

diary of thomas thistlewood

diary of thomas thistlewood is one of the most notorious and revealing primary sources from the era of slavery in the Caribbean. This article explores the contents, historical context, and legacy of Thomas Thistlewood's diary, delving into the life of the English planter and the realities of slavery in Jamaica during the 18th century. Readers will discover how the diary has shaped our understanding of plantation life, the brutal treatment of enslaved Africans, and the psyche of slaveholders. The article also examines Thistlewood's background, the structure and themes of his diary, scholarly analyses, and the enduring impact of these records. Through detailed sections and insightful commentary, this comprehensive guide provides an authoritative resource for those seeking to learn more about the diary of Thomas Thistlewood and its significance in the study of slavery and colonial history.

- Background of Thomas Thistlewood
- Overview and Structure of the Diary
- Major Themes in Thistlewood's Diary
- Insights into Plantation Life
- Scholarly Analysis and Historical Impact
- Legacy and Controversy
- Frequently Asked Questions about the Diary of Thomas Thistlewood

Background of Thomas Thistlewood

Thomas Thistlewood was born in Lincolnshire, England in 1721. He arrived in Jamaica in 1750, seeking opportunities in the expanding plantation economy. Thistlewood quickly became a prominent overseer and eventually acquired his own property, Breadnut Island Pen, where he managed agricultural production and a sizeable group of enslaved people. His background as an educated Englishman enabled him to meticulously record daily events, providing a rare and unfiltered look into colonial life and the system of slavery.

Thistlewood's personal history is marked by his adaptation to Jamaican society and his rise within the local planter class. His diary, kept from 1750 until his death in 1786, spans more than three decades and contains almost 14,000 pages. The record is unique for its detail and scope, offering insights into Thistlewood's interactions, social life, and the inner workings of plantation management. His writings serve as an indispensable resource for historians seeking to understand the realities of slavery from the perspective of a slaveholder.

Overview and Structure of the Diary

The diary of Thomas Thistlewood is one of the longest and most detailed personal records from the era of Atlantic slavery. Thistlewood began recording his daily activities upon arrival in Jamaica, maintaining the practice until his death. The diary not only chronicles his work as an overseer and planter but also provides extensive accounts of his relationships, personal life, and observations of the enslaved population.

Organization and Content

Thistlewood's diary is organized chronologically, with entries for almost every day. His writing style is direct and factual, often listing events, agricultural details, weather conditions, and interactions with enslaved people. The diary also includes:

- Descriptions of plantation routines and agricultural production
- Records of punishments and disciplinary measures
- Notes on sexual encounters with enslaved women
- Observations about local society and other planters
- Personal reflections and health records

The structure offers a comprehensive picture of daily life on a Jamaican plantation, making it invaluable for scholars studying the period.

Significance of the Diary's Scope

The sheer length and detail of Thistlewood's diary set it apart from other contemporary sources. Few slaveholders left such extensive first-hand records, making this diary a cornerstone for understanding the operations, mentality, and interpersonal dynamics of plantation society in the Caribbean.

Major Themes in Thistlewood's Diary

The diary of Thomas Thistlewood is infamous for its candid depiction of slavery's brutality and the complex relationships between slaveholders and the enslaved. Several major themes recur throughout the diary, revealing the underlying realities of colonial Jamaica.

Violence and Punishment

One of the most disturbing aspects of Thistlewood's diary is his documentation of violent punishments inflicted upon enslaved people. He

recorded acts of torture, corporal punishment, and psychological abuse, reflecting the harsh disciplinary regime that maintained plantation order. These descriptions are graphic and have contributed significantly to our understanding of the cruelty inherent

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Diary of Thomas Thistlewood: Unraveling a Literary Enigma

Have you ever stumbled upon a forgotten piece of history, a hidden narrative whispering secrets from a bygone era? The "Diary of Thomas Thistlewood" is precisely that - a captivating glimpse into a life, a time, and a personality shrouded in mystery. This blog post delves deep into the enigmatic world of Thomas Thistlewood, exploring the diary's content, its historical context, and its enduring appeal to readers and researchers alike. We will unravel the layers of this intriguing document, providing you with a comprehensive understanding of what makes it so fascinating and where you can find more information.

Who Was Thomas Thistlewood?

The identity of Thomas Thistlewood himself remains somewhat elusive. While the diary offers glimpses into his daily life, his precise social standing, profession, and even his exact lifespan are subjects of ongoing debate among historians and literature enthusiasts. The diary's fragmented nature and the lack of corroborating historical records contribute to this ambiguity, adding to the overall intrigue. What we do know, thanks to the diary, is that he was a keen observer of his surroundings, possessing a remarkable ability to capture the nuances of everyday life, from the minutiae of his personal struggles to the broader social and political currents of his time.

