## BITTERSWEET

## A STORY OF FOUR SUGAR PLANTATIONS

## THE PLANTATIONS



When tea drinking became popular, sugar was an essential ingredient. Originating in the Old World tropics, sugar cane was taken to America by Columbus. It thrived in the West Indies, where plantation owners could make vast profits.

Growing and processing the sugar required a large labour force. White labour suffered from the climate and disease.

Africa could provide labour in the form of slaves.

Add together Jamaica's productive land, British capital and management and African labour and we have the <u>potential</u> for profit-making, which is behind the story of *Bittersweet*.

The FitzHerbert family has owned Tissington Hall in Derbyshire since the 17th century.

In 1777 William FitzHerbert married Sarah Perrin in London.

The Perrin family owned plantations in Jamaica.

When Sarah inherited these plantations they were managed from Tissington Hall.

The sugar plantations included:

Forrest Plantation (about 1,160 acres) in Westmoreland Parish.

Vere Plantation (333 acres) in Vere Parish at the southern end of Clarendon on the map and including Portland.

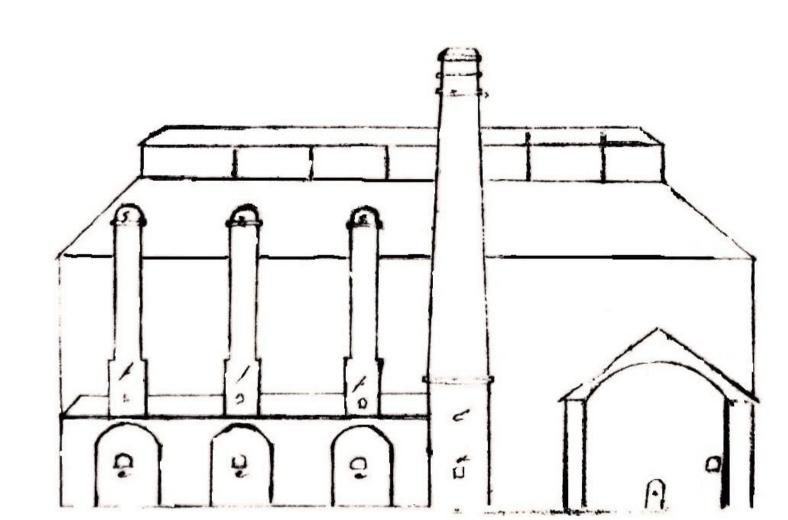
Blue Mountain Plantation (about 1,165 acres) in St Thomas-in-the East Parish, which included Morant Bay.

Grange Hill Plantation near Manchioneal, in Portland Parish.

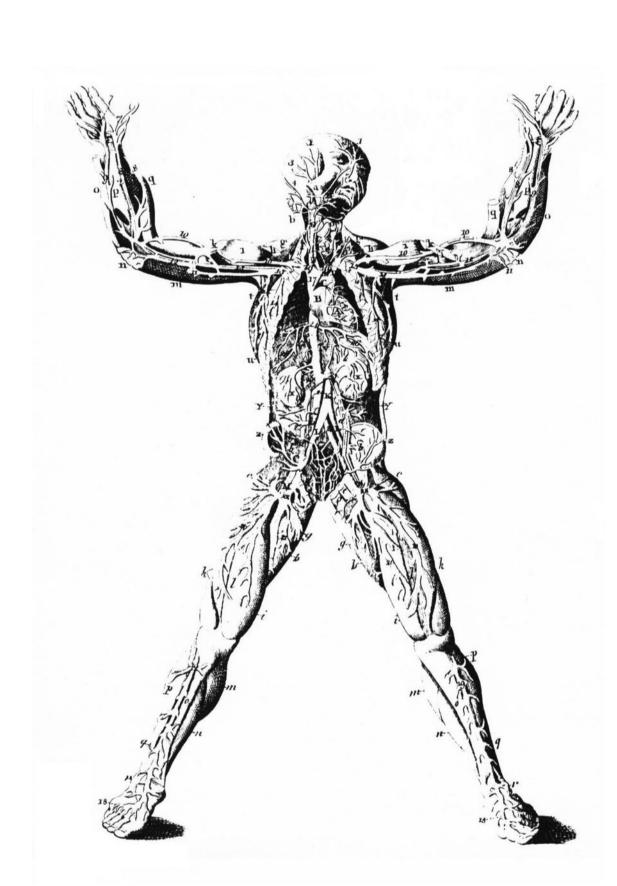
The mature cane was crushed in a mill and then taken to the sugar works close to the plantation house, where it was processed. The next stage of the processing was undertaken in the boiling house. From there it passed to the curing house and, if it were going to be converted into rum, then it went on to the still house to be distilled.

The slaves grew provisions on ground near their houses. These provisions included banana plants (plantain), guinea corn (sorghum), yams and cocoa.





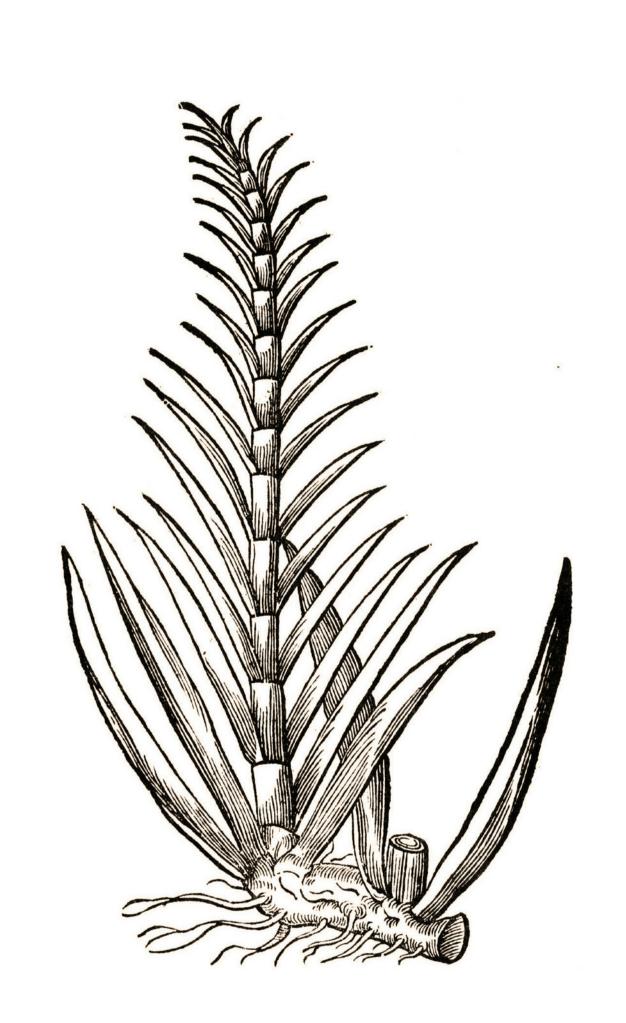
This is a diagram of a boiling house on one of the plantations. Because it is taken from the original document, the quality is not perfect.



White people on the plantations included the overseer and his clerk and the doctor.

This is a diagram of the human body dated 1771.





Sugar