



# 60% Scottish Origin

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# The First Scots in Jamaica



Oliver Cromwell

**The Scottish connection with Jamaica dates from 1656 when Oliver Cromwell banished 1,200 Scots prisoners-of-war to the island. They worked as indentured servants. Scotland also exiled criminals and Covenanters to Jamaica. Others who came included refugees from the failed colony at Darien and Jacobite rebels.**

3,500 prisoners were taken after the Battle of Culloden in 1745 of whom 936 were sentenced to exile for life in the Americas. There are records of three ships sailing to Jamaica and Barbados with 254 prisoners. It is significant that one of the places in Jamaica with a Scottish name is Culloden.

*Cromwell*

Curiously, it is just possible that a Jamaican may have fought at Culloden. An 18th century tapestry of the battle features a mysterious figure of African descent. It is thought that he may have been the Jamaican servant of a General McNaughton.



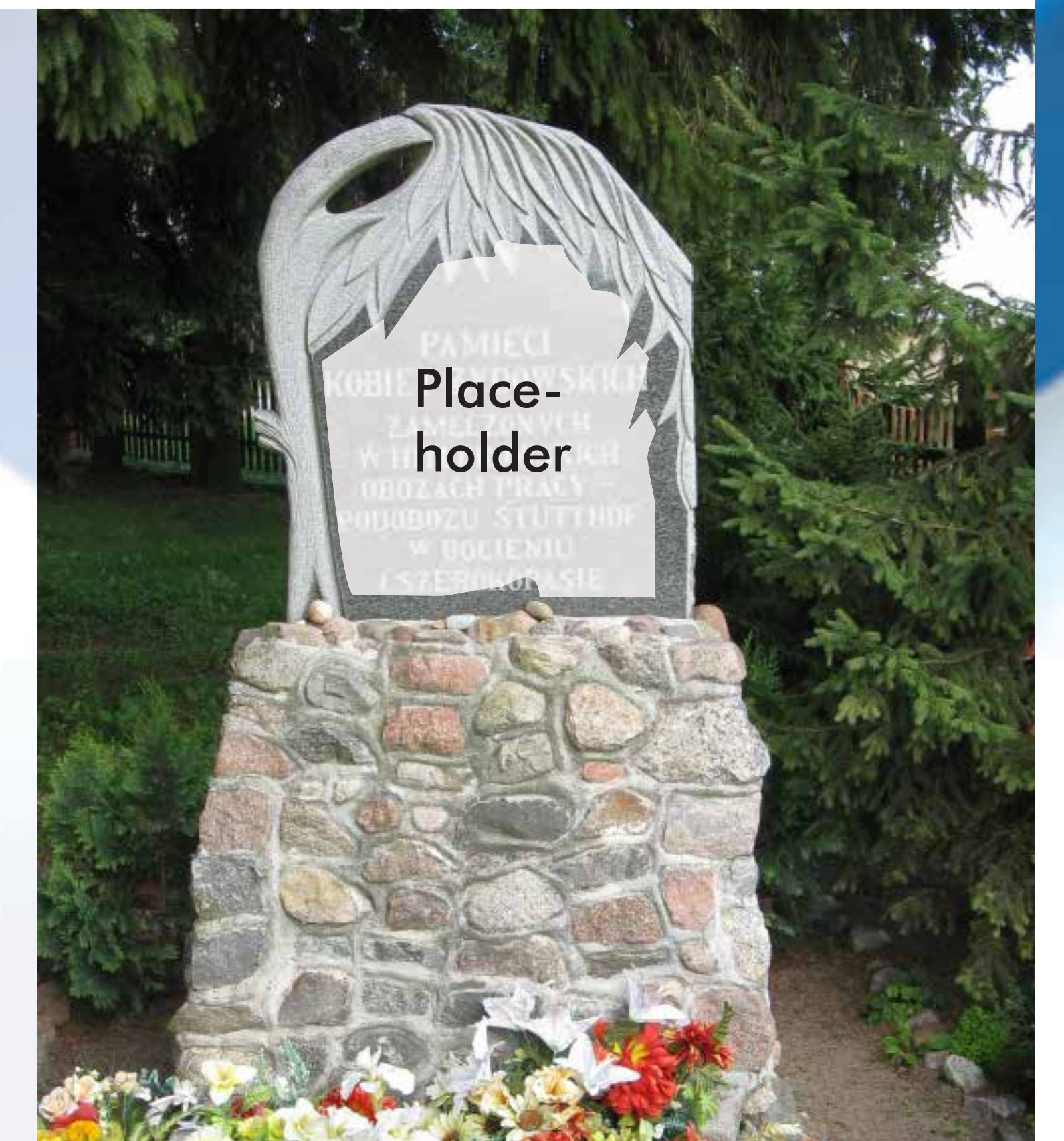
## The Campbells of Jamaica

Campbell is the most common surname in Jamaica and it is said that there are more Campbells per square acre in Jamaica than in Scotland!

It is thought that the first Campbell in Jamaica may have been Colonel John Campbell. He was born in Inverary in Argyllshire in 1673. He took part in the failed experiment to start a Scottish colony at Darien, Panama in 1698, but rather than return to Scotland he decided to settle in 1700 in Jamaica in St. Elizabeth parish. Eventually he set up a sugar plantation at Black River. He later encouraged his nephews to come out as planters to benefit from his initiatives. When he died in 1740, he was buried in St Elizabeth and the inscription on his tomb reads as follows:



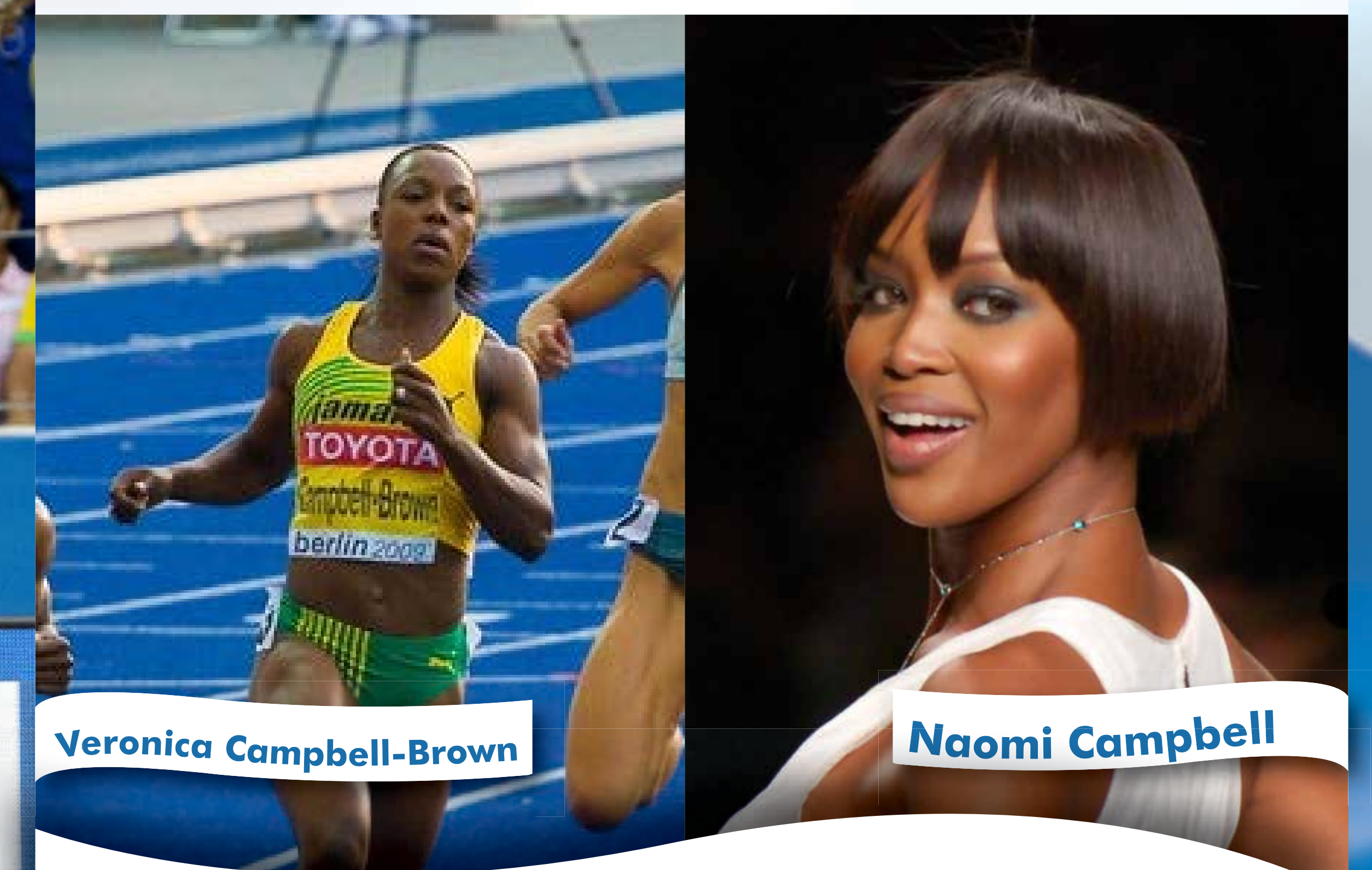
Here lies the Hon. John Campbell, born at Inverary, Argyllshire, North Britain, and descended of the Ancient family of Auchencrook, when a youth he served several campaigns in Flanders. He went as Captain of the Troops sent to Darien and on his return to this Island, in 1700, he married the daughter of Col. Claiborne by whom he had several children. In 1718 he married Elizabeth (now alive) relict of Col. Gomes. He was for many years Member of the Assembly, Colonel and Custos of St Elizabeth. In 1722 he was made one of the Privy Council. He was the first Campbell who settled in this Island, and thro' his extream generosity and assistance, many are now possessed of opulent fortunes. His temperance and great humanity have always been very remarkable. He died January 29, 1740. Aged 66 years. Universally lamented.



Notable Campbells who may be descended from him include the fashion model Naomi Campbell, the sprinter Veronica Campbell-Brown and Costa Rica's football hero Joel Campbell. Many Jamaicans went to Costa Rica to help build railways in the nineteenth century.



Joel Campbell



Veronica Campbell-Brown

Naomi Campbell



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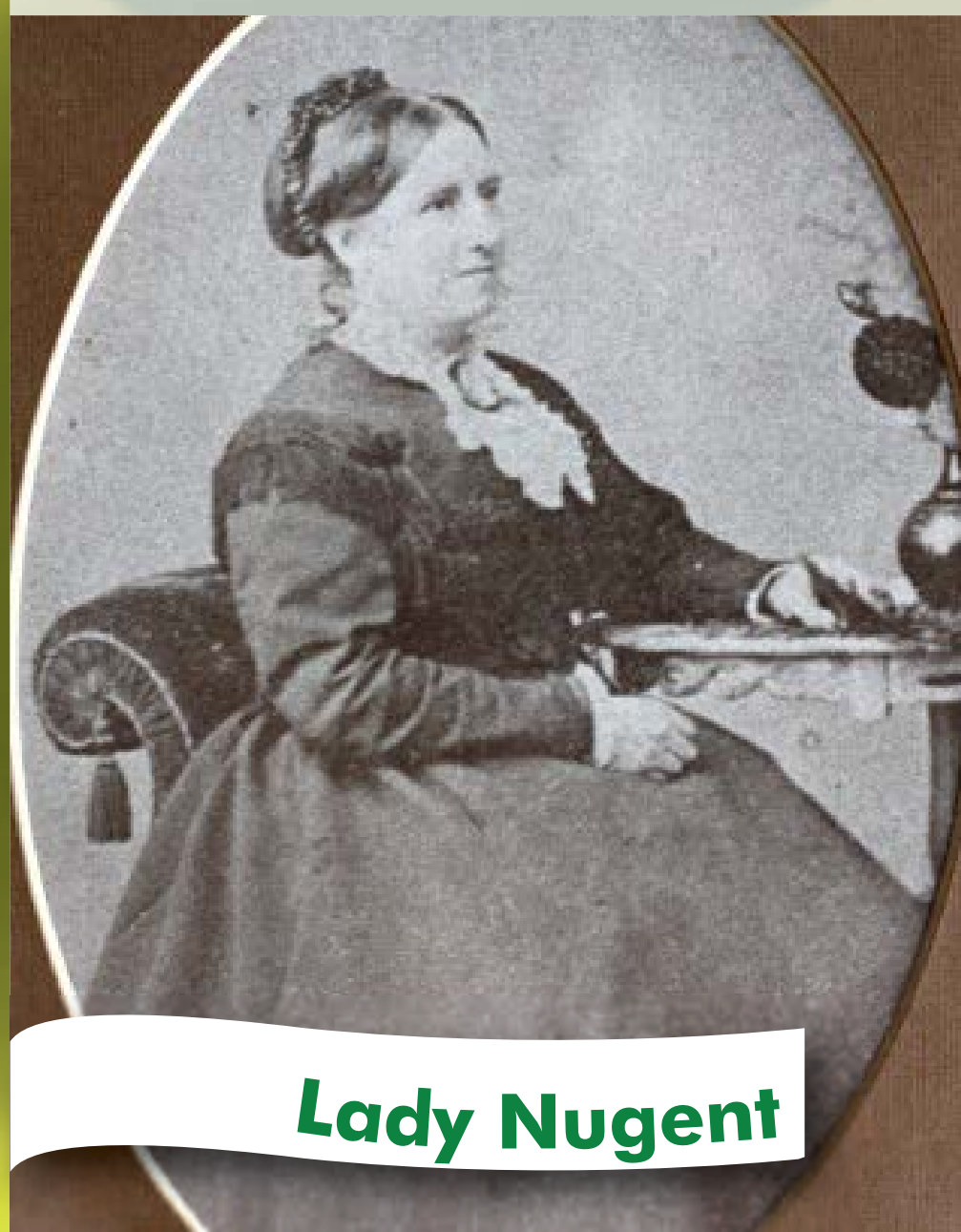
SOURCES: Senior, O.(2003). The Encyclopedia of the Jamaican Heritage. Kingston: Twin Guinea Publishers, Sherlock, P and Bennett, H. (1998). The Story of the Jamaican people. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers.