The Diary's Content: A Window into the Past

The "Diary of Thomas Thistlewood" isn't a straightforward chronological account. Instead, it's a mosaic of entries, sketches, and pressed flowers, hinting at a life lived with intensity and passion. Entries range from intensely personal reflections on love, loss, and faith to detailed observations of

social gatherings, political events, and the everyday lives of his neighbors. The diary offers a unique perspective on the period, revealing insights into social customs, political anxieties, and the prevalent religious beliefs of the time.

Themes Explored in the Diary:

Personal Relationships: The diary reveals a complex tapestry of personal relationships, showcasing both intense affection and bitter disappointments. Thomas's struggles with love and loss are vividly depicted, offering a raw and honest portrayal of human emotion.

Social Commentary: Through his meticulous observations, Thomas provides a valuable social commentary. His entries offer a glimpse into the social hierarchies, class divisions, and everyday interactions of his community.

Political Undercurrents: While not explicitly political, the diary subtly hints at the prevailing political climate of the era, revealing anxieties and concerns through seemingly innocuous observations of daily life.

Spiritual Reflections: Thomas's spiritual journey is another prominent theme. His entries reveal a fluctuating faith, grappling with doubt and seeking spiritual solace amidst life's trials and tribulations.

The Historical Context of the Diary

Pinpointing the exact period during which Thomas Thistlewood lived remains a challenge. Stylistic analysis of the language and the referenced events within the diary suggest a probable timeframe, although the lack of definitive dating within the entries themselves complicates matters. Scholars continue to debate the exact historical context, making the diary all the more fascinating as a puzzle to be pieced together. Research into similar diaries and contemporaneous historical records is ongoing, slowly unveiling more details about Thomas's life and times.

The Enduring Appeal of Thomas Thistlewood's Diary

The enduring appeal of the "Diary of Thomas Thistlewood" lies in its intimate and personal nature. It offers a rare and compelling insight into the human experience, transcending the limitations of time and place. The diary's fragmented nature and the mystery surrounding Thomas himself only enhance its allure, inviting readers to engage actively in the process of interpretation and discovery. It's a literary puzzle, a historical enigma, and a profoundly human story all rolled into one.

Where to Find More Information

Unfortunately, the "Diary of Thomas Thistlewood" isn't widely published. Its limited availability adds to its mystique. While a full digital transcription remains elusive, snippets and excerpts can be found

within academic papers and online forums dedicated to historical diaries and manuscript studies. Active searching in online archives and contacting relevant historical societies could potentially yield further information.

Conclusion

The "Diary of Thomas Thistlewood" stands as a testament to the power of personal narrative to illuminate the past. While shrouded in mystery, it offers a rich and compelling glimpse into a life lived fully, with all its complexities, joys, and sorrows. Its fragmented nature and enigmatic author only serve to deepen its appeal, inviting readers to engage with the past on a profoundly personal level. The journey of deciphering its secrets is a rewarding one, offering a unique and captivating blend of history, mystery, and human drama.

FAQs

1. Is the "Diary of Thomas Thistlewood" a fictional work? While the existence of the diary itself is uncertain, the core of the story is based on a real narrative from historical archives and a real diary found at auction.
2. Where can I purchase a copy of the diary? The diary is not currently available for public sale. However, researchers might find fragments or excerpts in academic journals.
3. What language is the diary written in? The diary is written in English, reflecting the language of the period to which it is believed to belong.
4. What kind of historical period does the diary represent? Determining the precise period is still under research, but stylistic evidence suggests a potential 18th or 19th-century English context.
5. Are there any plans to publish a complete edition of the diary? Currently, there are no confirmed plans for a complete publication. This depends heavily on securing funding and completing thorough authentication and preservation work.

diary of thomas thistlewood: In Miserable Slavery Douglas Hall, Thomas Thistlewood, 1999
Thomas Thistlewood (1721-1786) was a British estate overseer and small landowner in western Jamaica. He arrived in Jamaica, the most important of the British sugar colonies in 1750, when he was 29 years old. He became the overseer or manager of the Egypt sugar plantation near the small port of Savanna la Mar. He stayed in Jamaica until his death in 1786. He wrote a diary, which eventually ran to some 10,000 pages, and this diary became an important historical document on slavery and history of Jamaica.

diary of thomas thistlewood: Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire Trevor Burnard, 2009-11-17
Eighteenth-century Jamaica, Britain's largest and most valuable slave-owning colony, relied on a brutal system of slave management to maintain its tenuous social order. Trevor Burnard provides unparalleled insight into Jamaica's vibrant but harsh African and European cultures with a

comprehensive examination of the extraordinary diary of plantation owner Thomas Thistlewood. Thistlewood's diary, kept over the course of forty years, describes in graphic detail how white rule over slaves was predicated on the infliction of terror on the bodies and minds of slaves. Thistlewood treated his slaves cruelly even while he relied on them for his livelihood. Along with careful notes on sugar production, Thistlewood maintained detailed records of a sexual life that fully expressed the society's rampant sexual exploitation of slaves. In Burnard's hands, Thistlewood's diary reveals a great deal not only about the man and his slaves but also about the structure and enforcement of power, changing understandings of human rights and freedom, and connections among social class, race, and gender, as well as sex and sexuality, in the plantation system.

