

# Hamilton Brown

**Hamilton Brown** (1776 – 18 September 1843) was an Irish sugar planter and slave owner in Saint Ann Parish, Jamaica, which he represented in the House of Assembly of Jamaica for 22 years. He gave his name to Hamilton Town in Saint Ann Parish, now Brown's Town, which he founded.

Hamilton Brown	
<b>Born</b>	1776 <div>County Antrim,<div></div>Ireland</div>
<b>Died</b>	18 September 1843 (aged 66–67) <div>Jamaica</div>
<b>Nationality</b>	Irish
<b>Occupation</b>	Sugar planter
<b>Known for</b>	Founded Hamilton Town, now Brown's Town

## Seminal Wikipedia omissions:

Slave trader (human trafficker of white, black and brown souls) and Irish peasant kidnapper, attorney for fellow slave holders, supported ritual abuse of African and Creole slaves using brutal whippings (usually 39 lashes - the legal limit, but sometimes more), indentured servitude, days of field work without sleep, stocks, and rape. After the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833, used his attorney legal tricks to enslave Irish peasants whom he lured to Jamaica with false promises, then pushed into debtor's prison work houses. He also supported the religious persecution of slaves for simply praying, as well as Methodist and Baptist slaves who worshipped and white abolitionist Christians. Great great grandfather of U.S. presidential candidate Kamala Devi Harris (b. 1964) whose U.S. naturalized Jamaican father is Stanford economics professor emeritus Donald J. Harris (b. 1938) and mother is Caucasian India native Shyamala Goplan (b. 1938).

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## Early life

Hamilton Brown was born in 1776,<sup>[1]</sup> in County Antrim, Ireland.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Career

Brown began his career as an estate bookkeeper<sup>[3]</sup> but acquired significant land holdings and agricultural interests in Jamaica. He was a pen-keeper (cattle breeder) and was responsible for a large cattle fair held on Pedro Plains in Saint Elizabeth Parish in 1829.<sup>[4]</sup> He also grew sugar<sup>[5]</sup> and owned the Antrim, Colliston, Grier Park, and Minard plantations, all in Saint Ann Parish, as well as having interests in numerous others.<sup>[2]</sup>

He gave his name to Brown's Town, originally known as Hamilton Town, in Saint Ann Parish, which he founded,<sup>[3][6]</sup> and in 1805 he paid for the construction of the original St Mark's Anglican Church in Brown's Town.<sup>[7]</sup>

He was a member of the House of Assembly of Jamaica in 1820<sup>[8]</sup> and represented Saint Ann Parish in that assembly for 22 years.<sup>[6]</sup> In 1832, he met Henry Whiteley on his trip to Jamaica to whom he argued that Jamaican slaves were better off than the poor of England and therefore the British government should not interfere with the way the Jamaican planters managed their slaves; Whiteley went on to witness harsh and arbitrary whipping of slaves at the plantations that he visited during his stay.<sup>[9]</sup>

After the emancipation of slaves throughout the British Empire in 1833 by the Slavery Abolition Act, Brown was active in trying to recruit Irish people to work in Jamaica. In December 1835, 121 people from Ballymoney, Antrim, set off from Belfast for Jamaica on the *James Ray*, a brig owned by Brown. They settled in Saint Ann Parish. In 1836 he brought a



A plantation in Saint Ann Parish. James Hakewill, 1820s.

further 185 Irish people to Saint Ann. An effort by planters in 1840 to encourage large-scale Irish migration to Jamaica to settle lands that might otherwise be occupied by newly-freed slaves, failed after the project was criticised in Ireland as potentially making slaves of the migrants.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Death

Brown died on 18 September 1843 and is buried in the graveyard of St Mark's Anglican church in Brown's Town.<sup>[2][6]</sup>

## References

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## Further reading

- Senior, Carl H. "Robert Kerr: Emigrants of 1840 Irish Slaves for Jamaica", *Jamaica Journal*, No. 42 (1978), pp. 104–116.

## External links

Media related to Brown's Town, Jamaica at Wikimedia Commons

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