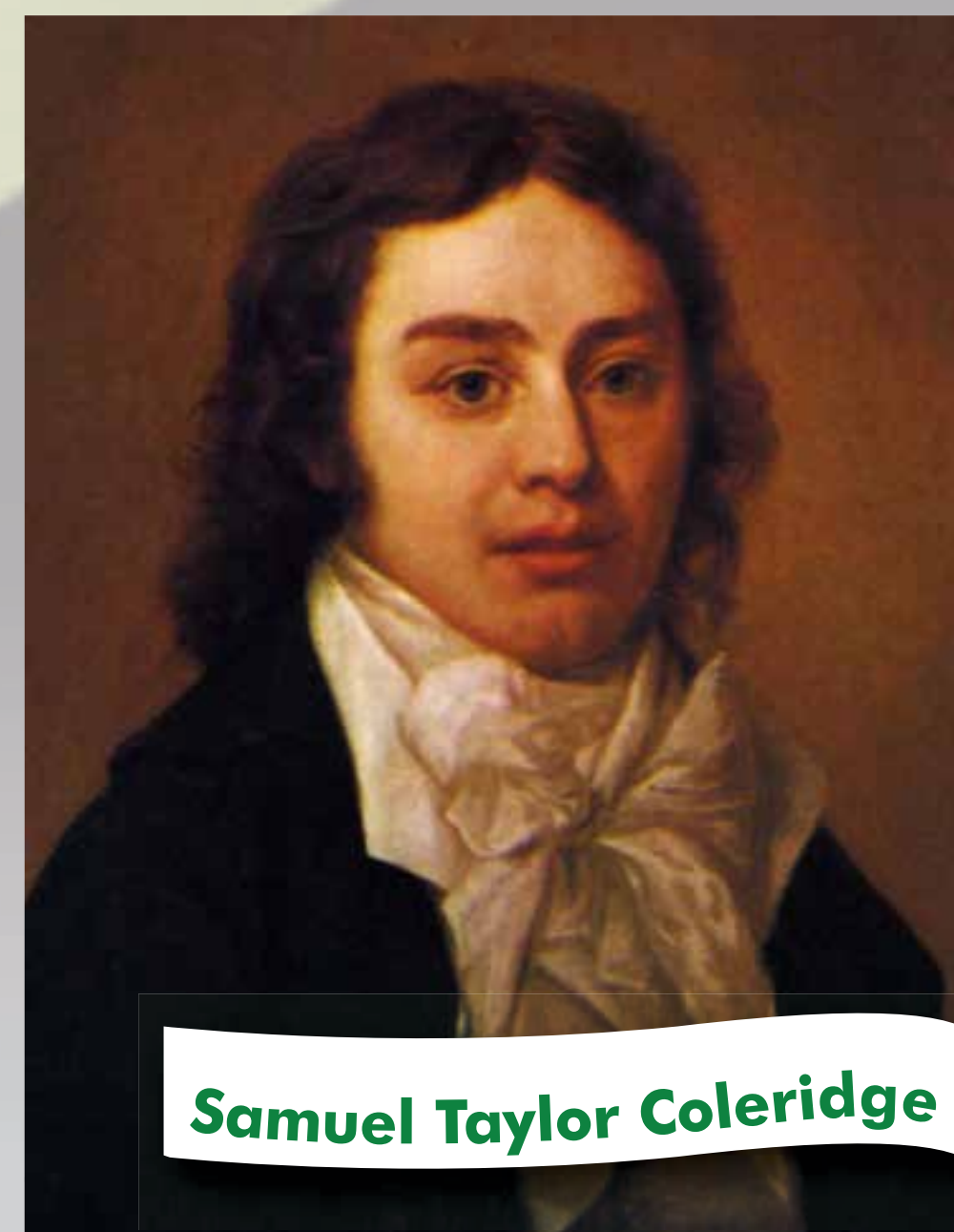
# Scottish Involvement in the Slave Trade

Scotland played a huge part in Jamaica's slavery-driven economy. During the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the Scottish economy grew from one of the weakest in Europe to becoming one of the most powerful. A large number of plantation owners and overseers in Jamaica were from Scotland as well as being involved in a variety of other occupations.



