



Some Serious Reading

# BAHAMIAN FRAGMENTS

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE HISTORY OF

## THE BAHAMAS

### Moral Panic in the '60s: Gambling and Grand Bahama

- [Grand Bahama in 1887](#) from L. D. Powle *The Land of the Pink Pearl or Recollections of Life in the Bahamas.*
- [Grand Bahama in 1891](#) from Stark's *History and Guide to the Bahama Islands.*
- [Grand Bahama in 1917](#) from Amelia Defries *In a Forgotten Colony*
- [Grand Bahama in 1924](#) from *The Tribune Handbook*
- [Grand Bahama in 1926](#) from Mary Mosley *The Bahamas Handbook.*
- [Grand Bahama in 1931](#) from Nassau and the Treasure Islands of the Bahamas
- [Grand Bahama in 1934](#) from Maj. H. M. Bell *Bahamas: Isles of June*
- [The Bahamas in 1964](#) from Benedict Thielen *The Bahamas-Golden Archipelago*
- [Grand Bahama in 1967](#) *Moral Panic, Gambling, and the Good Life*
- [Historical Sources Page](#)

In the mid 1960s, the legalization of casino gambling in the Bahamas touched off fears among U.S. authorities that the dreaded Mafia—as personified by Meyer Lansky—might be having a field day in the islands. The excitement began in October 1966 with a *Wall Street Journal* article revealing conniving and corruption between Wallace Groves' Grand Bahama Development Co. and the old-guard Bahamian leadership starring the redoubtable Sir Stafford Sands and the Bay Street Boys. The following year *Life* magazine (Feb. 3, 1967) and the *Saturday Evening Post* (Feb. 25, 1967) joined in the fun. Ed Reid's chapter adds a little about Lou Chesler... Since much of this concerned Grand Bahama, I have included these articles, one from *Newsweek* (1964) and a part of an article from *Queen*, (25 Oct., 1967), as historical fodder for the interested reader.

- Davidson, Bill. [The Mafia: Shadow of Evil on an Island in the Sun](#)
- Karmin, Monroe W. and Penn, Stanley. [Las Vegas East.](#)
- Oulahan, Richard, and Lambert, William. [The Scandal in the Bahamas](#)
- Leslie, Ann. [A Month in the Life of the Bahamas.](#)(selection)
- [Bonanza in the Bahamas](#) (1964)
- Reid, Ed. ["Bahamas Hoodlum Sea"](#) (chap. 7 from *The Grim Reapers* - 1970)

