

Appendix 2

Timeline

Unless otherwise stated, references are to events in Nevis. Events associated with Mountravers, or with the people connected with the plantation, are in bold.

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| 1628 | Anthony Hilton arrived in Nevis with settlers from St Kitts |
| 1636 | Large numbers of enslaved Africans reached the French sector of St Kitts |
| 1639 | Rebellion in St Kitts of more than 60 enslaved Africans |
| 1644 | Defeated English Royalists settled in the islands |
| 1645 | William Freeman born in St Kitts |
| 1647-9 | Plague epidemic in the Caribbean claimed thousands of lives |
| 1649 | First mention of African slavery in Nevis |
| 1660-1698 | Royal African Company had monopoly for selling slaves in Nevis |
| 1665-7 | Second Anglo-Dutch War; refugees from other islands caused overcrowding |
| 1670 | Robert Helme arrived in Nevis as an indentured servant to William Freeman |
| 1674 or 75 | William Freeman left Nevis after he and Robert Helme had bought the lease on Proctor's and Mountain plantations |
| 1677/8 | Population in Nevis: 3,595 whites and 3,849 'negroes'. 46 'negroes' on Proctor's |
| 1683 | William Allen willed his estate to his wife and her children. After marrying Henri Charlot, she mortgaged 'Charlot's' |
| 1684 | William Freeman sold his share in Proctor's to Robert Helme |
| 1685 | Azariah Pinney exiled to Nevis after taking part in Monmouth Rebellion. Robert Helme died |
| 1691 | William Helme died. His widow Mary married Henry Travers before 1700 |
| 1689-1697 | War with France concluded by the Treaty of Ryswick. France acquired the western half of the island of Hispaniola and named the new colony Saint-Domingue |
| 1701 | Henry Travers's widow Mary left Nevis, appointed Azariah Pinney as her attorney. He already was attorney to the Charlots |
| 1702 | Azariah Pinney and Richard Meriweather bought Lady Bawden's plantation |
| 1703 | Mary Travers died; her children William (died before 1707) and Mary Helme inherited Proctor's |
| 1702-1713 | War of the Spanish Succession concluded by the Treaty of Utrecht |
| 1705 | Azariah Pinney and his business partner Richard Meriweather foreclosed on the Charlots |
| 1706 | Invasion by French of Nevis. Brave resistance by enslaved people |
| 1708 | Mary Helme married Azariah Pinney's son John |
| 1708 | Nevis census: 3,676 'negroes' and 1,104 whites |
| 1718 | Death of Richard Meriweather; Lady Bawden's and Charlot's split between his heirs and Azariah Pinney |
| 1719 | Azariah Pinney left Nevis for England where he died the following year. Left his property to his son John who died shortly afterwards. John's widow Mary continued running the plantations |
| 1725 | Plans for an uprising by enslaved people were discovered |
| 1725/26 | Drought followed by a cold winter |
| 1728-1732 | 50 Bristol ships transported around 100,000 enslaved Africans to the Americas (compared to London's 40 and Liverpool's 44 ships). Bristol briefly overtook London as the main slaving port |
| 1731 | No rain for 18 months. Drought in Nevis |
| 1734 | Mary Pinney died, leaving her plantations to her son John Frederick. James Browne installed as manager |
| 1737 | Severe hurricane. Blight led to vegetation and animals dying |
| 1739-1748 | 'War of Jenkins's Ear' and War of the Austrian Succession |
| 1739-1742 | John Frederick Pinney visited Nevis |
| 1747 | Discovery of sugar beet technique in Europe |
| 1749 | John Frederick Pinney returned to Nevis for a brief visit |