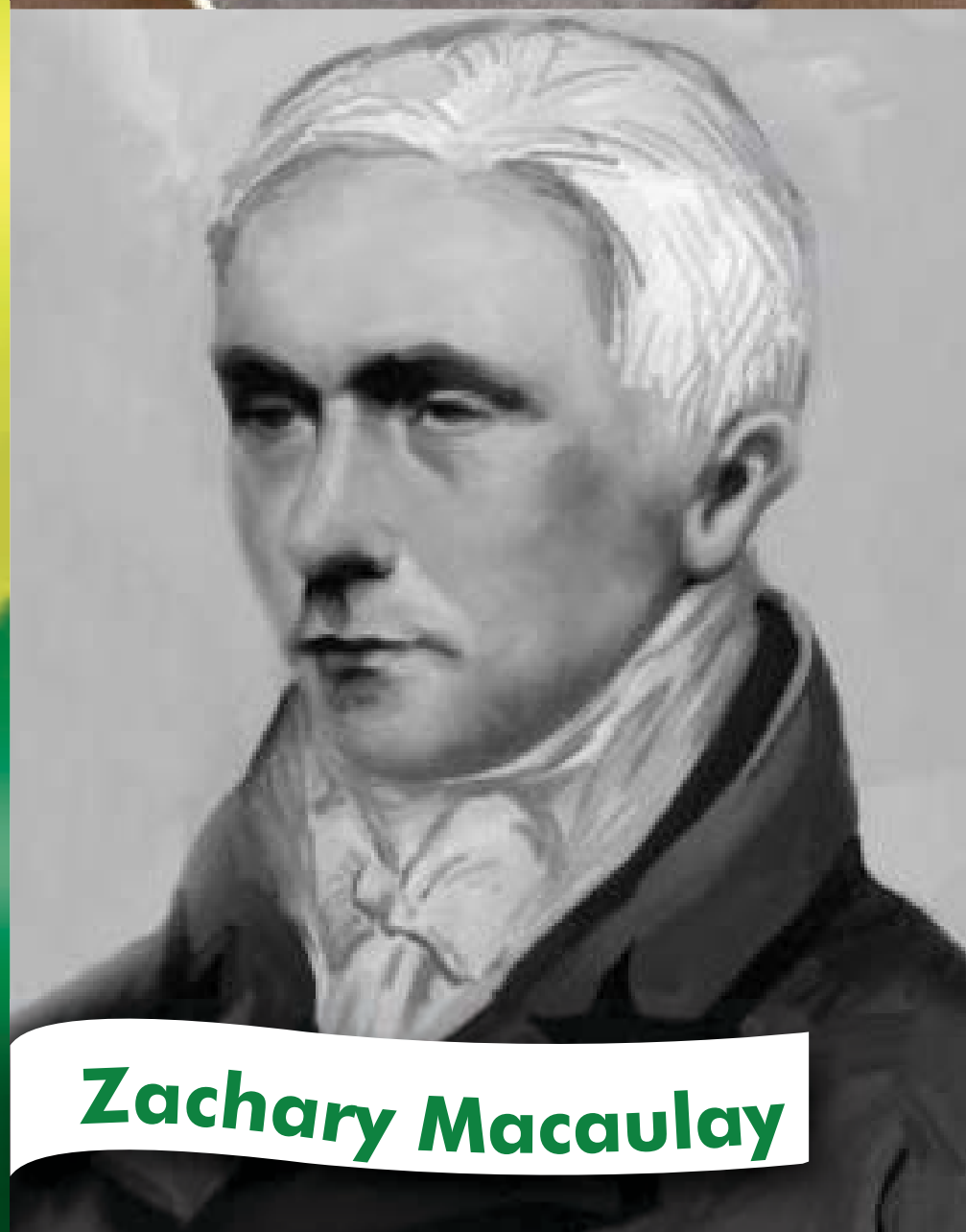
Lady Nugent

"Almost all the agents, attornies, merchants and shop-keepers, are of that country [Scotland] and really do deserve to thrive in this, they are so industrious." Lady Nugent during her visit to Jamaica in 1801.



Samuel Taylor Coleridge

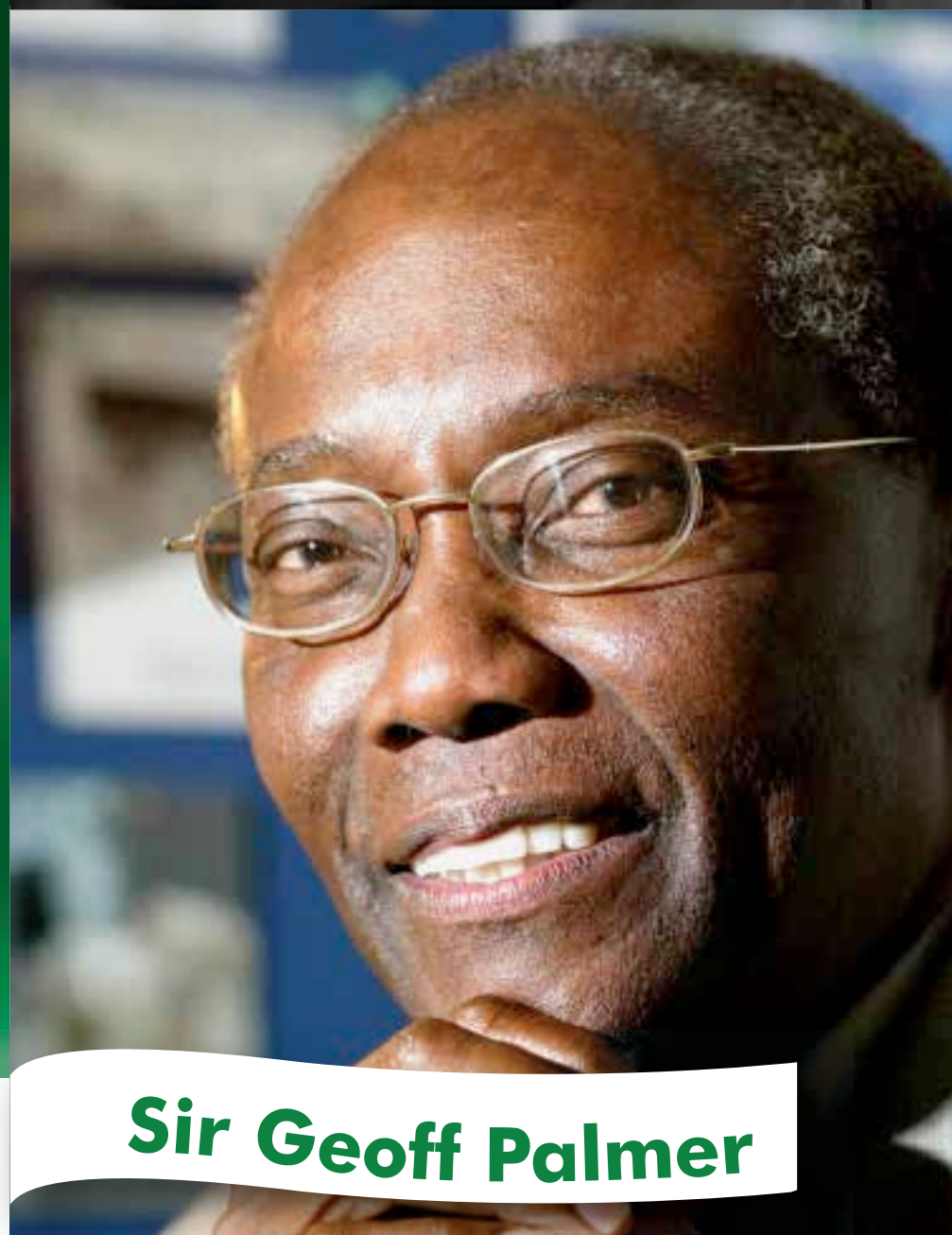
"Of the overseers of the slave plantations in the West Indies three out of four are Scotsmen and the fourth is generally observed to have very suspicious cheekbones." Samuel Taylor Coleridge in 1812