diary of thomas thistlewood: Slavery and the Enlightenment in the British Atlantic, 1750-1807 Justin Roberts, 2013-07-08 This book focuses on how Enlightenment ideas shaped plantation management and slave work routines. It shows how work dictated slaves' experiences and influenced their families and communities on large plantations in Barbados, Jamaica, and Virginia. It examines plantation management schemes, agricultural routines, and work regimes in more detail than other scholars have done. This book argues that slave workloads were increasing in the eighteenth century and that slave owners were employing more rigorous labor discipline and supervision in ways that scholars now associate with the Industrial Revolution.

diary of thomas thistlewood: The Fortunes of Francis Barber Michael Bundock, 2015-03-01 This compelling book chronicles a young boy's journey from the horrors of Jamaican slavery to the heart of London's literary world, and reveals the unlikely friendship that changed his life. Francis Barber, born in Jamaica, was brought to London by his owner in 1750 and became a servant in the household of the renowned Dr. Samuel Johnson. Although Barber left London for a time and served in the British navy during the Seven Years' War, he later returned to Johnson's employ. A fascinating reversal took place in the relationship between the two men as Johnson's health declined and the older man came to rely more and more upon his now educated and devoted companion. When Johnson died he left the bulk of his estate to Barber, a generous (and at the time scandalous) legacy, and a testament to the depth of their friendship. There were thousands of black Britons in the eighteenth century, but few accounts of their lives exist. In uncovering Francis Barber's story, this book not only provides insights into his life and Samuel Johnson's but also opens a window onto London when slaves had yet to win their freedom.

diary of thomas thistlewood: These Ghosts Are Family Maisy Card, 2021-01-05 PEN/Hemingway Award For Debut Novel Finalist Shortlisted for the 2020 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize A "rich, ambitious debut novel" (The New York Times Book Review) that reveals the ways in which a Jamaican family forms and fractures over generations, in the tradition of Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. Stanford Solomon's shocking, thirty-year-old secret is about to change the lives of everyone around him. Stanford has done something no one could ever imagine. He is a man who faked his own death and stole the identity of his best friend. Stanford Solomon is actually Abel Paisley. And now, nearing the end of his life, Stanford is about to meet his firstborn daughter, Irene Paisley, a home health aide who has unwittingly shown up for her first day of work to tend to the father she thought was dead. These Ghosts Are Family revolves around the consequences of Abel's decision and tells the story of the Paisley family from colonial Jamaica to present-day Harlem. There is Vera, whose widowhood forced her into the role of a single mother. There are two daughters and a granddaughter who have never known they are related. And there are others, like the houseboy who loved Vera, whose lives might have taken different courses if not for Abel Paisley's actions. This "rich and layered story" (Kirkus Reviews) explores the ways each character wrestles with their ghosts and struggles to forge independent identities outside of the family and their trauma. The result is a "beguiling...vividly drawn, and compelling" (BookPage, starred review) portrait of a family and individuals caught in the sweep of history, slavery, migration, and the more personal dramas of infidelity, lost love, and regret.

diary of thomas thistlewood: Slavery and the Slave Trade James Walvin, 1983

diary of thomas thistlewood: Stedman's Surinam John Gabriel Stedman, 1992-03 This

abridgment of the Prices' acclaimed 1988 critical edition is based on Stedman's original, handwritten manuscript, which offers a portrait at considerable variance with the 1796 classic. The unexpurgated text, presented here with extensive notes and commentary, constitutes one of the richest and most evocative accounts ever written of colonial life—and one of the strongest indictments ever to appear against New World slavery.

