

**Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70), father of the
Quaker William Penn**

His involvement in the taking of
Jamaica in 1654

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



1651, Oliver Cromwell moved to break the hold of the Dutch of trade between Europe and the Americas.

War with Holland and Spain followed.

Penn was appointed Vice-Admiral of the English Republican Fleet.

1652, was in charge of the White Squadron and played a leading part in the defeat of the Dutch
Appointed General-at-Sea by Cromwell.

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1654, offered his services
and his fleet to the exiled
King Charles II

Then in the same year....

1654, he was appointed as Cromwell's Sea General to take the Spanish slave colony of Hispaniola (*Dominican Republic and Haiti*). The attack was a shambles and attention was directed at the Spanish possession of Jamaica.





Took Spanish possession of Jamaica.

Port Royal (*Kingston*) quickly captured.

Spanish Town ~ plundered. Spanish released their slaves – they became the *Maroons*.

Jamaica became the English foothold for privateering, slave-grown sugar and the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Penn returned to London ~ dismissed from post ~ imprisoned in the Tower of London.

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Cromwell wrote:

'It is too sad a truth, the Expedition to the West Indies has failed!

Sea-General Penn and Land-General Venables have themselves come home, one after the other, with the disgraceful news; and are lodged in the Tower, a fortnight ago, for quitting their posts without orders.'

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Slave ownership:

- Admiral Penn returned from Jamaica with a slave, *Sampson*, whom he had acquired ownership of by trading him for his original, personal servant slave, *Anthony*.
- Admiral Penn is also owned at least one further slave named, *Jack*.
- A black “*servant*” is recorded as being present on his Irish estates.