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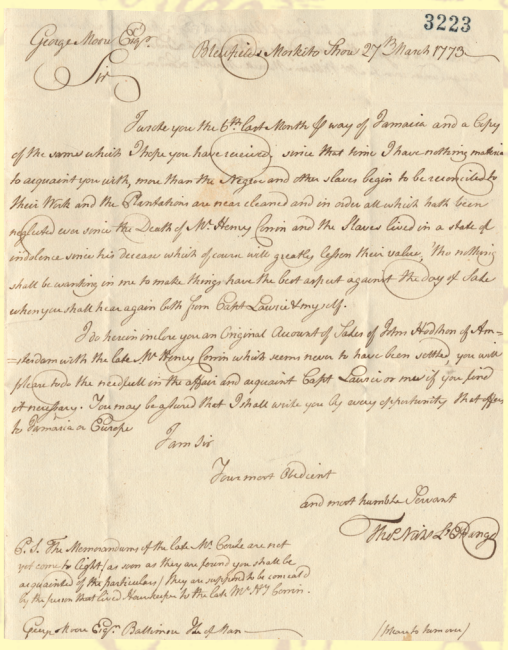
The Americas Connection

The slaves were sold to plantations in North America, Central America and the West Indies.

Henry Corrin & Charles Cowle

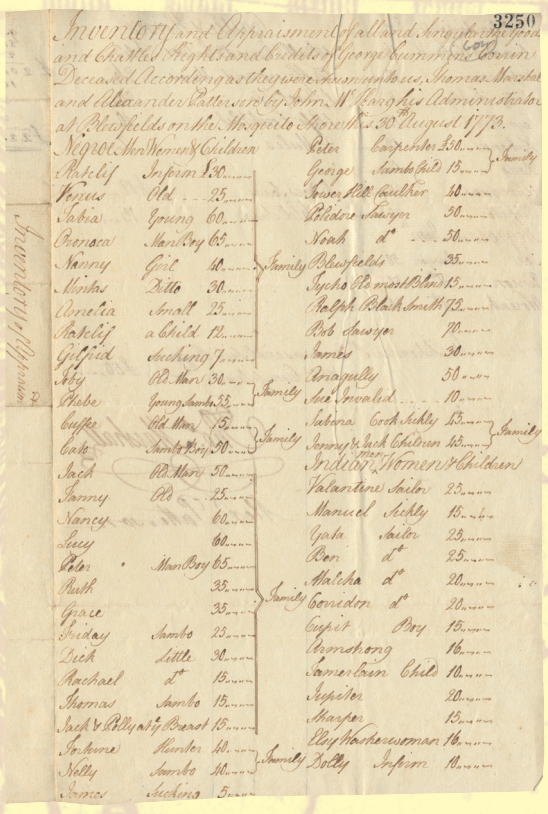
Corrin and Cowle, both originally from Peel, owned property on the Mosquito Shore (Nicaragua), including the Blewfields coffee plantation. When Corrin died in 1771, his share of the plantation passed to his youngest nephew, Robert Cummins. George Moore was appointed his guardian and attempted to discover the true value of the property. Unfortunately several people had pillaged the plantation, including Cowle who died in 1772. Moore appointed an overseer.



This letter dated 27 March 1773 provided George Moore with news from the plantation.

By March 1773 the situation had improved and the overseer reported *the Negroe and other slaves begin to be reconciled to their Work.* About midnight on 4 April nearly all the slaves ran away. The overseer persuaded them to return.

The Indian slaves included on the inventory below had been captured by the local Mosquito Indians and sold to the white people – in much the same way as the Negro slaves had been sold on the African coast.



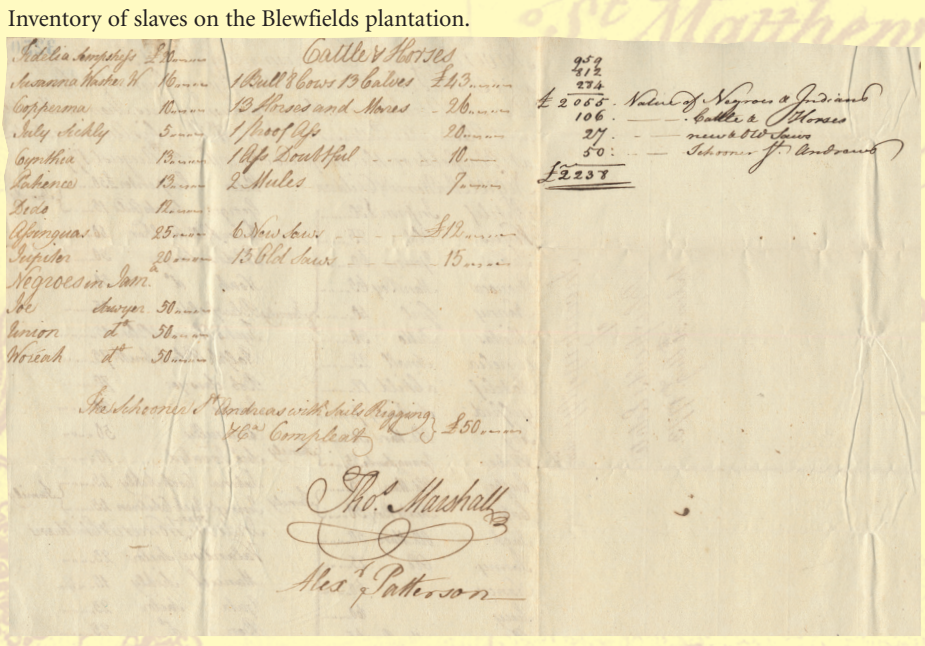
Thomas Corlett

Born at Ballaugh, Corlett was a ship captain in the West India trade before he settled in Kingston, Jamaica. When he died there, his slaves were sold, together with his other belongings. His will instructed that after one bequest the remaining money was to be sent home: £300 to the churchwardens of Ballaugh for the use of the poor and the balance to his brothers, sisters and aunt.

The memorial stone in Ballaugh Old Churchyard reads *To the memory of Thomas Corlet Mariner son of William Corlet and Ellin Cry of Balla Cry in this Parish who dyed in Jamaica in the year 1755 and out of his love for the poor of this Parish, where he was born, willed to them the yearly interest of the sum of 300 English for ever: and the rest of his goods to his nearest relations, this monument of him is by them set up in this place.*

The churchwardens only received £100 which in 1782 they invested in a parcel of meadowland in Jurby, hoping that this would produce an income. In 1783 the parishioners criticised the churchwardens for having misapplied the money. The Ecclesiastical Court concluded that even though it had not been a good purchase, *the wardens acted honestly and conscientiously according to the best of their judgement.*

Inventory of slaves on the Blewfields plantation.



Details from 1714 map.