diary of thomas thistlewood: The 18th Century Climate of Jamaica Derived from the Journals of Thomas Thistlewood, 1750-1786 Michael Chenoweth, 2003 Thomas Thistlewood is known for his daily records of life on a slave plantation in eighteenth-century Jamaica. Thistlewood's previously unexamined weather journal is shown here to be the most important written record from the Earth's tropical regions available. His observation methods are superior to most of his contemporaries & provide a high-quality daily record of more than 35 years. Comparison of his records with modern weather records indicates that Thistlewood's Jamaica was a much cooler & moister place than in modern times. A 252-year record of tropical storm & hurricane frequency in Jamaica reveals that the late 20th-century minimum in storm frequency is unprecedented.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *The King's Peace* Lisa Ford, 2021-08-10 How the imposition of Crown rule across the British Empire during the Age of Revolution corroded the rights of British subjects and laid the foundations of the modern police state. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the British Empire responded to numerous crises in its colonies, from North America to Jamaica, Bengal to New South Wales. This was the Age of Revolution, and the Crown, through colonial governors, tested an array of coercive peacekeeping methods in a desperate effort to maintain control. In the process these leaders transformed what it meant to be a British subject. In the decades after the American Revolution, colonial legal regimes were transformed as the king's representatives ruled new colonies with an increasingly heavy hand. These new autocratic regimes blurred the lines between the rule of law and the rule of the sword. Safeguards of liberty and justice, developed in the wake of the Glorious Revolution, were eroded while exacting obedience and imposing order became the focus of colonial governance. In the process, many constitutional principles of empire were subordinated to a single, overarching rule: where necessary, colonial law could diverge from metropolitan law. Within decades of the American Revolution, Lisa Ford shows, the rights claimed by American rebels became unthinkable in the British Empire. Some colonial subjects fought back but, in the empire, the real winner of the American Revolution was the king. In tracing the dramatic growth of colonial executive power and the increasing deployment of arbitrary policing and military violence to maintain order, *The King's Peace* provides important lessons on the relationship between peacekeeping, sovereignty, and political subjectivity—lessons that illuminate contemporary debates over the imbalance between liberty and security.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *The Long Emancipation* Ira Berlin, 2015-09-15 Perhaps no event in American history arouses more impassioned debate than the abolition of slavery. Answers to basic questions about who ended slavery, how, and why remain fiercely contested more than a century and a half after the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment. In *The Long Emancipation*, Ira Berlin draws upon decades of study to offer a framework for understanding slavery's demise in the United States. Freedom was not achieved in a moment, and emancipation was not an occasion but a near-century-long process—a shifting but persistent struggle that involved thousands of men and women. "Ira Berlin ranks as one of the greatest living historians of slavery in the United States... *The Long Emancipation* offers a useful reminder that abolition was not the charitable work of respectable white people, or not mainly that. Instead, the demise of slavery was made possible by the constant discomfort inflicted on middle-class white society by black activists. And like the participants in today's Black Lives Matter movement, Berlin has not forgotten that the history of slavery in the United States—especially the history of how slavery ended—is never far away when contemporary Americans debate whether their nation needs to change." —Edward E. Baptist, *New York Times Book Review*

diary of thomas thistlewood: *The Price of Emancipation* Nicholas Draper, 2009-12-17 When colonial slavery was abolished in 1833 the British government paid £20 million to slave-owners as

compensation: the enslaved received nothing. Drawing on the records of the Commissioners of Slave Compensation, which represent a complete census of slave-ownership, this book provides a comprehensive analysis of the extent and importance of absentee slave-ownership and its impact on British society. Moving away from the historiographical tradition of isolated case studies, it reveals the extent of slave-ownership among metropolitan elites, and identifies concentrations of both rentier and mercantile slave-holders, tracing their influence in local and national politics, in business and in institutions such as the Church. In analysing this permeation of British society by slave-owners and their success in securing compensation from the state, the book challenges conventional narratives of abolitionist Britain and provides a fresh perspective of British society and politics on the eve of the Victorian era.

diary of thomas thistlewood: Centering Woman Hilary Beckles, 1999 Caribbean women black, white and brown, free and enslaved, migrants and creoles, rich and poor are assembled in this book and their lives examined as they battled both against male domination and among themselves for social advantage. Females challenged each other for monopoly access to and use of terms such as woman and feminine in the process widening the existing social and ethnic divisions among themselves, and thus fragmenting their collective search for autonomy. Hilary Beckles uses the method of narrative biography with its appealing sense of immediacy of women's language, script and social politics, to expose the gender order of Caribbean slave society as it determined and defined the everyday lives of women. He also seeks to explore the effectiveness of women's actions as they searched for freedom, material betterment, justice and social security. Understanding how gender is socially determined, understood and lived serves to illuminate why and how some women subscribed to the institutional culture of patriarchy while others launched discreet missions of self-empowerment and collective liberation. This book is about feminism in action, not theorized by post-modern radicals, but by women who actively sought to create spaces and build structures within self-conceived visions of social advancement.

diary of thomas thistlewood: A Respectable Trade Philippa Gregory, 2007-02 Entering into an arranged marriage with an aspiring merchant in 1787 Bristol, Frances Scott is discouraged by her slavery-dependent lifestyle and unexpectedly falls for African slave and former Yoruba priest Mehuru. By the author of *The Other Boleyn Girl*. Reprint. 75,000 first printing.

diary of thomas thistlewood: **Black Ivory** James Walvin, 1994 The brutal story of African slavery in the British colonies of the West Indies and North America is told with clarity and compassion in this classic history. James Walvin explores the experiences which bound together slaves from diverse African backgrounds and explains how slavery transformed the tastes and economy of the Western world. Although written for readers with no prior knowledge of the subject, Walvin's account is based on detailed scholarship, drawing on a body of work from the USA, the West Indies and Britain. All aspects of African slavery up to 1776 are covered; the situation of women, flight and rebellion, disease and death, the conditions on the slave ships, the abolition campaign and much more. The narrative is enlivened and personalised by frequent reference to individual lives. For this revised edition, the author has incorporated recent scholarly findings and updated the notes and bibliography in order to keep the book current.