Zachary Macaulay

Zachary Macaulay, who later campaigned against slavery went to Jamaica when he was 16. He wrote that, at first, he was shocked at the plight of the enslaved people - but then became 'callous and indifferent'. He worked as an assistant manager on a plantation and wrote home that '...no sooner than a person sets foot on (this island) than his former ways of thinking are entirely changed...'

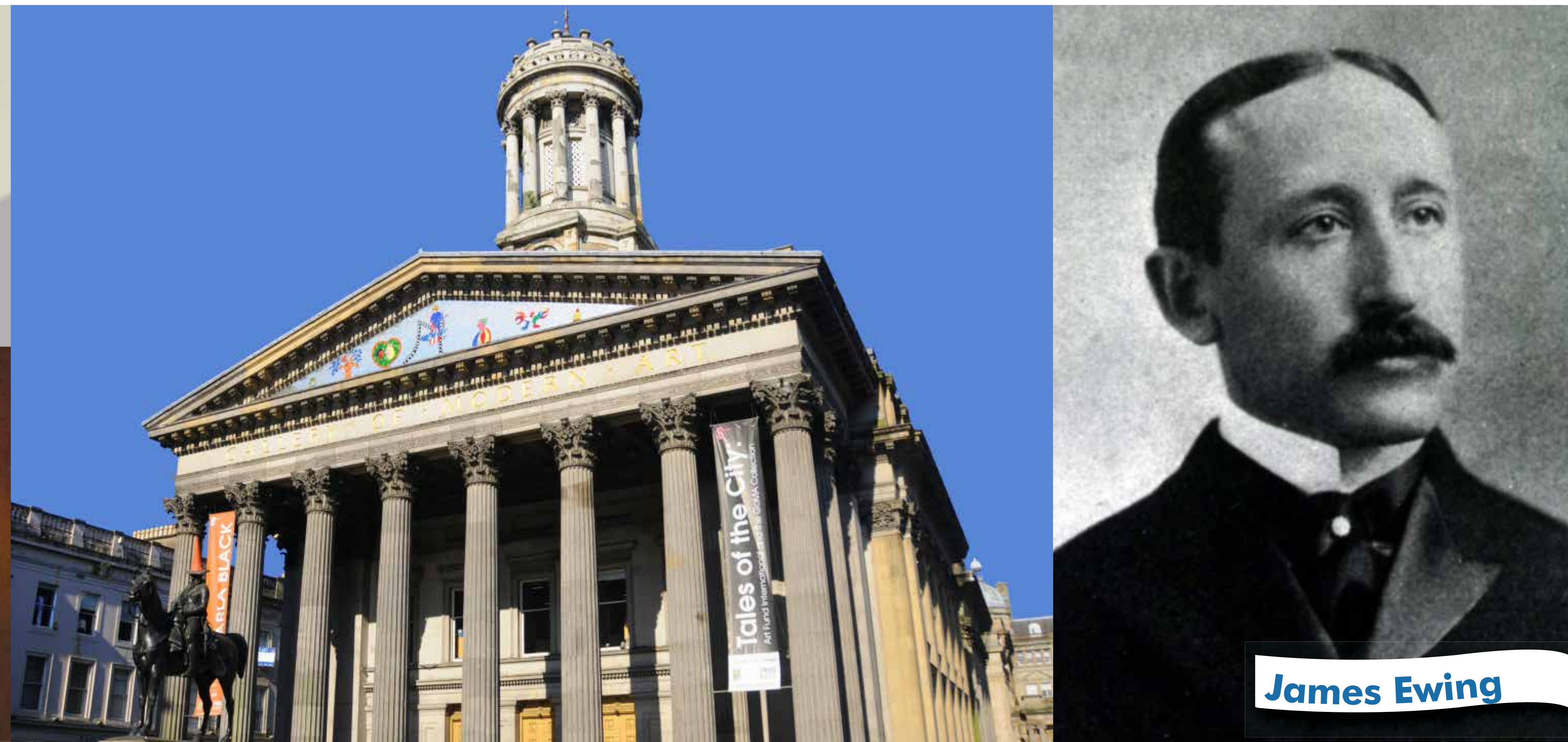
The Scottish slave owners whose surnames live on in Jamaica today include John Newland, James Wedderburn, David Lyon, Robert McGhie of Trelawney and Rev Alexander Whyte.



Sir Geoff Palmer

"I think a lot of Jamaicans want to know about their Scottish heritage. Perhaps they can even take some pride in it. For a while there was a movement towards dropping these names, but I think that would be to lose something real, a real record of our history in favour of a made-up African name. Personally, I would rather have an honest truth than some false pride."

Sir Geoff Palmer - Jamaican Professor at Herriott-Watt University Edinburgh



James Ewing

## Jamaica and Glasgow

Glasgow was a major importer of slave produced sugar (mostly from Jamaica) from as early as 1650 and until after slavery was abolished in 1838 - the sugar sheds in Greenock still exist today. James Ewing who was Lord Provost and Glasgow's first MP made a huge fortune through his involvement in the sugar trade. He owned the largest plantation in Jamaica. Linen manufacture from slave produced cotton was a key element in Scotland's economic growth and the largest firms were in Glasgow and the surrounding area. More than half of Scotland's linen was exported to clothe both the slaves and their owners in the Caribbean. Glasgow in particular has monuments, edifices and street names that honour those who participated in the slave trade.