- 1751 Hurricane damage to canes, boiling house and hospital at Mountravers
- 1756-1763 Seven Years War concluded by the Treaty of Paris which ceded several French colonies to Britain: Canada, Dominica, Grenada and the Grenadines, and Tobago
- 1759 '... poor crop this year and none of the ships will be more than half loaded'
- 1761 'Crop short by the blast.' Slave revolt in Nevis, no details
- 1761 William Coker and Thomas Arthurton arrived in Nevis**
- 1762 John Frederick Pinney died, leaving his plantations to John Pretor**
- 1762-1781 Revd James Ramsay worked as a surgeon on St Kitts plantations
- 1764 John Pretor (Pinney) arrived in Nevis**
- 1765 Riots over Stamp Act in St Kitts and Nevis but not in other West Indian islands
- 1766 Hurricanes in the Leeward Islands
- 1768 English vessels removed 53,000 enslaved people from Africa, French vessels 23,000, Dutch 11,000 and Portuguese 8,700
- 1769 Severe drought in winter, amazingly bad crops, followed by smallpox outbreak
- 1770 William Coker left Nevis**
- 1772 An estimated 14,000-20,000 black people in England, out of 6.5 million
- 1772 Lord Mansfield ruled that enslaved people could still be bought and sold in England but not forcibly removed
- 1772 John Pretor Pinney married Jane Weekes. Devastating hurricane**
- 1773 Birth of the heir, John Frederick Pinney, 'a seven month child'**
- 1773 Boston Tea Party protest by American colonists against British taxes and duties
- 1775 Outbreak of the American War of Independence
- 1775 Janet Schaw, a Scottish Lady of Quality, visited Antigua and St Kitts
- 1776 St Vincent made a separate colony; many of the first settlers came from Nevis
- 1776 American War of Independence caused shortage of provisions in Nevis; 'The distressed situation of many people in this island is truly deplorable.'
- 1777 Food shortages caused starvation; by March 1778 about three thousand enslaved people had died in the Leeward Islands
- 1778 Renewed enforcement of prohibition to grow cotton led to protests and arson attacks by enslaved people. New Act passed to inflict the death penalty on arsonists
- 1778 In England an Act allowing Catholics to buy and inherit land was passed; proposals to introduce this in Scotland led to the Gordon Riots (June 1780)
- 1778 Verdict in the case of John Knight declared slavery illegal in Scotland
- 1779 John Pretor Pinney acquired Woodland, a 120-acre plantation above Mountravers**
- 1780s 90 British ships transported about 35,000 African captives a year
- 1780 Drought followed a 'tremendous hurricane'. Entire crop failed
- 1780 Britain declared war on the Netherlands; beginning of fourth Anglo-Dutch War
- 1781 The freed slave woman Kate Coker travelled to England with two Pinney children**
- 1782 Famine followed Nevis's surrender to the French
- 1783 The *Zong* case, heard in London as an insurance claim, caused outrage among the public and strengthened the abolitionists' cause
- 1783 Worth about £70,000, John Pretor Pinney, his wife and two younger children sailed for England with servants Pero Jones and Fanny Coker. Pinney set himself up as a sugar factor in partnership with another Nevis planter, James Tobin. Joseph Gill became manager on Mountravers**
- 1783 Great Britain recognised its former 13 colonies as the independent United States of America. Many Loyalists fled to England via Florida, also to the British Caribbean. Most northern states introduced measures to bring about the gradual emancipation of their enslaved people
- 1784 The Methodist Dr Thomas Coke set sail for America from Pill near Bristol
- 1785/86 Joseph Gill left Mountravers; William Coker took over as manager**
- 1786 The company of Pinney & Tobin branched out and went into shipping
- 1787 Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade founded in London. Evangelical Christians, Quakers, Methodists and concerned citizens signed mass petitions which they presented to Parliament
- 1787 British Parliament began legislative action against the trade in enslaved Africans
- 1788 African Association founded by Sir John Banks to support exploration to Africa
- 1789 British Parliamentary enquiry into abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade; Bristol planters, merchants and traders founded the West India Society to defend the trade