diary of thomas thistlewood: The Origin of Others Toni Morrison, 2017-09-18 What is race and why does it matter? Why does the presence of Others make us so afraid? America's foremost novelist reflects on themes that preoccupy her work and dominate politics: race, fear, borders, mass movement of peoples, desire for belonging. Ta-Nehisi Coates provides a foreword to Toni Morrison's most personal work of nonfiction to date.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Apocalypse 1692* Ben Hughes, 2017 Built on sugar, slaves, and piracy, Jamaica's Port Royal was the jewel in England's quest for Empire until a devastating earthquake sank the city beneath the sea A haven for pirates and the center of the New World's frenzied trade in slaves and sugar, Port Royal, Jamaica, was a notorious cutthroat settlement where enormous fortunes were gained for the fledgling English empire. But on June 7, 1692, it all came to a catastrophic end. Drawing on research carried out in Europe, the Caribbean, and the United

States, *Apocalypse 1692: Empire, Slavery, and the Great Port Royal Earthquake* by Ben Hughes opens in a post-Glorious Revolution London where two Jamaica-bound voyages are due to depart. A seventy-strong fleet will escort the Earl of Inchiquin, the newly appointed governor, to his residence at Port Royal, while the *Hannah*, a slaver belonging to the Royal African Company, will sail south to pick up human cargo in West Africa before setting out across the Atlantic on the infamous Middle Passage. Utilizing little-known first-hand accounts and other primary sources, *Apocalypse 1692* intertwines several related themes: the slave rebellion that led to the establishment of the first permanent free black communities in the New World; the raids launched between English Jamaica and Spanish Santo Domingo; and the bloody repulse of a full-blown French invasion of the island in an attempt to drive the English from the Caribbean. The book also features the most comprehensive account yet written of the massive earthquake and tsunami which struck Jamaica in 1692, resulting in the deaths of thousands, and sank a third of the city beneath the sea. From the misery of everyday life in the sugar plantations, to the ostentation and double-dealings of the plantocracy; from the adventures of former-pirates-turned-treasure-hunters to the debauchery of Port Royal, *Apocalypse 1692* exposes the lives of the individuals who made late seventeenth-century Jamaica the most financially successful, brutal, and scandalously corrupt of all of England's nascent American colonies.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Gender and Empire* Angela Woollacott, 2006-01-23 One of the first single-authored books to survey the role of sex and gender in the 'new imperial history', *Gender and Empire* covers the whole British Empire, demonstrating connections and comparisons between the white-settler colonies, and the colonies of exploitation and rule. Through key topics and episodes across a broad range of British Empire history, Angela Woollacott examines how gender ideologies and practices affected women and men, and structured imperial politics and culture. Woollacott integrates twenty years of scholarship, providing fresh insights and interpretation using feminist and postcolonial approaches. Fiction and other vivid primary sources present the voices of historical subjects, enlivening discussions of central topics and debates in imperial and colonial history. The circulation of imperial culture and colonial subjects along with conceptions of gender and race reveals the integrated nature of British colonialism from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. Authoritative and approachable, this is essential reading for students of world history, imperial history and gender relations.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *White Fury* Christer Petley, 2018 The story of the struggle over slavery in the British empire -- as told through the rich, expressive, and frequently shocking letters of one of the wealthiest British slaveholders ever to have lived.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Christian Slavery* Katharine Gerbner, 2018-02-07 Could slaves become Christian? If so, did their conversion lead to freedom? If not, then how could perpetual enslavement be justified? In *Christian Slavery*, Katharine Gerbner contends that religion was fundamental to the development of both slavery and race in the Protestant Atlantic world. Slave owners in the Caribbean and elsewhere established governments and legal codes based on an ideology of Protestant Supremacy, which excluded the majority of enslaved men and women from Christian communities. For slaveholders, Christianity was a sign of freedom, and most believed that slaves should not be eligible for conversion. When Protestant missionaries arrived in the plantation colonies intending to convert enslaved Africans to Christianity in the 1670s, they were appalled that most slave owners rejected the prospect of slave conversion. Slaveholders regularly attacked missionaries, both verbally and physically, and blamed the evangelizing newcomers for slave rebellions. In response, Quaker, Anglican, and Moravian missionaries articulated a vision of Christian Slavery, arguing that Christianity would make slaves hardworking and loyal. Over time, missionaries increasingly used the language of race to support their arguments for slave conversion. Enslaved Christians, meanwhile, developed an alternate vision of Protestantism that linked religious conversion to literacy and freedom. *Christian Slavery* shows how the contentions between slave owners, enslaved people, and missionaries transformed the practice of Protestantism and the language of race in the early modern Atlantic world.

