Guianese attempt to rob the Leeward Islands of much needed, newly-freed labour. Any mass-emigration of the Anguillians to any far-away land would deprive the Leeward Islands of a supply of men who could be enlisted into the militia in time of war. The correspondence shows Governor in Antigua begging the Secretary of State to register a protest with the Governor of British Guiana, and to demand that he stop stealing Leeward Islands citizens.

And so it was with much relief that, some three years after they departed, the majority of the emigrated Anguillians returned to their island, disenchanted with the snake-infested conditions they met in the jungles of Guiana.

None of the official efforts by the Governor in Antigua to move the Anguillians to Antigua or to St Kitts succeeded. The attempts by the Governors of Jamaica and the Bahamas to lure away the Anguillians to their colonies came to nothing. The initiatives to emigrate *en masse* to St Croix, Tortola, Crab Island and Guiana came from the Anguillians themselves. Other than St Croix and Tortola, most of these efforts at bettering themselves were frustrated. The result was that the Anguillians in main part remained clinging to the Rock.