- 1789 With the outbreak of the revolution in France the social and racial order began to break down in France's sugar colonies
- 1790 In Bristol a black woman hunted down and forcibly removed to the West Indies
- 1790 John Pinney and wife visited Nevis with their Nevis-born servants. Manager William Coker removed and replaced by Dr Thomas Pym Weekes**
- 1791 Beginning of revolt by 100,000 enslaved people in the French colony of St Domingue
- 1791 In England Catholics finally received complete freedom to worship (1793 in Scotland)
- 1792 Slavery temporarily abolished in French colonies. Overthrow of French monarchy
- 1793 Louis XVI guillotined in Paris; France declared war against Britain. The abolitionist cause suffered as the Republic adopted brutal methods of suppressing its citizens
- 1793-1815 Death by disease of thousands of British forces in West Indies during French war led to establishment of West India regiments
- 1793 Economic crisis and bankruptcies among banks and merchants in Britain
- 1794 The French abolishing slavery in their possessions encouraged discontent among enslaved people in British colonies
- 1794 Visit to Nevis by John Pinney, his son John Frederick and manservant Pero Jones. Thomas Pym Weekes left; overseer James Williams promoted to manager**
- 1795-6 Unsuccessful revolts by free mulattos and blacks and enslaved people in Grenada, by Caribs in St Vincent and Maroons in Jamaica
- 1796 Date initially fixed by British Parliament for abolition of the slave trade but delayed because of war
- 1796-7 Methodist chapel in Charlestown attacked by white mob, Methodists harassed
- 1798 Uprising suppressed in Jamaica
- 1798 Following requests from the British Parliament to put in place legislation to improve living condition of enslaved people in British colonies, the General Council and Assembly of the Leeward Islands passed the Leeward Islands Melioration Act
- 1799 The Society of Methodists in Nevis had 700 members
- 1800 Potter and abolitionist Josiah Wedgwood's son Thomas visited Mountravers**
- 1802 First child labour law introduced in England, largely ineffective
- 1802 John Frederick Pinney talked of selling Mountravers**
- 1802 Napoleon restored slavery in the French colonies
- 1804 Black Republic of Haiti established
- 1804 'crops are likely to fall so dreadfully short...'
- 1805 John Frederick Pinney and his wife briefly visited Nevis**
- 1807 Act passed for British vessels and British subjects to withdraw from Transatlantic Slave Trade
- 1808 'An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade' came into force. To enforce compliance, the Royal Navy's West Africa Squadron patrolled the coast off West Africa. Britain pressed other European nations to abolish their trade in African captives
- 1808 James Tobin sold Mountravers and put John Henry Clarke in possession**
- 1809 John Henry Clarke forced to retreat from Mountravers after the Pinneys sold Mountravers and Woodland to Edward Huggins**
- 1810 Edward Huggins publicly whipped Mountravers slaves, was tried and acquitted**
- 1811 Arthur Hodge of Tortola found guilty of murdering slaves and executed
- 1811 'No allowances for slaves for months past'
- 1811 Britain made trading in enslaved people between Caribbean islands illegal; treaty with Portugal not to trade in enslaved people except on the Costa da Mina
- 1812 An 'alarming scarcity of provisions' prompted the Legislature to purchase food and distribute it to enslaved and free people
- 1812 Food riots in Britain after two bad harvests caused the price of flour to rise steeply. Rebellions over high price of potatoes in Taunton, Somerset, led the vicar of St Mary's church to buy large quantity of rice for resale without profit
- 1814 Napoleon forced to abdicate, banished to Elba. Treaty of Paris signed: Britain restored to France all conquered territories except Tobago, St Lucia and Mauritius
- 1814-15 Congress of Vienna held (interrupted by Napoleon's escape from Elba), concluded Napoleonic Wars and redistributed territories in Europe. Napoleon banished again
- 1816 Edward Huggins passed Mountravers to his son Peter Thomas**
- 1816 The Dutch withdrew from the slave trade
- 1816 Bussa rebellion in Barbados
- 1816 Revd DG Davis published first banns for the marriage of an enslaved person