diary of thomas thistlewood: The Mind of the Master Class Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, Eugene D. Genovese, 2005-10-17 The Mind of the Master Class tells of America's greatest historical tragedy. It presents the slaveholders as men and women, a great many of whom were intelligent, honorable, and pious. It asks how people who were admirable in so many ways could have presided over a social system that proved itself an enormity and inflicted horrors on their slaves. The South had formidable proslavery intellectuals who participated fully in transatlantic debates and boldly challenged an ascendant capitalist ('free-labor') society. Blending classical and Christian traditions, they forged a moral and political philosophy designed to sustain conservative principles in history, political economy, social theory, and theology, while translating them into political action. Even those who judge their way of life most harshly have much to learn from their probing moral and political reflections on their times - and ours - beginning with the virtues and failings of their own society and culture.

diary of thomas thistlewood: Slavery and the British Country House Madge Dresser, Andrew Hann, 2013 The British country house has long been regarded as the jewel in the nation's heritage crown. But the country house is also an expression of wealth and power, and as scholars reconsider the nation's colonial past, new questions are being posed about these great houses and their links to Atlantic slavery. This book, authored by a range of academics and heritage professionals, grew out of a 2009 conference on 'Slavery and the British Country house: mapping the current research' organised by English Heritage in partnership with the University of the West of England, the National Trust and the Economic History Society. It asks what links might be established between the wealth derived from slavery and the British country house and what implications such links should have for the way such properties are represented to the public today. Lavishly illustrated and based on the latest scholarship, this wide-ranging and innovative volume provides in-depth examinations of individual houses, regional studies and critical reconsiderations of existing heritage sites, including two studies specially commissioned by English Heritage and one sponsored by the National Trust.

diary of thomas thistlewood: The Sugar Barons Matthew Parker, 2011-08-23 To those who travel there today, the West Indies are unspoiled paradise islands. Yet that image conceals a turbulent and shocking history. For some 200 years after 1650, the West Indies were the strategic center of the western world, witnessing one of the greatest power struggles of the age as Europeans made and lost immense fortunes growing and trading in sugar—a commodity so lucrative it became known as white gold. As Matthew Parker vividly chronicles in his sweeping history, the sugar revolution made the English, in particular, a nation of voracious consumers—so much so that the wealth of her island colonies became the foundation and focus of England's commercial and imperial greatness, underpinning the British economy and ultimately fueling the Industrial Revolution. Yet with the incredible wealth came untold misery: the horror endured by slaves, on whose backs the sugar empire was brutally built; the rampant disease that claimed the lives of one-third of all whites within three years of arrival in the Caribbean; the cruelty, corruption, and decadence of the plantation culture. While sugar came to dictate imperial policy, for those on the ground the British West Indian empire presented a disturbing moral universe. Parker brilliantly interweaves the human stories of those since lost to history whose fortunes and fame rose and fell with sugar. Their industry drove the development of the North American mainland states, and with it a slave culture, as the plantation model was exported to the warm, southern states. Broad in scope, rich in detail, The Sugar Barons freshly links the histories of Europe, the West Indies, and North America and reveals the full impact of the sugar revolution, the resonance of which is still felt today.

diary of thomas thistlewood: A Picturesque Tour of the Island of Jamaica James Hakewill, 1825

diary of thomas thistlewood: The Book of Night Women Marlon James, 2009-02-19 From the author of the National Book Award finalist Black Leopard, Red Wolf and the WINNER of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for A Brief History of Seven Killings An undeniable success." — The New York Times Book Review A true triumph of voice and storytelling, The Book of Night Women rings

with both profound authenticity and a distinctly contemporary energy. It is the story of Lilith, born into slavery on a Jamaican sugar plantation at the end of the eighteenth century. Even at her birth, the slave women around her recognize a dark power that they- and she-will come to both revere and fear. The Night Women, as they call themselves, have long been plotting a slave revolt, and as Lilith comes of age they see her as the key to their plans. But when she begins to understand her own feelings, desires, and identity, Lilith starts to push at the edges of what is imaginable for the life of a slave woman, and risks becoming the conspiracy's weak link. But the real revelation of the book-the secret to the stirring imagery and insistent prose-is Marlon James himself, a young writer at once breathtakingly daring and wholly in command of his craft.

diary of thomas thistlewood: The Reaper's Garden Vincent Brown, 2010-10-30 Winner of the Merle Curti Award Winner of the James A. Rawley Prize Winner of the Louis Gottschalk Prize Longlisted for the Cundill Prize "Vincent Brown makes the dead talk. With his deep learning and powerful historical imagination, he calls upon the departed to explain the living. The Reaper's Garden stretches the historical canvas and forces readers to think afresh. It is a major contribution to the history of Atlantic slavery."—Ira Berlin From the author of Tacky's Revolt, a landmark study of life and death in colonial Jamaica at the zenith of the British slave empire. What did people make of death in the world of Atlantic slavery? In *The Reaper's Garden*, Vincent Brown asks this question about Jamaica, the staggeringly profitable hub of the British Empire in America—and a human catastrophe. Popularly known as the grave of the Europeans, it was just as deadly for Africans and their descendants. Yet among the survivors, the dead remained both a vital presence and a social force. In this compelling and evocative story of a world in flux, Brown shows that death was as generative as it was destructive. From the eighteenth-century zenith of British colonial slavery to its demise in the 1830s, the Grim Reaper cultivated essential aspects of social life in Jamaica—belonging and status, dreams for the future, and commemorations of the past. Surveying a haunted landscape, Brown unfolds the letters of anxious colonists; listens in on wakes, eulogies, and solemn incantations; peers into crypts and coffins, and finds the very spirit of human struggle in slavery. Masters and enslaved, fortune seekers and spiritual healers, rebels and rulers, all summoned the dead to further their desires and ambitions. In this turbulent transatlantic world, Brown argues, "mortuary politics" played a consequential role in determining the course of history. Insightful and powerfully affecting, *The Reaper's Garden* promises to enrich our understanding of the ways that death shaped political life in the world of Atlantic slavery and beyond.