To find out more about 'Scottish Involvement in the Slave Trade', or the Flag up project simply scan the QR code or visit

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# Where did the Money Come From?

A number of places in Scotland have links with slavery in Jamaica. Few people know about these links. Here are just four examples...



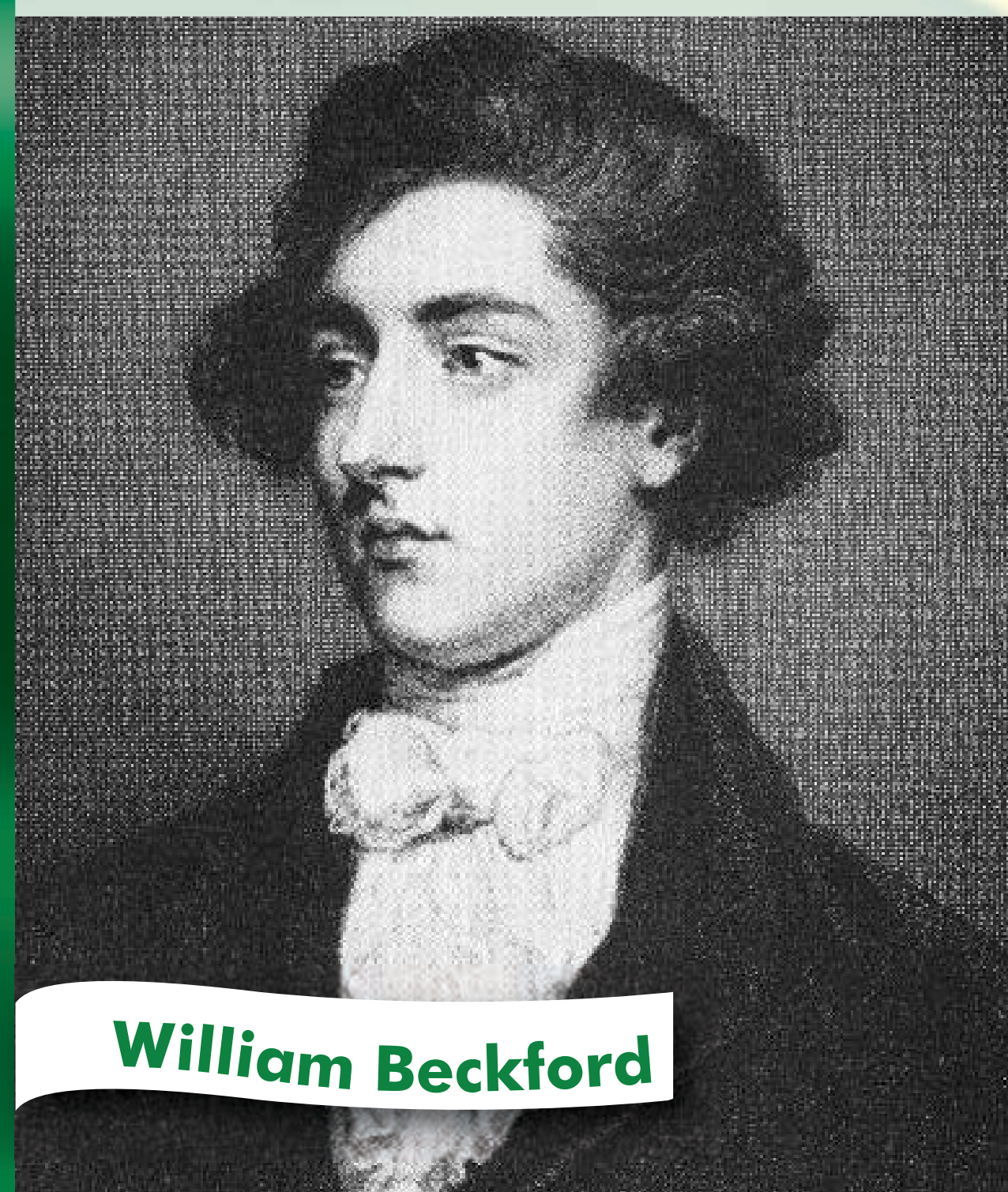
## Inveresk Lodge

This property is now privately leased, but the adjacent Inveresk Lodge Garden belongs to the National Trust for Scotland, and its west facing gardens overlooking the river Esk are open to the public.



This was formerly the mansion of James Wedderburn who had made his fortune as a slave-owning sugar plantation owner in Jamaica. He had several children by different slave women. When his son by one of his slaves, Robert Wedderburn (1762-1835), travelled to Inveresk to claim his kinship he was insultingly rejected by his father who gave him some small beer and a broken or bent sixpence. This experience turned Robert Wedderburn to radicalism.

## Brodick Castle, Isle of Arran:



William Beckford

The famous Beckford Collection of furniture, silver and china displayed at Brodick Castle, once belonged to slave owner William Beckford. He inherited a vast fortune made from Jamaican sugar plantations which he never visited. In 1810, his daughter Susan Beckford married the 10th Duke of Hamilton. They lived mainly at Hamilton Palace in Lanarkshire but also stayed at their other home, Brodick Castle.

Susan's grandfather, William 'Sugar Cane' Beckford (1709-70), was born in Jamaica and lived in Britain – and was reputed to be Britain's first millionaire. He owned 22,000 acres in Jamaica.



## Dollar Academy

John McNabb was originally a poor boy from the parish of Dollar. He made his fortune at sea and became a rich London merchant. He is known to have sent out 4 ships called Friendship, Maria, Pitt and Struggler which acquired a total of 348 slaves in Senegambia and the Gold Coast and three of these ships went to Jamaica. Dollar Academy was founded through a bequest from his Will. The interests on his legacy, of some £40,000 on his death in 1802, was to be used for the provision of "a charity or school for the poor of the parish of Dollar wher I was born".



## Bathgate Academy

Another Scottish school with a Jamaican link is Bathgate Academy. Its founder John Newland is a man of whom little is known. He made his wealth as a plantation owner in Jamaica in the 1750's. In his will, dated 1799, he left a considerable sum (£14,500) to establish an academy in Bathgate. After much legal wrangling the trustees created a number of 'little schools' several in Bathgate and one in Armadale; the Academy itself being completed in 1833. Every year on the first Saturday of June there is a John Newland Festival in Bathgate but few participants are aware that the town's benefactor was involved in the slave trade.