- 1817 Edward Huggins's second trial for cruelty resulted in another acquittal
- 1817 Slaveholders in most British colonies registered their people for the first time
- 1818 France withdrew from the slave trade
- 1818 John Pinney died, worth about £340,000; his youngest son, Charles, took control of the firm's affairs; other estates in Nevis and other islands mortgaged to family or firm taken over and sold to recover debts**
- 1819 'Ravages made by the late gale': buildings and crops destroyed. State of distress
- 1820-1 Charles Pinney visited Nevis**
- 1820 Spain withdrew from the slave trade
- 1822 Trade with America opened again, alleviating dire provisions situation
- 1822 Fall 'most sickly throughout the island, with a 'drought of so long a continuance'
- 1822/23 Peter Thomas Huggins purchased Scarborough's estate**
- 1823 Huggins built chapel on Mountravers, in use until 1900 (Scarborough Church)**
- 1823 British Parliament urged legislatures to ameliorate conditions of enslaved people and prepare them for freedom
- 1823 William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson among founder members of the Society for the Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery. Some members wanted Parliament to end slavery immediately
- 1823 Enslaved people rebelled on Demarara; evidence of acts of resistance in Nevis (also in 1824)
- 1825 Bishop Coleridge visited Nevis
- 1825 Floods. A 'severe gale' injured many windmills and old canes
- 1826 Methodist Church, Nevis: 802 members, of whom 601 were enslaved people
- 1826 Earthquake, hurricane and waterspout
- 1826 The police chief called for more police officers to counter 'the insubordinate disposition of the slaves and the lower classes of the free people of colour of Charlestown'
- 1827 Great hurricane caused considerable damage throughout the island
- 1828-30 Charles Pinney's second visit to Nevis. Peter Thomas Huggins purchased Clarke's and, with his brother, Parris's from the Pinneys**
- 1829 Formation of Infants School on Mountravers**
- 1830 Black population in England: 10,000-15,000 of whom most 'were very poor indeed'
- 1830 Trial of Stapleton estate manager John Walley for murder and manslaughter
- 1830-1837 Reign of King William IV
- 1831 Insurrections in Jamaica, Martinique and Antigua
- 1831 Riot in Bristol while Charles Pinney was mayor of the city**
- 1832 Cholera reached Nevis from North America
- 1832 Reform Act reduced West India lobby in Parliament and opened way for slave emancipation
- 1833 A series of earthquakes. Drought destroyed a quarter of agriculture and stock
- 1833 British Parliament passed Slavery Abolition Act, making it illegal to buy or own a person in the British West Indies, Canada and the Cape of Good Hope
- 1834 Slavery Abolition Act came into force; the apprenticeship system replaced slavery
- 1835 Arrival at St Kitts from England of *Flamer*, the first steamer
- 1835 Destructive hurricane followed by drought and pestilence
- 1836 The Pinneys sold their last plantation in Nevis mortgaged to them**
- 1838 Emancipation of apprentices in British West India colonies
- 1838-9 Peter Thomas Huggins revived the idea of building a new home in Nevis, asked for a carpenter to be sent from England and ordered building materials**
- 1838 First Indian labourers arrived in Trinidad
- 1840/41 A boom in the sugar market was followed by a downturn when Mauritius sugar flooded the market
- 1843 The last Pinney-owned ship called at Nevis**
- 1843 Earthquake damaged buildings in Charlestown
- 1844 Census taken in the West Indies; in Dominica people feared it heralded the re-introduction of slavery and rioted
- 1845 The Pinneys sold their last West Indies plantation (St Croix). Family money invested in railways, canals, cotton, etc**
- 1846 End of British sugar preference
- By 1846 About 2,600 people from Nevis had left for Trinidad; others moved to other colonies
- 1848 Revolutions all over Europe

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| 1848 | Abolition of slavery in French and Danish colonies |
| 1849 | Thomas Carlyle's <i>Discourse on Niggers</i> 'stopped little short of calling for servitude to be restored' to counter destitution among emancipated blacks |
| By 1850 | Three years of very poor crops; cattle died for want of water and food |
| 1852 | Another 'very dry year and the crops are very short' |
| 1853-4 | Asiatic cholera epidemic killed many inhabitants |
| 1856 | Peter Thomas Huggins rented out Mountravers to his son Edward John and died the following year |
| 1861 | Outbreak of American Civil War |
| 1863 | Edward John Huggins raised a loan of £4,000 from James Ewing & Co by mortgaging 670 acres which included Mountravers and Woodland |
| 1865 | Slavery abolished in the United States of America after the defeat of the Confederate States Army |
| 1874 | Great drought in the West Indies |
| 1878 | Edward John Huggins died; shortly afterwards the Ewings petitioned for the sale of Mountravers and in the following year acquired Mountravers with Woodland, Scarborough's and Parris's, as well as other surrounding lands |
| 1896 | Demand for higher wages in the sugar industry led to riots in St Kitts and Nevis |
| 1898 | The United States closed their market to British sugar |
| 1899 | Following a hurricane neighbouring planters sent their cane for processing at Pinney's Estate, as did 160 small-scale cultivators |
| 1901 | The Colonial Office refused the Ewings' request to subsidise the running of the old Pinney Estate |
| 1908 | James Spencer Hollings began renting Mountravers and Clarke's from the then sole owner, Humphrey Ewing Crum Ewing |
| 1928 | Slavery abolished in Gold Coast (Ghana) |
| 1930s | Economic distress led to riots in Barbados and St Vincent; sugar strike in St Kitts |
| 1941 | Ewing sold the old Pinney's Estate; after changing title twice the Montserrat-born entrepreneur Walter Edston Wade bought it in 1946 |
| 1954 | Nevis produced 9,000 tons of sugar cane |
| 1967 | Statehood achieved: St Kitts-Nevis became an Associated State of the UK |
| 1974 | Walter Wade's family sold Pinney's Estate. Since then different parts have changed hands until a descendent of an American branch of the Pinney family bought the Great House site |
| 1980 | Nevis population: 9,300 |
| 1983 | Nevis, with St Kitts, became a fully independent state |

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