diary of thomas thistlewood: Mary Chesnut's Civil War Mary Boykin Miller Chesnut, 1981-01-01 An authorized account of the Civil War, drawn from the diaries of a Southern aristocrat, records the disintegration and final destruction of the Confederacy

diary of thomas thistlewood: The Cultural Politics of Obeah Diana Paton, 2015-08-10 A study of the importance of debates about obeah, and state suppression of it, for Caribbean struggles about freedom and citizenship.

diary of thomas thistlewood: A Tale of Two Plantations Richard S. Dunn, 2014-11-04 Richard Dunn reconstructs the lives of three generations of slaves on a sugar estate in Jamaica and a plantation in Virginia, to understand the starkly different forms slavery took. Deadly work regimens and rampant disease among Jamaican slaves contrast with population expansion in Virginia leading to the selling of slaves and breakup of families.

diary of thomas thistlewood: Zong! M. NourbeSe Philip, Setaey Adamu Boateng, 2011-08-15 A haunting lifeline between archive and memory, law and poetry

diary of thomas thistlewood: Closer to Freedom Stephanie M. H. Camp, 2005-10-12 Recent scholarship on slavery has explored the lives of enslaved people beyond the watchful eye of their masters. Building on this work and the study of space, social relations, gender, and power in the Old South, Stephanie Camp examines the everyday containment and movement of enslaved men and, especially, enslaved women. In her investigation of the movement of bodies, objects, and information, Camp extends our recognition of slave resistance into new arenas and reveals an important and hidden culture of opposition. Camp discusses the multiple dimensions to acts of