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# Tartan Jamaica

## Jamaican Dance - the Scottish Influence



These Jamaicans are dancing the quadrille and the Scottish influence is strong. The dance includes a remnant of the figure of Scottish folk dancing known as the poussette. Here, two sets of partners, each with hands joined, change places with each other, and with other couples in turn, one couple moving first down the line with a balancing step and the other moving forward up the line. Other figures are circular join-handed-figures, reminiscent of Scottish reels. The Cascade Quadrille Group, from Hanover on the western part of the island, are well known.

## A Tartan School Uniform

One of the founders of Meadowbrook High School in Kingston was Rev William McGhie the Glaswegian who helped design the Jamaican flag. It was he who chose the Black Watch tartan which is part of the school uniform.

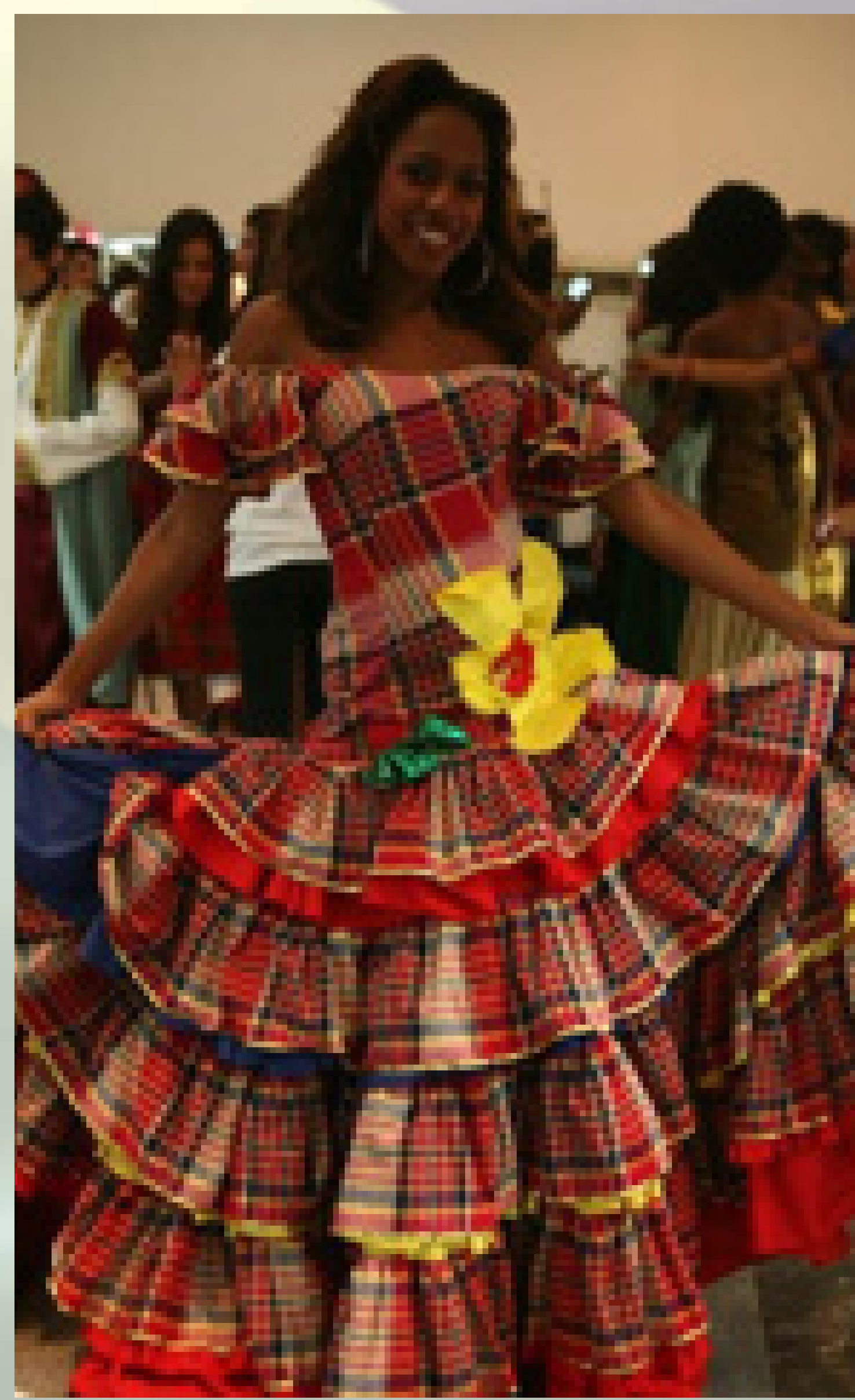


*Pupils at Meadowbrook High School in Kingston*

## National Costume

When you take a look at the Jamaican National Dress you will notice more than a hint of Scotland about it!

The costume includes vibrant reds and yellows and a plaid like design. This red and white chequered costume is often called the Bandana costume which is a mixture of African Kente and Scottish tartan. The traditional costume is shown on the left, while the flamboyant adaptation is shown by a recent Miss Jamaica.



## Slavery link

It is not surprising that some Scottish plantation owners wanted their slaves to wear Tartan.

In 1766, James Stirling of Keir considered making his slaves wear tartan as "it will help encourage our woollen manufactory."

Another account suggests that brightly coloured tartan shawls were popular with the slave owners of the late eighteenth century, because slaves wearing the shawls could easily be seen if they ever ran away

The correspondence files of Wilson's of Bannockburn contain a letter from Jamaica which says: 'Please send 200 yards of Lindsay to the enclosed pattern. As it is for Negro wear it must be low price, not above one shilling a yard if you can.'