resistance that might otherwise appear to be little more than fits of temper. She brings new depth to our understanding of the lives of enslaved women, whose bodies and homes were inevitably political arenas. Through Camp's insight, truancy becomes an act of pursuing personal privacy. Illegal parties (frolics) become an expression of bodily freedom. And bondwomen who acquired printed abolitionist materials and posted them on the walls of their slave cabins (even if they could not read them) become the subtle agitators who inspire more overt acts. The culture of opposition created by enslaved women's acts of everyday resistance helped foment and sustain the more visible resistance of men in their individual acts of running away and in the collective action of slave revolts. Ultimately, Camp argues, the Civil War years saw revolutionary change that had been in the making for decades.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Doctors and Slaves* Richard B. Sheridan, 2009-03-12 In this study Professor Sheridan presents a rich and wide-ranging account of the health care of slaves in the British West Indies, from 1680-1834. He demonstrates that while Caribbean island settlements were viewed by mercantile statesmen and economists as ideal colonies, the physical and medical realities were very different. The study is based on wide research in archival materials in Great Britain, the West Indies and the United States. By steeping himself in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century sources, Professor Sheridan is able to recreate the milieu of a past era: he tells us what the slave doctors wrote and how they functioned, and he presents a storehouse of information on how and why the slaves sickened and died. By bringing together these diverse medical demographic and economic sources, Professor Sheridan casts new light on the history of slavery in the Americas.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Race and Family in the Colonial South* , This volume of papers from the Porter M. Fortune Chancellor's Symposium in Southern History held at the University of Mississippi in 1986 questions what was distinctively southern about the colonial South. Though this region was a land of diversity and had the kind of provincialism that typified other English colonies during this period, the editors find it nearly impossible to characterize the colonial South as unique. The roots of southern distinctiveness, however, were taking hold in the years before the American Revolution, as the papers here attest. In the opening essay Tate surveys recent historical scholarship on the period and targets trends for further study. Next, Galloway examines Indian-French relations in eastern Louisiana during the eighteenth century. Smith describes the family unit and examines the various forces that worked against its formation. In an examination of three slave-owning families, Morgan casts a new light on slavery in the colonies which he argues to have operated within a harsh patriarchal system that stressed domination, order, authority, and unswerving obedience. Menard's essay also is on the subject of slavery, showing the unique system in the Low Country of South Carolina. In the final paper Middlekauff assesses each of the preceding papers and suggests subjects for future studies of the colonial South.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Sex and Sexuality in Early America* Merrill D. Smith, 1998-09 What role did sexual assault play in the conquest of America? How did American attitudes toward female sexuality evolve, and how was sexuality regulated in the early Republic? Sex and sexuality have always been the subject of much attention, both scholarly and popular. Yet, accounts of the early years of the United States tend to overlook the importance of their influence on the shaping of American culture. *Sex and Sexuality in Early America* addresses this neglected topic with original research covering a wide spectrum, from sexual behavior to sexual perceptions and imagery. Focusing on the period between the initial contact of Europeans and Native Americans up to 1800, the essays encompass all of colonial North America, including the Caribbean and Spanish territories. Challenging previous assumptions, these essays address such topics as rape as a tool of conquest; perceptions and responses to Native American sexuality; fornication, bastardy, celibacy, and religion in colonial New England; gendered speech in captivity narratives; representations of masculinity in eighteenth-century seduction tales, the sexual cosmos of a southern planter, and sexual transgression and madness in early American fiction. The contributors include Stephanie Wood, Gordon Sayre, Steven Neuwirth, Else L. Hambleton, Erik R. Seeman, Richard Godbeer, Trevor Burnard, Natalie A. Zacek, Wayne Bodle, Heather Smyth, Rodney Hessinger, and Karen A. Weyler.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Before the Public Library* Mark Towsey, Kyle B. Roberts, 2017-10-23 Before the Public Library explores the emergence of community-based lending libraries in the Atlantic World before the advent of the Public Library movement in the mid-nineteenth century. Essays by eighteen scholars from a range of disciplines seek to place, for the first time, community libraries within an Atlantic context over a two-century period. Taking a comparative approach, this volume shows that community libraries played an important – and largely unrecognized – role in shaping Atlantic social networks, political and religious movements, scientific and geographic knowledge, and economic enterprise. Libraries had a distinct role to play in shaping modern identities through the acquisition and circulation of specific kinds of texts, the fostering of sociability, and the building of community-based institutions.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Island on Fire* Tom Zoellner, 2020-05-12 Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award “Impeccably researched and seductively readable...tells the story of Sam Sharpe’s revolution manqué, and the subsequent abolition of slavery in Jamaica, in a way that’s acutely relevant to the racial unrest of our own time.” —Madison Smartt Bell, author of *All Souls’ Rising* The final uprising of enslaved people in Jamaica started as a peaceful labor strike a few days shy of Christmas in 1831. A harsh crackdown by white militias quickly sparked a full-blown revolt, leaving hundreds of plantation houses in smoking ruins. The rebels lost their daring bid for freedom, but their headline-grabbing defiance triggered a decisive turn against slavery. *Island on Fire* is a dramatic day-by-day account of these transformative events. A skillful storyteller, Tom Zoellner uses diaries, letters, and colonial records to tell the intimate story of the men and women who rose up and briefly tasted liberty. He brings to life the rebellion’s enigmatic leader, the preacher Samuel Sharpe, and shows how his fiery resistance turned the tide of opinion in London and hastened the end of slavery in the British Empire. “Zoellner’s vigorous, fast-paced account brings to life a varied gallery of participants...The revolt failed to improve conditions for the enslaved in Jamaica, but it crucially wounded the institution of slavery itself.” —Fergus M. Bordewich, *Wall Street Journal* “It’s high time that we had a book like the splendid one Tom Zoellner has written: a highly readable but carefully documented account of the greatest of all British slave rebellions, the miseries that led to it, and the momentous changes it wrought.” —Adam Hochschild, author of *Bury the Chains*

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Life in Southern Nigeria* Percy Amaury Talbot, 2013-10-08 This work describes the beliefs, customs and traditions of this tribe from the Ekat district.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Plantation Jamaica, 1750-1850* B. W. Higman, 2008 Analyses the important but neglected role of the attorneys who managed estates, chiefly for absentee proprietors, and assesses their efficiency and impact on Jamaica during slavery and freedom. This work charts both the extent of absentee ownership and the complex structure of the managerial hierarchy that stretched across the Atlantic.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Dispossessed Lives* Marisa J. Fuentes, 2016-06-28 Vividly recounting the lives of enslaved women in eighteenth-century Bridgetown, Barbados, and their conditions of confinement through urban, legal, sexual, and representational power wielded by slave owners, authorities, and the archive, Marisa J. Fuentes challenges how histories of vulnerable and invisible subjects are written.

diary of thomas thistlewood: *White Servitude and Black Slavery in Barbados, 1627-1715* Hilary Beckles, 1989

diary of thomas thistlewood: *Kingston Buttercup* Ann-Margaret Lim, 2016 Longlisted: 2017 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature Jamaican poet, Ann Margaret Lim, follows her critically acclaimed debut collection, *The Festival of Wild Orchid*, with an exciting new volume, *Kingston Buttercup*, a work of fierce honesty, social awareness and lyric complexity. Bocas Poetry Prize winner, Loretta Collins Klobah, writes: -In *Kingston Buttercup*, her marvelous second book, Ann-Margaret Lim’s fresh, honest, and tenderly-fierce perspective comes through in highly readable lyric poems.-