## The Jamaican Tartan



Here are two examples of the Jamaican tartan using the colours of the Jamaican flag



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# William McGhie and the Jamaican Flag



**Why is it that the iconic Jamaican flag is the only national flag apart from that of Scotland that includes the saltire or St Andrew's Cross? The answer to that question is a fascinating story that has provided the inspiration for a new project called Flag Up Scotland Jamaica.**

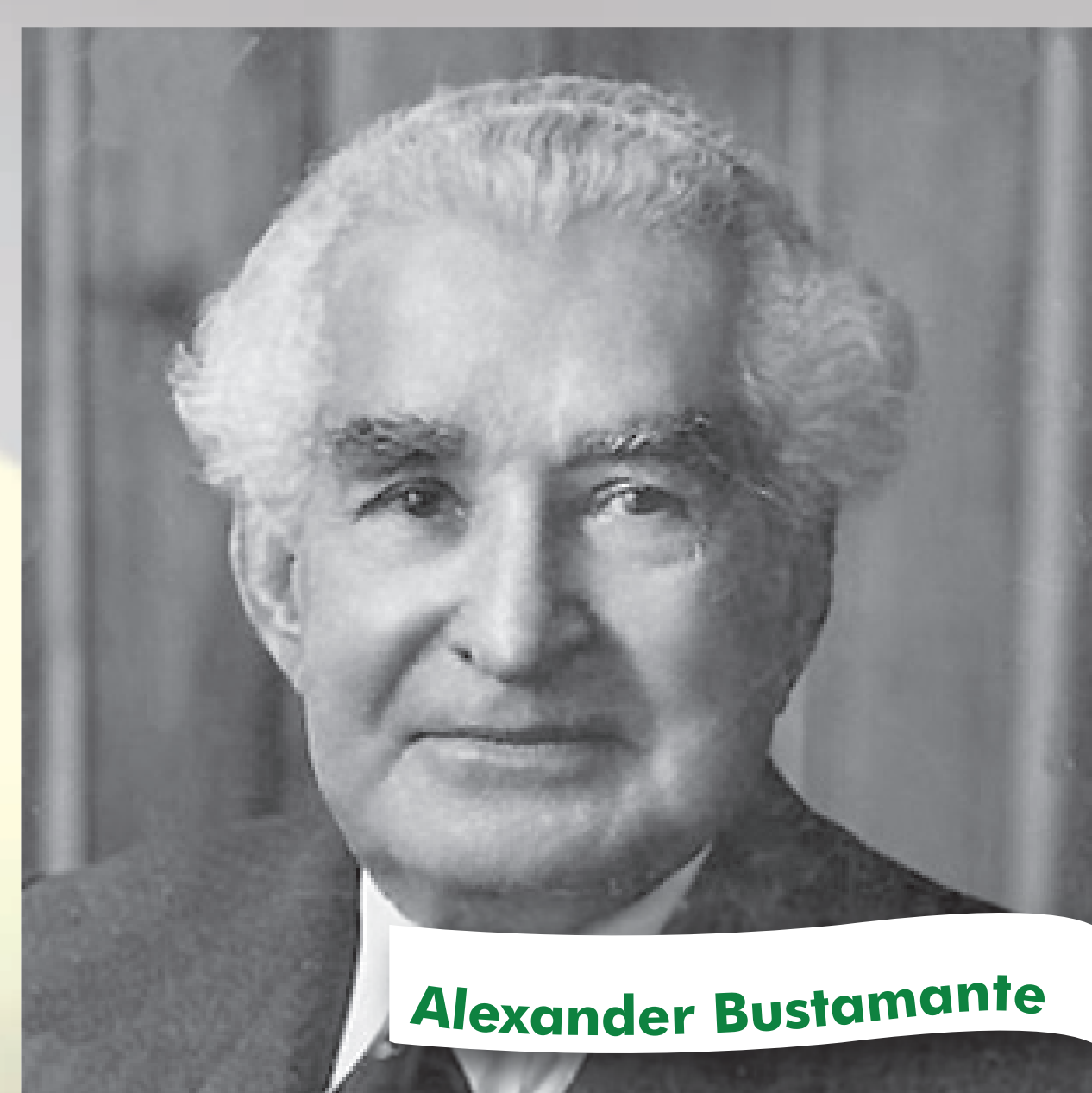
As the time of independence in 1962 approached, an initial design for the flag with three horizontal stripes in green, black and gold was deemed unsatisfactory. Rev William McGhie, a Presbyterian missionary from Scotland had become a friend of the Prime Minister Alexander Bustamante and it was after a conversation with him about the flag that suggested that he drew his design based on the Scottish flag. This design was further developed and approved. The Jamaican flag has become one of the best known in the world.



**William McGhie**

Here is more detail about the circumstances of the design of the flag from William McGhie's son John...

"I can vouch for the validity of the origin of the Jamaican Flag. My father Rev William R.F. McGhie, was a Church of Scotland minister who in 1957 went out to Jamaica to work as a missionary. As the date of independence was fast approaching there was an urgent need for a new design for the national flag as the current suggested design was too similar to that of Tanganyika (now Tanzania.) This prompted my father to draw out the Scottish saltire and replace the blue and white with the Jamaican colours of green, black and gold. He passed this design over to Sir Alexander Bustamante, explaining that as a Christian country he felt it was important there should be a cross in the design. Sir Alexander took the design to the appropriate committee and won their approval to have this design adopted as the national flag of Jamaica."



**Alexander Bustamante**

2014 is William McGhie's centenary. He was born at 539 Edinburgh Road Camlachie in Glasgow on November 23rd 1914. He was brought up in Shettleston and Tollcross and attended Eastbank Academy.



**5th year pupils at Meadowbrook High School in 1958 with William McGhie in front row and son Rob in back row.**

William McGhie was also a founder in 1958 of Meadowbrook High School in Kingston Jamaica. As he was setting up the school, McGhie wrote to Eastbank Academy to seek permission to use the same motto ("Let your light shine") and badge for the new school and permission was granted. A partnership between the two schools is now being developed. It is hoped that this will be a model for other school partnerships between Scotland and Jamaica in future.



Flag Up Scotland Jamaica uses this story of Jamaican/Scottish cooperation as a basis for flagging up the existing links between the two nations. It will seek innovative ways to develop a closer partnership which will benefit both nations.

## Aims of Flag Up Scotland Jamaica

1. To inform and educate people in Scotland and Jamaica about the significant links between the two nations.
2. To strengthen the links between Scotland and Jamaica through a variety of creative partnerships and twinnings.
3. To encourage the people of Scotland and Jamaica to actively seek the wellbeing and prosperity of both nations.

## We will endeavour to realise these three aims in the following ways:

### 1. Education

Setting up an informative website, producing leaflets, use of mass media, speaking engagements, supporting those who want to research more about the historical links between the nations.

### 2. Partnerships

Initiating same name town and village twinnings, schools and church partnerships. Establishing a homestay programme whereby Jamaicans with Scottish surnames stay with their counterparts in Scotland.

### 3. Prosperity

Campaigning for the Scottish Government to recognise the nation's debt to Jamaica and to establish a special relationship. Seeking ways to increase tourism and trade between the nations.



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